



## Meeting Minutes

### Big Dry Creek Watershed Association Meeting

**Date/Time:** Thursday March 20, 2014, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Broomfield Water Treatment Plant, 4395 W. 144th Avenue

#### Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Results of Big Dry Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program for 2013

Jane Clary presented a summary of the results of the annual Big Dry Creek water quality monitoring program for 2013, along with a photo slide show of monitoring stations during the September sampling event (after the flood). A few key findings from the presentation include:

- Water quality in Big Dry Creek attained stream standards for currently assigned criteria, with the exception of *E. coli*.
- For the most recent 5-year analysis period (2009-2013), Big Dry Creek attained its site-specific selenium standard. Big Dry Creek should be able to cycle off of the 2012 303(d) list for selenium, but a regulatory solution related to a site-specific standard may still be needed to prevent cycling on and off of the 303(d) list in the future.
- Phosphorus concentrations and loads to Big Dry Creek are generally decreasing due to enhanced treatment processes at the Broomfield and Westminster WWTPs, along with reuse programs that continue to be implemented at these WWTPs.
- Big Dry Creek does not attain the interim warm water instream nitrogen and phosphorus standards below the WWTPs. Although these standards would not be expected to affect Big Dry Creek for 10 years or more, addressing nutrient sources on Big Dry Creek should be an increasing area of focus for BDCWA.

- Significant TP load reductions were observed relative to the Barr-Milton TMDL objectives.
- Changes to the monitoring program in the SAP were implemented on March 1, 2013 to meet requirements of Regulation 85.
- Big Dry Creek was affected by the September 2013 flood. Prior to the flood event, flows were very low during the summer of 2013, as was the case in 2012. Both dry and wet weather conditions may affect 2014 monitoring.
- A carwash spill that occurred in January 2013 did not result in noticeable water quality changes.
- Big Dry Creek currently attains aquatic life uses, based on calculation of MMI scores in accordance with CWQCD's Aquatic Life Use Attainment Policy 10-1. Scores were calculated at six biological monitoring locations for fall monitoring conducted during 2008, 2010, and 2012. MMI scores vary substantially both temporally and spatially.
- The timeline for the *E. coli* TMDL is uncertain. BDCWA is still working with CDPHE to refine an approach.

Other items of note regarding field conditions during the 2013 Monitoring Program include:

- Northglenn discharged to Big Dry Creek frequently (total of 150 MG).
- Evidence of high water was observed on the September sampling event after the flood, but overall the channel appeared to be stable and in good condition. The crossing below the Union Pacific railroad was blown out and bridge replacement has recently been completed.
- Habitat changes were observed due to Russian olive removal in the Westminster Open Space.

Comments on the draft Big Dry Creek Water Quality Summary for 2013 are requested by April 18, 2014. Once comments from the BDCWA Board are integrated, the report will be available on the Big Dry Creek website ([www.bigdrycreek.org](http://www.bigdrycreek.org)).

## 2. Regulatory Updates

- **303(d) List:** 2016 would be the next opportunity for Big Dry Creek to be removed from the list for selenium.

- **Colorado Nutrient Criteria (Regs. 31 & 85):**
  - i. The Big Dry Creek SAP was updated to meet requirements of Regulation 85.
  - ii. Monitoring of TKN was added in 2012. Evaluation of TN and TP in 2013 indicates that interim values in Regulation 31 would not be met below the WWTPs.
  - iii. The topic of potential future monitoring for stream-related chlorophyll-a (as attached periphyton) was discussed.
  - iv. The BDCWA WWTP discharge permits are up for renewal in 2015 and limits related to Regulation 85 are expected as part of the renewal process. Requirements for TIN and TP are expected to be added to permits with a compliance plan in the next renewal cycle.
- **Barr Milton TMDL:** The Barr Milton TMDL was approved by EPA in 2013. Big Dry Creek has shown significant reductions in phosphorus relative to the TMDL objectives.
- **Ammonia Criteria:** Mary asked if the biological monitoring had assessed the presence of freshwater Unionid mussels. For a summary of recent information on new ammonia criteria being recommended by EPA, see <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/aqlife/ammonia/upload/ammoniaoct2013slides.pdf>.

### 3. Group Discussion Items

- Steve Lundt gave an update on Barr-Milton Watershed (BMW) Association activities. He reported that water quality in Milton Reservoir has improved since 2010. The reservoir was drained in 2009 and refilled. In the past few years, Milton has seen low chlorophyll-a values and good clarity. Nutrients are still on the high side but the reservoir looks better overall. Barr Lake will be undergoing a carp removal project in 2014. Treatment of instream and non-point source phosphorus is still needed and a canal study is underway under the direction of Harvey Harper. The project is designed to intercept phosphorus in the channel through use of an alum treatment system. Finally, the BMW Association has put together educational resources, primarily targeting fertilizer and pet waste, and Amy Conklin is available to share this with BDCWA.
- Dave Meyer reported that the beaver dam near the Northern Water Conservancy District's gauge near the Westminster WWTP has recently been removed.

- Shelley reported that Northglenn releases to Big Dry Creek in 2013 were due to senior calls on the river following a dry year in 2012 and releases are expected to continue in 2014.
- The timeline for the *E. Coli* TMDL is unknown, but Jane suggested doing some additional monitoring upstream of bdc2.0 to evaluate any potential impacts of the dog park near this location. No consensus was reached on this suggestion, given that bdc2.0 had elevated *E. coli* prior to construction of the dog park.
- The Board agreed that all parties will review the SAP and ensure that samples, including QC samples, are being collected according to the plan.
- Jane highlighted some findings of a recent Government Accounting Office (GAO) report titled “Clean Water Act Changes Needed if Key EPA Program is to Help Fulfill the Nation’s Water Quality Goals” (GAO, December 2013, see <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/659496.pdf>).
- Jane also mentioned the Pathogens in Urban Stormwater Systems draft report that she has been working on with the Urban Water Resources Research Council of EWRI/ASCE and offered the opportunity to review the draft report. Laura Hubbard and John Stover both expressed interest in reviewing the draft.
- The group decided to postpone scheduling a June meeting date, pending progress related to the *E. coli* TMDL.

## Attendance

Shelley Stanley, City of Northglenn  
Evelyn Rhodes, City of Northglenn  
Eddie, Taylor, City of Northglenn  
Mary Fabisiak, City of Westminster  
David Carter, City of Westminster  
Dave Meyer, City of Westminster  
Andrew Hawthorn, City of Westminster  
Laura Hubbard, City and County of Broomfield  
Lesa Julian, City and County of Broomfield  
John Stover, Interested Citizen (former DOE Rocky Flats)  
Andrea Berg, Adams County  
Steve Lundt, Metro Wastewater Reclamation District  
James Boswell, City of Thornton  
Al Quintana, City of Thornton  
Shay Shih, City of Thornton  
Jane Clary, Wright Water Engineers  
Rachel Small, Wright Water Engineers

These minutes of action constitute the record of the meeting of the General Membership and Board of Directors of the Corporation and any officer of the Corporation is hereby authorized to certify any action taken by these minutes of action as having been duly taken or ratified by the Board of Directors of the Corporation on March 20, 2014, notwithstanding the date of actual signing. Meeting minutes were prepared for the Secretary by Watershed Coordinator, Jane Clary.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
BDCWA Secretary