



Meeting Minutes

Big Dry Creek Watershed Association Meeting

Date/Time: Thursday March 21, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – Noon

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

Meeting Minutes

1. Results of Big Dry Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program for 2012

Jane Clary presented a summary of the results of the annual Big Dry Creek water quality monitoring program for 2012, along with an overview slide show of monitoring station photographs under various flow conditions. 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 (2008-2012), Big Dry Creek attained its site-specific selenium standard; however, the stream is currently listed on the 2012 303(d) list for selenium. It is possible that the stream will continue to meet the standards; however, it may be appropriate to request an adjustment of the standard to prevent cycling on and off of the 303(d) list. Based on review of the historic data set, consistent attainment of the current site-specific selenium standard will likely require moving the month of October to the non-irrigation season assessment period, since Standley Lake releases and instream flows during October are more similar to the non-irrigation season. (Alternatively, the standard could be slightly increased, as a result of a more complete data set than what was available at the time of the standard change.) Given that the stream currently attains the selenium standard, it is recommended that the sampling frequency be decreased to quarterly, consistent with the sampling program for other metals.
- Big Dry Creek does not attain the interim warm water instream nitrogen and phosphorus standards adopted by the CWQCC in 2012. Although these

standards would not be expected to be adopted for Big Dry Creek for 10 years or more, addressing nutrient sources on Big Dry Creek should be an increasing area of focus for BDCWA.

- Phosphorus concentrations and loads to Big Dry Creek are decreasing due to enhanced treatment processes at the Broomfield and Westminster WWTPs, along with reuse programs that continue to be implemented at these WWTPs. Despite these substantial operational improvements, the stream still does not meet the interim total phosphorus criteria from I-25 to the confluence with the South Platte River.
- 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.
- Average streamflows during 2012 were among the lowest in the period of record for both stream gages on Big Dry Creek. These flow conditions should be considered when evaluating the 2012 biological monitoring results. (Report anticipated in 2013).
- In February 2013, the Big Dry Creek SAP was updated to facilitate compliance with the Regulation 85 nutrient monitoring requirements for Regulation 85. These changes include analyses for TKN to enable calculation of total nitrogen, as well as additional analysis of flow for purposes of estimating instream nutrient loads upstream and downstream of WWTP discharges. Changes to the field QC program for nutrients have also been implemented in the 2013 SAP.

Other items of note regarding the 2012 Monitoring Program include:

- Monitoring location bdc4.0 was moved downstream due to safety issues and was renamed to bdc4.5. The data sets for bdc4.0 and bdc4.5 are combined for purposes of long-term comparisons.
- A new report format is being introduced this year. Also new to the report are box plots and hypothesis testing using a statistical tool.

A draft of the Big Dry Creek Water Quality Summary for 2012 will be sent out to the board following the meeting. Once comments from the BDCWA Board are integrated, the report will be available on the Big Dry Creek website (www.bigdrycreek.org).

3. Regulatory Updates

- **303(d) List:** Jane noted that the 2014 303(d) list has been postponed to 2016. Therefore, 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. Mary Fabisiak, City of Westminster, noted that there is still potential for the interim TN and TP values (Reg. 31) to change. The group agreed that TN and TP data collected on Big Dry Creek should be shared with the Division when there is a data call, and that it may be beneficial to discuss data and results with the Division staff.
 - ii. Jane distributed a copy of the Regulation 85 nutrient monitoring plan. The SAP was updated as noted above. The WWTP discharge permits are up for renewal in 2015. Requirements for TIN and TP are expected to be added to permits with a compliance plan in the next renewal cycle.
- **Barr Milton TMDL:** Shelley Stanley reported that the Barr Milton TMDL documents were submitted to the Division on March 1, and the TMDL is anticipated to be approved in 2013. The TP model will need to be re-run based on more current data and the percent load allocation assigned to Big Dry Creek may decrease as a result.
- **EPA's Recreational Water Quality Criteria:** Jane Clary provided a brief update regarding EPA's 2012 criteria. The changes to these criteria are not expected to affect Big Dry Creek in the near future since these criteria would need to be adopted into the Colorado Basic Standards first.

4. Group Discussion Items

- Dave Meyer reported that the new Northern Water Conservancy District's gauge near the Westminster WWTP is currently significantly impacted by a beaver dam approximately 100 yards downstream, which is backing up water substantially.
- Shelley reported that although Northglenn did not discharge to Big Dry Creek in 2012, they have started discharging this year (2013).
- Broomfield has been diverting more water to Great Western Reservoir than it typically has in the past, due to the drought conditions.
- The Board agreed that the SAP should be revised to monitor for all metals quarterly instead of monthly.

6. Routine Business

- Watershed Plan Update
 - i. Jane reported that she is continuing work on the Big Dry Creek Watershed Plan update process and hopes to finalize soon.
- Budget Planning Topics
 - i. The board should begin to consider budgeting planning for next year. Further discussion will continue via e-mail correspondence prior to the next meeting.
 - ii. The budget for the annual report may need to increase next year due to additional load calculations and analysis associated with the nutrient monitoring program.
 - iii. The group discussed reducing meeting frequency from quarterly to two to three times per year. As a result, two additional meetings were planned for 2013, rather than three. Reallocation of budget from meeting costs to technical work products may be one approach to covering cost of additional water quality analysis.
- Meeting Schedule (posted to website)
 - i. September 19, 2013 (1:00 p.m.): Annual Board Meeting
 - ii. December 5, 2013 (1:00 p.m.): Biological Monitoring with Tami Schneck (tentative, Jane to follow-up)

Attendance

Shelley Stanley, City of Northglenn
David Carter, City of Westminster
David Meyer, City of Westminster
Warren Mesloh, North Front Range Water Quality Planning Association
Laura Hubbard, City and County of Broomfield
Lesa Julian, City and County of Broomfield
John Stover, Interested Citizen
Andrea Berg, Adams County
Lee Alverson, City of Thornton
Mary Fabisiak, City of Westminster
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 21, 2012, notwithstanding the date of actual signing. Meeting minutes were prepared for the Secretary by Watershed Coordinator, Jane Clary.

By: _____
BDCWA Secretary