



Meeting Minutes

Big Dry Creek Watershed Association Meeting

Date/Time: December 9, 2015, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

1. Findings from 2014 Biological Monitoring Program—Presentation by Tami Schneck, Aquatics Associates
 - Tami Schneck presented findings from the October 2014 macroinvertebrate sampling and fish shocking program that is conducted biennially for Big Dry Creek at six sites. Fish sampling was performed on October 1 through 2, 2014, and the macroinvertebrate ("bugs") sampling was performed on October 28, 2014. The fall 2014 event was completed approximately one year after the Sept 2013 flood event. A final report on the 2014 biological monitoring containing quantitative fish and macroinvertebrate results will be provided in 2016.
 - Tami's presentation included before and after pictures relative the 2013 flood. Although the flood caused erosion in some areas, scour in other areas actually improved habitat conditions, particularly at bdc2.0. Additionally, there were higher flows and less algae during 2014 relative to the dry-year sampling event in 2012.
 - The overall findings for fish populations included:
 - i. In 2014, fish populations in Big Dry Creek continued to be healthy and abundant with typical year-to-year and site-to-site variability. The highest number of fish (1,474 individuals) was collected at site bdc0.5 rather than site bdc5.0 where the highest numbers of fish were collected in 2012 and 2010 (2,849 and 3,833 individuals, respectively). In contrast, in 2014, site bdc5.0 had the lowest number of fish (419). This number was also the lowest ever collected over the study period (1997 to 2014; 11 sampling events) and is believed to be due to washout of a concrete block from the channel during the flood. In 2014, the predominant fish,

in order of abundance, were fathead minnows, white suckers, creek chubs, longnose dace, and sand shiners.

- ii. A single Johnny darter was collected for the first time during the study at site bdc1.5C. Two were collected at site bdc0.5, where three were collected in 2012.
 - iii. Incidence of fish disease (black spot disease) continued to go up and down at the various sites in 2014 with no strong correlation to past (delayed response) snail populations (which are part of the disease life cycle). The mean percentage of heavily infected diseased fish at the upstream sites decreased from 3.5% in 2012 to 1.1% in 2014.
- The overall findings for macroinvertebrate populations included:
 - i. Overall, the 2014 benthic macroinvertebrate community in Big Dry Creek remained relatively healthy, especially at bdc0.5, 1.0 and 2.0 where increases in mayflies were noted compared to earlier study years. The most interesting result from the 2014 sampling was the large increase in mayflies collected at site bdc2.0, a site that has historically been nearly void of mayflies, mainly due to poor habitat conditions (soft anaerobic sediments and shifting sand substrates). The major flood event in September 2013 helped scour out the accumulated soft sediments to a firm bottom, which may have improved habitat conditions at this location.
 - ii. Regarding Aquatic Use Policy 10-1, findings include:
 - 1. All 2014 multi-metric index (MMI) values met use attainment (MMIs > 37 threshold for Biotype 3, Class 2 streams).
 - 2. All sites except bdc5.0 were High Scoring Waters (MMI >44 for Biotype 3).
- Tami's recommendations for the 2016 sampling program include:
 - i. Keep future monitoring program intact (continue reduced program that began in 2008: six sites, fish & bugs fall season only, continue MMI) with monitoring in even years. Next event is 2016.
 - ii. Considering the changes caused by the September 2013 flood event, 2016 would be a good time to conduct a new RBP habitat baseline survey (measurements rather than qualitative observations). This effort would be contingent on the availability of additional funding.
 - iii. As always, savings can be realized if Cities provide assistance (2-4 people) for the three-day fish sampling event.

- iv. If funding were to be significantly reduced, then fish sampling could be omitted for sites bdc1.0 and bdc5.0 (one less fish sampling day). Sampling fish at three- or four-year intervals is too long between events (and is not recommended as a cost-saving strategy.)
- The group discussed whether there was interest in conducting periphyton sampling as part of the 2016 monitoring program, but decided that this was premature.

2. General Business

- Jane Clary provided an update on the 2016 303(d) list process, given the December 2015 Rulemaking Hearing planned for December 14, 2015. Big Dry Creek is still listed as impaired for *E. coli*, but is no longer listed as impaired for selenium. The portion of Big Dry Creek below Weld County Road 8 is now listed as impaired for total recoverable iron, based on monitoring data collected by Metro Wastewater Reclamation District. Although BDCWA originally filed party status for the hearing, its concerns were addressed early-on, between the draft 303(d) listing and the prehearing statement provided by the Water Quality Control Division.
- Prior to completion of BDCWA's 2015 water quality analysis report, BDCWA will obtain and consider the results from MWRD's program on lower Big Dry Creek.
- Jane Clary provided a hard copy of the draft 2015 annual newsletter and requested comments from anyone who had not already provided comments for an electronic draft provided previously by email. (*Note: the newsletter was finalized and distributed on January 4, 2016.*)
- Requests for 2016 financial support will be sent to financially supporting members in early January. Contributions are being requested at 2015 funding levels. Shelley Stanley reported that Woman Creek Reservoir Authority has approved its 2016 contribution at 2015 levels.
- The next BDCWA meeting will be held in March/April (date to be determined) and will focus on the 2015 water quality sampling program.
- Completion of the Big Dry Creek *E. coli* TMDL is a priority of the Water Quality Control Division for 2016.

Attachment

Powerpoint presentation from meeting prepared by Aquatics Associates.

Attendance

Juliana Archuleta, Adams County
Craig Hoffman, City and County of Broomfield
Laura Hubbard, City and County of Broomfield
Evelyn Rhodes, City of Northglenn
Tony Steck, City of Northglenn
Chuck Guilmette, City of Northglenn
Bob Fiehweg, Citizen
Al Quintana, City of Thornton
Paul Tedesco, City of Thornton
Lyndsay Massey, Weld County
Mary Fabisiak, City of Westminster
David Carter, City of Westminster
Dave Meyer, City of Westminster
Tami Schneck, Aquatics Associates
Shelley Stanley, City of Northglenn
Tara Wilson, City of Westminster
Jane Clary, 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 December 9, 2015, notwithstanding the date of actual signing. Meeting minutes were prepared for the Secretary by Watershed Coordinator, Jane Clary.

By: _____
BDCWA Secretary