



## Meeting Minutes

### Big Dry Creek Watershed Association Meeting

**Date/Time:** Tuesday April 3, 2012, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

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

#### Meeting Minutes

1. **Results of Big Dry Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program for 2011**—Jane Clary presented a summary of the results of the annual Big Dry Creek water quality monitoring program for 2011, along with an introductory slide show of monitoring station photographs under various flow conditions. A few key findings from the presentation include:
  - a. Water quality in Big Dry Creek attained stream standards for currently assigned stream standards, with the exceptions of *E. coli* and selenium. Although *E. coli* was elevated at multiple locations on the stream, the highest concentrations occurred at bdc2.0 in the Westminster Open Space and at bdc6.0 in the agricultural area where cattle grazing occurs.
  - b. 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. Values observed in 2011 were slightly higher than those observed in 2010.
  - c. Based on the interim warmwater instream nitrogen and phosphorus standards that are expected to be adopted by the CWQCC in May 2012, Big Dry Creek would not attain either standard. 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 the BDCWA. Wastewater discharge permit limits will affect municipal WWTPs on Big Dry Creek during the next permit renewals.

- d. Attainment of the current site-specific selenium standard will likely require shifting the month of October to the non-irrigation season, 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.)
- e. BDCWA will likely need to add total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN) to the monitoring suite, given the expected future total nitrogen standards on Big Dry Creek. Some discussion occurred regarding timing of this addition, particularly given currently limited in-house analysis capabilities and cost of outside analysis. This topic will be further addressed in June; however, the initial discussion leaned toward adding this constituent in January 2013.
- f. Once comments from the BDCWA Board are integrated, the full water quality analysis report will be available on the Big Dry Creek website ([www.bigdrycreek.org](http://www.bigdrycreek.org)).

## 2. Regulatory Updates

- a. **Colorado Nutrient Criteria (Regs. 31 & 85)**—Mary Fabisiak, City of Westminster, provided an update on the results of the March 2012 Colorado nutrient criteria hearing, which included addition of total phosphorus, total nitrogen and chlorophyll-a criteria to the Colorado Basic Standards (Regulation 31), as well as a new nutrient control regulation (Regulation 85). The regulations will be finalized at the May 14, 2012 Water Quality Control Commission hearing. A few selected aspects of the regulations which are likely to affect Big Dry Creek in the future include:
  - i. Interim instream nutrient criteria values of 0.17 mg/L total phosphorus, 2.01 mg/L total nitrogen and 150 mg/m<sup>2</sup> of chlorophyll. These limits would not be expected to be applied to Big Dry Creek prior to May 31, 2022.
  - ii. Municipal wastewater discharge permit limits for total inorganic nitrogen (15 mg/L annual median; 20 mg/L 95<sup>th</sup> percentile) and total phosphorus (1 mg/L annual median; 2.5 mg/L 95<sup>th</sup> percentile). These limits would be applied in the next permit renewal with compliance schedules allowed.
  - iii. Monitoring—some form of instream monitoring and potentially stormwater monitoring will be required. Ideally, the existing long-term instream monitoring program for Big Dry Creek would continue (with the addition of TKN to enable calculation of TN); however, further discussion will likely be needed on this topic. The Colorado Stormwater Council is planning to work together on a stormwater-related data gaps assessment, which will determine what type of

stormwater monitoring (if any) would be needed on Big Dry Creek. Jane provided an overview of some existing stormwater resources that could be used in a data gap assessment.

- b. **EPA’s Recreational Water Quality Criteria Update (Draft)**—Jane Clary provided a handout related to EPA’s proposed recreational water quality criteria, which were released for public comment in December 2011. Depending on the final version of the regulation and how the State of Colorado modifies its water quality standards in response to changes to these criteria, there are two key changes that may affect Big Dry Creek in the future. These include: 1) EPA no longer provides recommendations for different recreational use intensities, which could affect the “potential primary contact” designation for Big Dry Creek, and 2) a Statistical Threshold Value (STV) could be added in addition to the geometric mean since EPA is now specifying the STV for both marine and freshwater settings. The STV essentially replaces the value currently referred to as the “Single Sample Maximum,” which Colorado had previously chosen not to adopt. The effect of both changes would be more stringent standards; however, Big Dry Creek already exceeds the existing criteria, so the implications of these changes would primarily affect attainability of TMDL targets, as opposed to a new 303(d) listing. Additionally, Big Dry Creek could be a potential candidate in the future for a site-specific standard based on new Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA) tools. (QMRA is currently costly; benefits of a site-specific standard would need to be evaluated against the costs.) For a copy of EPA’s handout, go to: <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/health/recreation/upload/factsheet2011.pdf>.

### 3. Routine Business

- a. Watershed Plan Update
- i. Jane reported on the Big Dry Creek Watershed Plan update process. BDCWA’s original watershed plan was written in 2002 following the Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) guideline, which is no longer the form used under the Colorado 319 program. Instead, the Colorado Uniform Watershed Plan outline is used. The original intent of the 2012 Watershed Plan update was to bring out of date information up to date; however, Jane would like to reformat the plan to generally comply with the currently recommended Colorado outline. This means that portions of the plan will need to be left as “reserved for future update” due to additional analysis that would be required to complete certain sections and due to timing issues related to the final form of the *E. coli* TMDL. A review draft of the watershed plan will be distributed to the Board prior to the June BDCWA meeting.

b. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- i. Lesa Julian motioned to accept the December 2011 meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed to the Board via email. Shelley Stanley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Treasurer's Report and Funding Topics

- i. Shelley reported that Woman Creek Reservoir Authority will contribute to BDCWA for 2012; however, future funding is uncertain and BDCWA should evaluate how this will affect future BDCWA activities. As part of this discussion, some informal discussion occurred regarding whether the fish sampling could be eliminated as a cost saving measure. No conclusion was reached on this issue and it will need to be discussed further as part of future budget planning.
- ii. Given the timing of the June meeting relative to internal city/county budget planning cycles, preliminary budget planning will be conducted by email in April/May.
- iii. Shelley reported that the Barr Milton Watershed Association has applied for a public education grant related to source controls for pollutants. There may be opportunity to collaborate with BMW in this effort.

d. Meeting Schedule

- i. June 19, 2012: Key Topics: Watershed Plan, Monitoring Program and 2013 Budget Finalization
- ii. September 11, 2012: Annual Board Meeting
- iii. December 4, 2012: Topic Reserved

**Attendance**

Andrea Berg, Adams County  
David Bauer, Weld County  
Roby Byers, Attorney at Law  
Benjamin Emerson, City of Northglenn  
Mary Fabisiak, City of Westminster  
Laura Hubbard, City and County of Broomfield  
Lesa Julian, City and County of Broomfield  
Dave Meyer, City of Westminster  
Dennis Rodriguez, City and County of Broomfield  
Shelley Stanley, City of Northglenn  
Shane Suleyman, City of Northglenn  
Connie O'Neill, North Front Range Water Quality Planning Association  
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 April 3, 2012, notwithstanding the date of actual signing. Meeting minutes were prepared for the Secretary by Watershed Coordinator, Jane Clary.

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