

**Minutes of
April 12, 2006 Meeting
Littleton/Englewood WWTP**

In Attendance:

Blair Corning	South Adams County W&SD
Pat Nelson	CH2M Hill
Dennis Stowe	L/E WWTP
Sharon Davis	Metro WRD
Deb Thomas	EPA
Amy Woodis	Metro WRD
Chris Lehnertz	EPA
Robert McEvoy	Arapahoe County Water
David Meyer	Westminster
Tim Woodard	Westminster
Claudia Cummins	Aurora Water
Calvin Youngberg	Longmont
Paul Grundemann	Centennial Water & Sanitation
Nancy Keller	Pueblo
Bill Todino	Evergreen Metro District
Steve Frank	Metro WRD
Todd Dahlberg	Colorado Springs Utilities
Mary Gardner	Littleton/Englewood
Dennis Schump	Greeley
Carol Webb	City of Ft. Collins
Paul Ferraro	Ferraro Associates

- I. EPA Activities, Watersheds, TMDLs, Sustainable Infrastructure and Issues of National Interest, Debrah Thomas, Director, Water Program and Chris Lehnertz, Director, Eco-Systems Protection Program, EPA

Debrah Thomas gave the following overview:

- The EPA's top priority is Sustainable Infrastructure. The four pillars are (1) full cost pricing, (2) water efficiency and conservation, (3) better management and (4) watershed management.
- Full cost pricing is recovering the full cost of operating and maintaining, on an annual basis, as well as putting in reserve replacement and expansion cost of existing facilities.
- This is a challenge politically.

- Wastewater Utilities are opposed to the full cost pricing, while water utilities are not.
- The national gap for the next 20 years to replace and expand wastewater facilities is \$450 - \$900 Billion.
- Building up a large sum at the local level is a problem since other local departments are always wanting to use the funds for other than wastewater facilities.
- Metro District collects fees to fund annual O&M as well as capital needs.
- Paul Grundemann indicated that this is another example of EPA mandating a new regulation without funding.
- Debbie Thomas indicated that it is a voluntary program.
- A question was asked why not develop a National Trust Fund for Wastewater?

Christ Lehnertz reviewed the attached document regarding watershed priorities. She also mentioned that over 18,000 TMDLs have been completed nationally, with over 4,000 completed in 2005. Colorado is on target with completing the required TMDLs.

II. PQL – Laurie Peterson-Wright was not available to attend and therefore, it will be presented at another time.

III. Updates

- **RMWEA Liaison Report** – Mary reported for Ken Rutt. The report is attached.
- **Colorado Water Utility Council (CWUC) Update** – Sharon Davis gave an update on the CWUC meeting. At the March 2006 Colorado Water Utility Council (CWUC) meeting, members voiced concerns about the Division's Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program. The top of the list was the state's faulty data which was reported to the public. It had been decided that the CWUC would send a strongly worded letter to the Division. Steve Gunderson and Dick Parachini attended the April CWUC meeting and discussed the SWAP program. The Division is aware that its data may be faulty. However, there is no funding available to correct it. The group brainstormed possible solutions. Short of removing the SWAP reports from the website, the CWUC would like the Division to put a disclaimer on the website that alerts users about the lack of data integrity. Dick Parachini stated that the Division is interested in data quality, but doesn't not have a procedure in place to address this issue. CWUC members will move forward with gathering comments for the letter to the Division. The Executive Committee will meet to determine if there is still a need for the letter.

- **Legislation** – Amy Woodis reported the following (current as of 4/21):
 - SB171 – Transfers of Functions from the Board of Health, which would move jurisdiction of drinking water to the Commission, passed unanimously out of House Appropriations Committee on 4/21.
 - HB 1337 - WQCD Improvement Fund and Violation Penalties, is still alive despite a 5-5 tie in Appropriations on April 19th; it is scheduled for another hearing on April 26th. Stay tuned.
 - HB 1352 - Water Quality in Change Cases, is still laid over.
 - The Division Fee Bill still has not been introduced. We may know more next week.

- **Mentoring** – Paul Grundemann mentioned that an email has been sent to the membership soliciting a special assessment for implementing the Mentoring Program. The goal is to raise \$7,500. Plum Creek has already pledged \$500 and Centennial \$1,000. Jeannie is to send out the special assessment invoices.
 - Sharon mentioned that CWUC is interested in combining with CWWUC to form one mentoring program for water and wastewater facilities. Paul G. is to meet with CWUC to discuss a joint mentoring effort. This may include a single website.
 - Paul F. mentioned that EPA, RMWEA and CRWA have put links on their websites to the Mentoring website. We are still waiting for CWQCD to add a link. RMWEA will include an article written by Paul F. in the May Rumbles issue.
 - Paul F. mentioned that the members are not using the Mentoring Bulletin Board. Members recommended that information regarding ammonia be included on the bulletin board as well as e-coli methods and Frequently Asked Questions regarding Ammonia. It was mentioned that individuals may be fearful to say they need help. We should post questions without names.
 - Nancy mentioned that AWWA is working on a program called, “Utilities Helping Utilities: An Action Plan for Mutual Aid And Assistance Networks for Water and Wastewater Utilities.” The document can be found on the reference page of the Council’s website at:
<http://cwwuc.org/reference.htm>
 - Sharon Davis is joining the Mentoring Subcommittee.

- **Seminar** – all is set for the May 17, 2006 Seminar on Permitting in Durango. Paul F. mentioned that all speakers will need to submit their presentations to him by the first week of May.

IV. Open Discussion

- Selenium Proposal – Nancy mentioned that Steve Canton submitted a proposal to evaluate the issues and add data. Cost is \$34,500 and study to be completed within 3 months. Members discussed whether or not the Council wants to do this. Comments:
 - Pat Nelson – Aurora is not interested. The cost is high for the return.
 - Paul G. – The data should be included since Colorado has a good fishery even with high selenium levels. Paul also mentioned that the Council is considering the following special assessments:
 - o Nutrient - \$5,000
 - o Mentoring - \$7,500
 - o Selenium - \$34,500
 - o Biosolids - \$125,000
 - Paul G. supports the Selenium Study.
 - The Council will send an email to members, seeking their interest in funding. Nancy will get a revised proposal from Steve and then send it to members, seeking their input as well as funding.
- **Biosolids Study - Comments**
 - Metro – GIS internal data regarding biosolids will be in one place. Will not be able to help with funding the Council study. Communicate by letter and a meeting to Weld County what Metro is doing. Revisit the need for the biosolids study (data gathering) when the State gets the Biosolids Program.
 - Nancy mentioned that Parametrix proposal will cost \$28,000 and data is to be input into STORET.
 - Several members are questioning the Biosolids Study since the risk assessment gives the metals limiting numbers for development and farm use.
- Nancy mentioned that e-coli methods have been published in the Federal register.
- **Temperature Administrative Action Hearing** was held Tuesday, April 11, 2006 before the CWQCC. The CWQCC voted to adopt the narrative standard approach advocated by the Temperature Group in the Administrative Action hearing. However it split the baby on the issue of how to develop chronic data. See the attached memo from Jerry Raisch.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 10, 2006 at 1 PM at L/E WWTP
Seminar: May 17, 2006 at 8:30 AM at Durango

Office of Water
Assistant Administrator Detailed Priorities
March 17, 2006

Develop Innovative, Market-Based, and Sustainable Solutions for Water Infrastructure Financing and Management

- a. Four pillars – advance key elements with new partners
- b. Water efficiency – advance voluntary program efforts
- c. Innovative financing – develop new tools with stakeholders and Congress
- d. Peak flows, sewer overflows – finalize peak flow policy; improve CSO and SSO management
- e. Tribal and international - increase access to safe water and sanitation on tribal lands and advance partnerships with China and other countries

Restore and Protect America's Wetlands and Watersheds

- a. Mitigation rule and Mitigation Action Plan – propose rule and make further progress on the Mitigation Action Plan
- b. No net loss of wetlands and overall gain – Improve tracking, clarify jurisdiction, and support President's wetlands gain goal
- c. Trading and watershed permitting – Provide guidance and implement pilots with states and other partners
- d. Good Samaritan initiative – advance administrative toolkit and legislative efforts
- e. Energy and water - promote clean development of energy resources

Improve Monitoring and Measuring for Clean, Safe, and Secure Water

- a. Clean Water Act monitoring, support for state standards - advance statewide monitoring initiative and national snapshots, improve standards review and use attainability analysis
- b. Safe Drinking Water Act Lead reduction – propose rule and improve oversight
- c. Emerging contaminants – Coordinate research, stewardship, and regulation of pharmaceuticals and other contaminants
- d. Water Security – Advance Water Sentinel and state and local partnerships

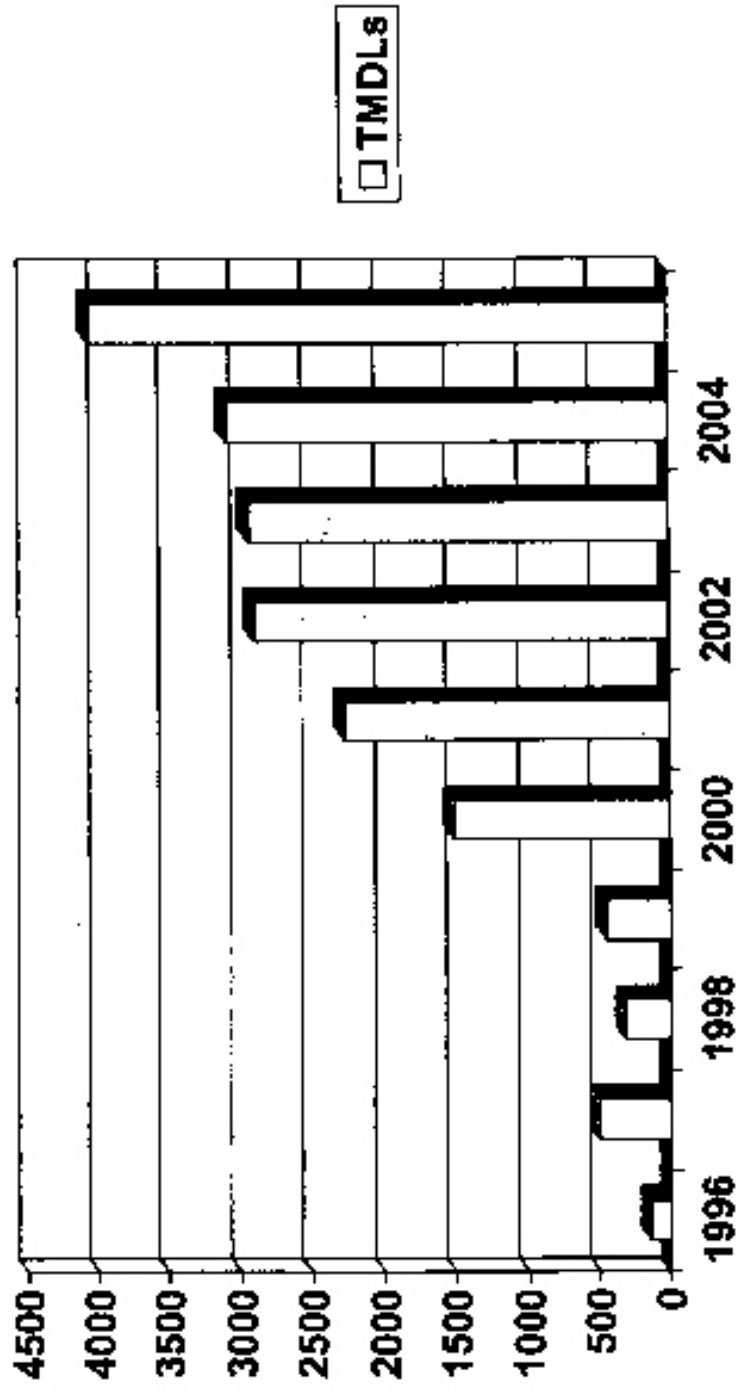
Advance Regional Coastal Collaborations

- a. Chesapeake Bay
 - 1) Nutrient strategies – local and bay-wide
 - 2) Anacostia River – urban river collaboration
- b. Great Lakes
 - 1) Sediments – Great Lakes Legacy Act implementation
 - 2) Interagency Task Force – Strategic actions, streamlining, and sustainability
- c. Gulf of Mexico
 - 1) Hypoxia Action Plan and Gulf States Plan
 - 2) Katrina/Rita recovery – work with partners on sustainable infrastructure, monitoring, and ecosystem restoration
- d. Ocean Action Plan and Coastal America projects

Work to Ensure a Diverse, Talented and Highly-Skilled Workforce

- a. Expand opportunities for employee training and development through the Water Careers Council
- b. Strengthen the Recruitment and Diversity Councils and related efforts to broaden the pool of talented individuals recruited and to support diversity in our workplace

TMDLs Are Getting Done



RMWEA Report from Ken Rutt:

Permit Negotiations Workshop - May 17, 2006 at the Durango Community Recreation Center - the announcements have been sent out which included information on the Wastewater Council membership and mentoring program.

Joint Technical Action Committee: WEDNESDAY, April 19th - Advanced Oxidation with UV presented by Mike Leach of Trojan Technologies. See the RMSAWWA website for details and to register. Or register by e-mail or phone at 720.286.5252

RMWEA Award Nominations Sought! Take the time to recognize your fellow individuals or facilities for their achievements to our industry. Details are available on the RMWEA web site under Awards Committee.

3rd Annual WEF/AWWA student conference will be held at Colorado State University on May 19th, 2006. This conference provides a forum for graduate (and some undergraduate) students from the Rocky Mountain Region to present their research and design projects to local professionals in the environmental industry. Registration is only \$25 before April 28th (free for students), booths are also invited at a cost of \$100. Registration will include lunch and a BBQ dinner/awards ceremony. Please see the conference website for further details.

Operator/Engineer Workshop on April 25th at the Ramada in Northglenn. Topics include Biological Nutrient Removal, Nitrification with Lagoon Guard, Design-Build, Financing Options, and Construction Management. Please see the RMWEA website or call Greg Farmer (303.762.2524) for more information.

Upcoming PWO Seminars: Operator/Engineer Workshop on April 25th in Northglenn. Emerging Technologies on May 25th. Silverthorne PWO Seminar on June 29th. And, of course, Leadville from July 31 - August 4. Please see the website for more details.

Water Reuse Conference Workshop on August 10, 2006 at the Colorado School of Mines. Sponsored by the Joint Water Reuse Committee. Co-sponsored by RMSAWWA, RMWEA, and the WaterReuse Association. Please contact Tanja Rauch-Williams for more information.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Have a great day!

Thanks,
Kenneth D. Rutt
Wastewater Division Superintendent
City & County of Broomfield



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MEMORANDUM

To: Temperature Group
From: Jerry W. Raisch, Esq.
Date: April 11, 2006
Subject: Administrative Action Hearing

The CWQCC voted to adopt the narrative standard approach advocated by the Temperature Group in the Administrative Action Hearing.

It split the baby on the issue of how to develop chronic criteria. The WQCD advocated using the upper bound of the optimal temperature range. We advocated using MWAT, i.e., OT + ((UULT - OT)/3). The Commission decided to use the upper bound of optimal temperature range where there is sufficient data to do so. Where there is insufficient data, the MWAT will be used.

Other issues — The Commission decided to:

- Use UULT and ULT with appropriate acclimation data and investigate appropriate use of CTM for acute criteria.
- Investigate appropriate acute MOS for acute.
- Provide no extra MOS for unknown species
- Use the 95th percentile with lower value for important recreational or commercial species.
- Encourage development of data on sub-categories of uses.
- Give thermal shock a high priority on the future issues list.
- Support further investigation of spawning.

Of additional note was Robert Sakata's position that we should not be setting any acute or chronic standards. Rather, that the Commission should protect a "natural temperature gradient" and that the focus should be on thermal shock.

April 11, 2006
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Paul Frohardt will draft a motion dealing with the Commission's decision and will circulate it for review

Our thanks to Dr. Coutant and Steve Canton who presented our position so well!