

Confluence

1st Quarter - 2007

Annual Report and Program Plan

Every year the Council posts an Annual Report and Program Plan on its website for the upcoming year. We will be posting the 2006/2007 report in January. Be sure to take a look at it. It contains an informative break-out of what your membership dues are doing for you as well as other achievements, activities and resources. It includes meeting activities, projects and initiatives, position papers and letters, technical reports, speakers, council actions and committees.

This is your Colorado Wastewater Utility Council at work! Stay informed and get involved.

Ammonia Public Notice

On November 27, 2006 the notice of a public rulemaking hearing before the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission was published. The Colorado Wastewater Utility Council has been involved during the past several years in the evaluation of the proposed regulation. It has completed a special assessment of the science behind the standards, formally distributed information to help make its members aware of the upcoming regulation and standards, and participated in formal comments before the Commission. Council members have participated in the Ammonia Work Group that developed the Q&As regarding implementation for this important regulation.

Now that the proposed regulation has been public noticed, it is critical to become familiar with the standards. Go to the Commission's website <http://www.cdphs.state.co.us/op/wqcc/MeetingsandHearings/HearingNotices/rulemaking/0703Ammonia.pdf> to review the Public Notice.

If you have been following this development, you are probably aware that cold water standards may become relaxed while warm water standards will be tightened. ***One unexpected surprise*** in the Division's Notice is a proposed Temporary Modification for many warm water segments. Check your segment to see if you will need a Temporary Modification. It will be in your best interest to provide supporting documentation to the Commission at the appropriate time.



**Paul Ferraro educates folks about CWWUC
Information Table
RMWEA 2006 conference**

NORM and TENORM Update

In our last newsletter we gave you an overview of what NORM (naturally occurring radioactive materials) and TENORM (technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive materials) are and why EPA and the State of Colorado are involved in this issue. We promised to update you on any changes which may occur. Here is the latest.

The Rocky Mountain Compact Board voted to make the Clean Harbors landfill the regional facility for NORM/TENORM materials. The Compact Board has finalized Rule 12 that discusses the NORM/TENORM issue. Check out: http://www.mllwb.us/documents/Rule12_11-13-06.pdf. The State of Colorado in its application requested that Clean Harbors be designated as a “non-exclusive” facility.

There are two important issues of interest to Colorado wastewater treatment agencies who are producers of biosolids:

(1) The Compact does not have jurisdiction over land application of biosolids, and

(2) landfilling of biosolids (which may contain NORM/TENORM materials) can take place in any solid waste facility in the State so long as they meet the solid waste requirements of that landfill.

The Compact Board has determined it does not have jurisdiction over disposal of any in-region NORM/TENORM materials so long as they are disposed of within the region (Colorado, New Mexico, or Nevada). Regulation of disposal options for water treatment plant residuals will now be the responsibility of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

The Rocky Mountain Compact Board has stated for years it had the authority to regulate disposal of most NORM/TENORM materials by directing where such materials could be disposed. This position has now been changed due to the hard work and voices of many Colorado utilities. Senator Wayne Allard also gave strong support for the Colorado issue in a letter to the Honorable Allen Specter, Chairman of the Judiciary in Washington D.C. In his letter, he questioned the authority of the Rocky Mountain COMPACT to “*expand its jurisdiction beyond what was authorized by Congress...*”.

Members Fund Special Projects

During the last few years, you’ve probably been contacted by a Utility Council board member asking you to donate a few extra dollars to a “good cause”. Since it’s pretty hard to tell your fellow wastewater comrade that you do not accept calls from solicitors, you were probably kind enough to sit through the sales pitch. Thank you!!

Listed below you can see where the money was used—all worthy causes. These are examples of the special projects the Council gets involved in and how much it costs. These dollars are spent to evaluate State and EPA standards proposals. The Council many times goes before the Water Quality Control Commission representing its members in the standards setting hearings.

There will be more work like this in the future. When you put together your annual budgets, please consider throwing in some extra funding for future technical evaluations, such as these. The dollars you spend now may help you save more dollars in the future.

<u>Completed Projects</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1. Ammonia Criteria	\$47,370
2. Ammonia Cold Water	1,845
3. Selenium Database	33,802
4. Selenium II	20,531
5. Aquatic Life	17,075
6. WET	6,993
7. Temperature I	7,200
8. Temperature II (Imp)	23,000
9. Temperature III & IV	<u>10,000</u>
	Subtotal \$167,816

<u>Ongoing Projects</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1. Nutrient	\$5,700
2. Selenium	16,000
3. Mentoring	5,700
4. Aquatic Life	<u>2,290</u>
	Subtotal \$29,690

Grand Total \$197,506

Forum Corner

Each quarter *Forum Corner* will give a brief status of some of the active work groups. This is not meant to be a detailed update. For more information, go to <http://www.cwqf.org> and click on Work Group Links.

Spill Control — Discussions include spill reporting, data tracking by the state, legal ramifications, definitions of spills, NPDES requirements and others. Chair: Dave Akers, 303.692.3591 Dave.Akers@state.co.us and Coordinator: Dave Meyers, City of Westminster 303.430.2400 x2376 dmeyer@ci.westminster.co.us.

Aquatic Life — Next meeting is January 25, 9:00 AM at the Carson Room, Building A, CDPH&E. Contact Facilitator Chris Theel, CDPH&E, 303.692.3558 Christopher.Theel@state.co.us.

Check out the work group web site to view the Colorado Bioassessment tool!

Nutrient Criteria — This is going to be one to become involved in. The web site has times and dates. Facilitator: Joni Nuttle, CDPH&E, 303.692.3533 Joni.Nuttle@state.co.us.

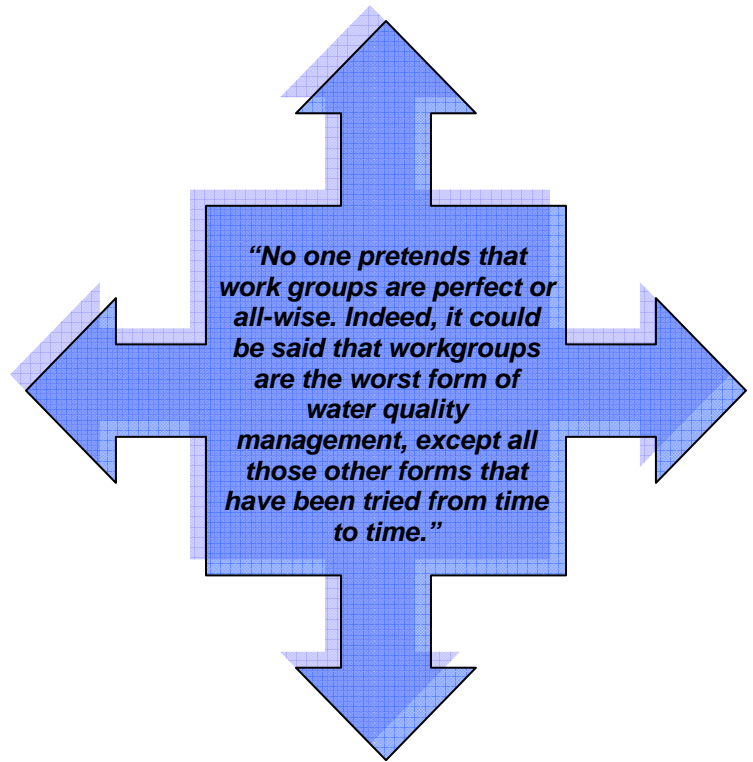
Regulation 61 — NPDES permits issues and concerns are discussed. Meetings will be held approximately monthly until the February 12, 2007 Hearing. Janet Keiler, CDPH&E 303.692.3599 Janet.kieler@state.co.us or Carol Webb, City of Fort Collins 970.221.6231 cwebb@fcgov.com

Colorado RO Roundtable — Contact Laurie Rink, FRICO at 303.777.0188 lrink@uos.net to find out more about this group and how to join in the discussions.

Temperature — The proposed regulation will be heard before the Commission January 8, 2007. Contact Facilitator Sarah Johnson, CDPH&E, 303.692.3609 sarah.johnson@state.co.us for further information. For a copy of the draft proposal: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/wqcc/MeetingsandHearings/HearingNotices/rulemaking/TSnotice0701.pdf>

303D Listing Methodology — This group discusses 303(d) listing methods for a variety of issues. To receive a list of the issues with their dates, times and locations of discussions, contact Facilitator Phil Hegeman, CDPH&E, 303.692.3518 philip.hegeman@state.co.us

Ammonia Work Group — Most of the major work regarding the new proposed statewide ammonia standards has been completed. The proposed regulation will be heard before the Commission March 13, 2007. View the proposed regulation: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/wqcc/MeetingsandHearings/HearingNotices/rulemaking/0703Ammonia.pdf>



(Source: the Water Quality Forum web site.)

News From Related Organizations

WESTCAS Fall Conference

In 1992, water and wastewater providers in the arid west joined together to share their talents and resources. They adopted the name Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS). A grassroots organization, WESTCAS dedicates itself to encouraging the development of water programs and regulations which assure adequate supplies of high quality water for those living in the arid regions while protecting the environment

The November 2006 WESTCAS Fall conference was held in Tucson, Arizona. The topic of the conference was “Arid West Issues and Opportunities.” Conference speakers offered perspectives and challenges of providing water to Arizona, California, and Texas.

Keynote speaker Denise Keehner, Director of the Standards & Health Protections Division of the USEPA, provided an overview of the Office of Water’s activities as well as plans for the future. The USEPA’s Four Pillars of Sustainability factor heavily on the current and future programs at the USEPA. Ms. Keehner identified collaboration as a goal in developing effective programs. From arid West water quality standards to watershed restoration, the USEPA will work closely with states and other federal agencies to build useful water quality plans for a sustainable future.

The next WESTCAS conference will be February 21-23, 2007 in San Antonio, Texas. The web site <http://www.westcas.org> has details.

From Gold Rush to Urban Crush

The major snow storm that marked the 2006 South Platte Forum did not deter the intrepid attendees! “From the Gold Rush to the Urban Crush” was a retrospective of growth, development and water use along the South Platte River. Presentations ranged from drought to emerging

contaminants. The evolution of water law in Colorado was discussed, as well as the unchecked population growth and corresponding demand for water. Colorado’s history is tied closely to water and lack of water as evidenced by the disappearance of the Anasazi and the number of cases in the judicial system.

A discussion of waters of the State, uses and everyone’s rights, always comes with contentions. We were not disappointed this year. Perspectives were exchanged between well water users and surface water users. A spicy exchange of ideas between agricultural users and municipal providers was enjoyed by the audience.

Dr. Thomas Noel gave a pictorial history of the South Platte, chronicling the changes the river has undergone during the past 100+ years. The South Platte, indeed “camp-able and drivable” in the days of the settlers, a one-time repository for raw sewage, now has been engineered to provide an area for paddle sports.

The 2007 South Platte Forum will be in October. Information will be provided.



CWWUC Calendar

The CWWUC meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Littleton/Englewood WWTP, located at 2900 S. Platte River Drive, Englewood, CO. Please visit our web site for a map and driving directions.

January 10

The mission of the Colorado Water Congress is to promote the wise management and stewardship of the State's water resources for the benefit of Colorado's present and future generations. Doug Kemper, Executive Director for the Colorado Water Congress (CWC), will speak about the general activities of the CWC. He will also address upcoming issues which may help his organization and the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council work together more effectively.

Steve Frank, Public Relations expert for the Metropolitan Reclamation District will speak on his favorite topic, PR. The Metro District, 6450 York St., Denver, is the largest Wastewater Treatment Plant in the state.

February 14

Two speakers, both from EPA, will provide the topics this month. Max Dodson, recently retired EPA Region VIII Assistant Administrator, will present **“an overview of his 35 years at EPA”**. This promises to be an interesting collection of memories and “just how far we have progressed” insight.

The second speaker, Bruce Suchomel EPA Region VIII, discusses how the EPA awards program recognizes “innovative processes and practices at wastewater treatment facilities. Well-managed facilities...help ensure a clean environment and protect the public’s health.”

March 14

Steve Canton holds an M.S. in Aquatic Biology. He works for GEI Consultants and has 30 years experience evaluating aquatic ecosystems and the effects of stressors on those systems. An Ecotoxicologist, Steve frequently serves as an expert witness. Steve will present his comments on EPA's Methylmercury Implementation Guidance and the Selenium studies that were funded in 2006 by the Council.

Miss a Recent CWWUC Meeting?

You can access the minutes of our recent meetings via our website. Just type in this URL: <http://www.cwwuc.org/>

CONTACT US:

Phone: Paul Ferraro – 303.904.2177

Email: Jeannie Bowser - admin@cwwuc.org



CWWUC members meet for breakfast - RMWEA conference 2006

The newsletter of Colorado Wastewater Utility Council is published four times a year in January, April, July, & October.

Editors: Mary E. Gardner, Littleton/Englewood WWTP, mgardner@englewoodgov.org and Todd Dahlberg, Colorado Springs Utilities, tdahlberg@csu.org

Coordinator: Chris Ames, Littleton/Englewood WWTP, comes@englewoodgov.org