



COLORADO WATER UTILITY COUNCIL
Rocky Mountain Section of the American Water Works Association

MINUTES
COLORADO WATER UTILITY COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING

December 3, 2010 10:00 a.m.

Denver Water

1600 W. 12th Avenue
Three Stones Building

Remarks by Chair—Tom

- Josh Baile is now self employed as a consultant. Since the CWUC bylaws require that only individuals employed by a utility may be an officer, Josh is stepping down as Vice Chair. If you are interested in the Vice Chair position, please email either Tom or Lois. Two things to keep in mind are: The vice chair will replace Tom as Chair in October 2011; and the Vice Chair position is the logical person to represent the Council in Washington, DC in April to discuss drinking water issues with representatives. Give Tom a call if you have questions about the duties of the Chair and Vice Chair.

CDPHE—Ron

- The latest version of the Primary Drinking Water Regulations went into effect on November 30th. There will be no more granting of disinfection waivers; there are new requirements for public drinking water systems that currently have disinfection waivers as well as changes for those systems with handpumps; systems with only UV for disinfection will also need to install chemical disinfection; groundwater systems that are already disinfecting need to document there is a 0.2 mg/l chlorine residual at the entrance to their distribution system.
- Applications for the Division's CoWarn position have been received. The time to apply has closed but a candidate has not been chosen yet. The position is funded by a vulnerability grant through 2011. After that, the position will likely be funded through a different set aside. Recently, some contractual support has been utilized to update the CoWarn webpage and also to help out when the town of Manassa had issues with total coliform.

- 2010 is the end of a 3-year compliance period. Be cognizant that the synthetic organic chemical monitoring requirement is to collect/analyze two quarterly samples in one year during this 2008-2010 compliance period.

DC Fly-In—Tom

- The CWUC participates in AWWA’s annual “fly-in” to Washington, DC. This is a nationwide event where states advocate for their specific regional drinking water issues to their DC representatives. AWWA generally provides information on the issues to the CWUC participant. The Rocky Mountain Section of AWWA provides funding for one individual from the CWUC to attend. This is a good function for the Vice Chair to attend. In 2011, the event is on April 4 and 5. Since the CWUC is currently without a Vice Chair, any member who is interested in attending should contact Tom Mountfort. Chris Piper (Denver Water) will also be attending.

Letter to JBC—Ann

- A letter to the Joint Budget Committee has been drafted. It is supportive of maintaining general funding for the Division. There was a suggestion that we be clear about the dollars going to drinking water vs clean water. Randy G motioned for Tom to sign and send the finalized letter prior to the JBC’s December meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim McCarthy. Lois and Anne will finalize and send to Tom. Martha Rudolph will be cc’d.

In case we want to provide an in-person statement in addition to the letter, Denver Water is checking to see if the JBC’s January meeting would provide the opportunity to do that.

Legislative Committee Report—Mary from the WQF

- Everything is in flux but it will likely pick up after the start of year.

Nutrient Criteria--Mary

- A control regulation approach has been proposed. It is technically based and identifies biological nutrient reduction to be used by wastewater treatment plants to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus. This approach calls for instream and effluent monitoring throughout the next 3-5 years. There may also be some required stormwater monitoring.
- In addition to the control regulation, there is also a proposal for a high quality water supply for drinking water reservoirs that need an extra level of protection. There was a monitoring program this past summer that focused on finding a correlation between disinfection byproducts and nutrients. The Division is in the process of evaluating the data.

The Division has been working on language that defines factors the Commission will consider when looking at whether or not a reservoir needs additional protection. There have been some comments from the wastewater side about the importance of having limitations on the factors that the commission considers.

If the Council wants to ensure the availability of the high quality water supply designation, we need to keep voicing our opinion of it's importance. The Council plans to be a party to the hearing and will develop a statement regarding nutrient criteria. Development of the statement will occur shortly after the Division releases their final hearing proposal.

Wastewater, November 10th meeting--Al

- The Wastewater Utility Council's Program Plan for 2011 includes MMI application, water quality assessments, temperature criteria implementation, site application and design criteria, reuse issues, and pesticide application.
- Some members are concerned that POTWs only have 30 days to review draft permits. It would be better to have 60 days.
- Nationwide, there is a big push to modify regulations related to sanitary sewer overflows and combined sewer overflows. Littleton/Englewood is under a compliance advisory because 13 spills (on-site of the treatment plant) were not reported. The Council plans to review the Division's spill policy.

Water Conservation Committee—Jeannine

- The Colorado Water Conservation Committee will meet on the 2nd Monday of each month.
- The Committee is currently reviewing materials from the Pacific Northwest for the Conservation Certification Program. Statewide training can begin once the materials are in place.
- Abstracts for the Watersmart Innovations conference in Las Vegas are due in January.
- An excellent article on the economics of water can be found at http://www.cwi.colostate.edu/newsletters/2010/ColoradoWater_27_5.pdf
- A draft technical memorandum regarding the gap between water needs and water supply can be found at: <http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/weblink/0/doc/145241/Electronic.aspx?searchid=31148d48-d968-4bee-a312-a6e66b1d7637>

Water Quality Policy Committee—Jim

- The Policy 4 guidance document is out for comment. Please send substantive comments and suggestions to Jim Miller. He'll consolidate and forward them on to Ron. The Division is hoping to finalize the document by April. Jim will send out an email reminder for comments.
- The newest version of the floodplain rule has gained some relief for treatment plants.
- On Nov. 16th, Solid Waste gave their Commission an update on the current status of the impoundment regulation. During the update, Solid Waste staff brought up a new concept—sludge classification in addition to impoundment classification.

On Nov. 15th, Solid Waste met with water treatment facility stakeholders. They are giving strong consideration to classifying all alum plants as Type A. At this point, there is still not enough data on ferric plants to classify them all as Type A.

The rulemaking hearing will likely occur in either May or August, 2011.

The next water treatment facility stakeholder meeting with Solid Waste is on Dec. 9th from 9-11.

Future Meeting Dates

- Westminster's hours and days of work have changed. They are now working Monday through Thursday. The Council is considering changing the day/time of our monthly meeting to make it easier for them to attend. The first Friday at 10 was originally chosen to coincide with the Section meeting. Tom will suggest some alternate days and times via doodle.com.

Membership committee report--Greg

- Greg plans to send out a new directory at end of year. Please send updates to Greg ASAP.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be on January 7th, same time/place.