SP CURE Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 – 9:00 am

Meeting Location:
Virtual Meeting

April Meeting Summary

High Level Take-Aways

- The group discussed the Monitoring Committee's potential water quality partnerships and projects findings and discussed next steps:
    - The group identified a number of projects to stay up-to-date on through individual member involvement.
    - Several projects, including those spearheaded by BMW, Metro and Adams County, and USGS, warrant further education and potential involvement.
    - A logical next step is to start to develop education and outreach materials that introduces SP CURE and the water quality sampling program.
    - The group identified the need to reach out to groups not traditionally involved in water quality planning.
- The group discussed the special September 2022 Regulation 38 data call led by the Environmental Justice and Conservation Coalition groups. SP CURE will reply to the proponents, but will point them to the Data Sharing Network.
- Several SP CURE members testified in support of the Colorado PFAS bill, which has passed the state House. If promulgated, the bill will ban the use of PFAS in some Colorado consumer products.

Action Items

- SP CURE to reach out to Steve Lundt on BMW's phosphorous-free initiative to learn more.
- SP CURE to continue the discussion on interpretive signage and potential projects to partner with CU Denver student groups.
- SP CURE to consider developing education and outreach materials about SP CURE, such as presentations and/or a "one-pager."
- Sarah and Christine to reach out to the EJCC groups regarding the Regulation 38 data call.

1. **Discussion and Approval of March Meeting Summary**

   Approval requested by email on 4/27/2022.

2. **SP CURE Potential Projects and Partnerships**

   The Monitoring Committee developed a list of current projects that are happening in the urban South Platte watershed and found that many of the members of SP CURE are engaged in these efforts. The Monitoring Committee felt that the best way to engage at this point is to focus on education and outreach with potential partners and provide information about SP CURE's activities and objectives. One way to clarify this education and outreach focus is to document the projects that SP CURE has completed or funded in the past and share this information with potential partners. So far, the Monitoring Committee has had a meeting with Dr. Annika Mosier with CU Denver to hear what she is working on and brainstorm potential areas of collaboration. Her focus is microbial ecology.

   A summary of the discussion of the water quality-related projects and potential partners are shown in **Tables 1 and 2** at the end of this document, and summarized here:

   Trout Unlimited - eDNA monitoring efforts for fish, macroinvertebrates, and algae that look at sluffed genetic material to identify species living in the waterway. This is an emerging science and some of the results are showing that there are species that have never been observed in Colorado. The issue is that the library is being developed, which continually strengthens the science. Trout Unlimited is really pushing introduction of trout into the Denver area. It would be beneficial for SP CURE to stay connected with this project to make sure we understand how the data will be used. Furthermore, it is not clear where Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) stands on this issue, but it was noted that Barb Biggs got CPW to say on record at a hearing that they are not looking to have reproducing trout populations in the urban South Platte.

   South Platte River Data Literacy and Aquatic Life Assessment through Denver Trout Unlimited – SP CURE should stay abreast of what is happening with this but not be heavily involved. They are looking to get a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CPW).

   SPRUWP: Update Water Quality Assessment Tool – There may be a role for SP CURE as storyboards are developed to explain water quality parameters (e.g., explain what it is, where it comes from, etc). Participation could include developing or reviewing the storyboards.

   US Army Corps of Engineers Denver South Platte River and Tribs Dam flood risk mitigation – Again, stay informed and possibly provide public comment as designs are made public.

   South Platte River Advisory Youth Council (SPRAY) and El Laboratorio – *E. coli* and nutrients in Segment 15.

Barr Milton Watershed – Phosphorus-Free fertilizer initiative: Add to future SP CURE agenda to see about our support of this initiative, and perhaps invite Steve Lundt to present. SP CURE support could include support through letters, logo inclusion etc.

Metro Water Recovery – Interpretive signage along Segment 15: Metro will be including signage to educate the public in part about the geography of where water resources are located, and also provide a water quality message. Adams County will also be installing interpretive signage. SP CURE could consider expanding the effort into Segment 14 to keep consistent messaging. Perhaps a larger discussion with SP CURE, BMW, Metro, and Adams County is warranted. Jim added that Sand Creek Greenway is planning on updating the signs along Sand Creek, but it may not include water quality messaging. SP CURE could also consider getting funding from stormwater entities who are required to conduct outreach and education.

USGS geomorphology assessment pre/post instream improvements in Segment 14 – Jon Novick is in contact with Ryan Banta with the USGS on this project. Jon will check in to see when they want funds and how much, etc. The USGS is aiming to start work later this year. The plan is to do high resolution aerial photography and lidar as well as instream aquatic habitat and geomorphology work. Jon will provide the latest updated plan.

Community-based practicum for CU-Denver – This could be a great resource to SP CURE. The Monitoring Committee will help identify and put forward possible projects for spring semester.

The group also noted that it could be beneficial to reach out to other groups who may not be very knowledgeable in the water quality arena. The objective would be to introduce them to SP CURE and also provide information about water quality standards and permitting. Since multiple groups are completely aligned on the PFAS bill, it seems like a good timing.

As a potential next step, SP CURE could develop some canned presentations that can be used for education and outreach efforts (e.g. introduce SP CURE and describe our sampling program). Perhaps two presentations – one general and one more data-heavy depending on the audience. Data showing water quality improvements would be the most impactful. The group also discussed updating the SP CURE one-pager. Armed with updated presentations and a one-pager, SP CURE would be better equipped to get in front of other organizations and show how we are addressing water quality issues and help clear up misconceptions about *E. coli* and salts, for example.

3. Environmental Justice and Conservation Coalition (EJCC)

The EJCC, led by Western Resource Advocates, is requesting water quality data from segments 15 and 1a collected after 2019. They wanted to know whether others might want to be involved in this discussion. Christine had suggested at a Water Quality forum meeting that they could come to an SP CURE meeting to provide a presentation and include other entities that were named as interested partners (e.g. Platteville, Fort Lupton, Brighton). Are we

willing and interested in hosting them? The presentation that they gave had little detail about the proposal and may not be very helpful.

The group decided to reach out to Ellen with Western Resource advocates and communicate that SP CURE is available and always willing to hear all sides of a topic – leave the door open to them to ask for an audience. If they take us up on it, we can invite the other stakeholders. Regarding getting more data, the group agreed to point them to the data sharing network. It seems that if they don't have the data that they need already, it would be difficult to prepare a proposal.

Metro Water Recovery has asked for a meeting with SP CURE to present some outreach regarding Regulation 38 and antidegredation. Metro will let us know what meeting times work.

The RMWEA Government Affairs Committee is looking to get an article in RUMBLEs on antidegradation and using metal salts for nutrient treatment.

4. **PFAS Bill**

South Platte Renew, Metro, and Centennial testified at the hearing. There was a lot of support for getting PFAS out of 8 or 9 classes of consumer products and to require reporting. So far the bill has passed the state House Committee and is headed to finance then on to Senate. It limits sales on all consumer products, not just those produced in Colorado.

5. **Discuss Project Updates** (Tabled until next meeting)

   a. **Colorado Monitoring Framework**
   b. **CWQMC/CDSN**
   c. **BMW TMDL**
   d. **Monitoring Committee**
   e. **SP CURE Website Update**

6. **Budget Update**

Budget is on track and there are no unplanned expenses.

7. **Other Topics and Announcements**

Members of the Board also noted that the City of Golden (Brian Tracy) has expressed interest in becoming more involved.

8. **Next Meeting Dates**

May 17, 2022 – Virtual
June 21, 2022 – Virtual

SP CURE Board Meeting: April 19, 2022
Attendance Record

Present	Name	Organization
	Juliana Archuleta	Adams County
✓*	Sherry Scaggiari	Aurora Water
	Zachary Trabold	Aurora Water
✓*	Julie Tinetti	Centennial W&S
	Alan Polonsky	City and County of Denver
✓*	Jon Novick	City and County of Denver
		East Cherry Creek Valley W&S
✓*	Curt Bauers	FRICO
✓*	Jim Dorsch	Metro District
✓*	Jordan Parman	Metro District
	Mark Koch	Molson/Coors
	Mark Cubbon	South Adams County W&S
✓*	Dan DeLaughter	South Platte Renew
✓*	Eric Marler	Suncor Energy (U.S.A.)
✓*	Ben Wise	South Platte Renew
✓*	Caleb Owen	Thornton
	Shay Shih	Thornton
	Steve Materkowski	UDFCD
✓*	Christine Johnston	Xcel Energy
✓*	Sarah Reeves	Coordinator, Brown and Caldwell
	Beth Albrecht	Brown and Caldwell
✓*	Erin Donnelly	Brown and Caldwell
	Jake Kunugi	Brown and Caldwell

*Joined virtually/by phone

Table 1. SP CURE Board Monitoring Committee Brainstorm: Water Quality Projects in the Metro Area					
Lead Organization	**Project Title or Description**	**Funding Source**	**Role for SP CURE?**	**Recommend pursuing at this time? Y/N**	**Other Organizations Involved**
Denver Trout Unlimited	Urban South Platte Aquatic Biodiversity Project: Using eDNA for fish, macros and algae		Keep on our radar and monitor how data will be used	No but stay informed.	CPW is involved, but unclear their stance on eDNA
Denver Trout Unlimited	South Platte River Data Literacy and Aquatic Life Assessment workshop: This would involve evaluating existing data, data gaps and developing recommendations for how best to assess aquatic life impacts of various future instream projects.	CWCB grant (SMP or WSRF?)		No but stay informed. Proposal to be submitted June 2022	USGS City of Lakewood (MS4) DDPHE DSN
South Platte River Urban Water Partnership	Update "Water Quality Assessment Tool" (WQAT)		Science and data subcommittee. We may want to be involved more with the storyboards explaining the importance of some of the water quality parameters.	No. Stay informed through Jordan and Jon; may be a role as the storyboards are developed. Check out the WQAT.	
US Army Corps of Engineers	Denver South Platte River and Tributaries (SPRT) and Southern Platte Valley Sec 113: Dual flood risk mitigation and ecosystem restoration project; ecosystem restoration project	Fed and cost share	Track design and planning (potential comment)	No but stay informed.	
US Army Corps of Engineers	Similar to above projects: Adams County and Clear Creek; partnering with Mile High and Greenway Foundation		Track design and planning (potential comment); potential money available for improvements	No but stay informed.	Mile High Flood District and Greenway Foundation

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South Platte River Advisory Youth Council (SPRAY); El Laboratorio; Lincoln Hills Cares	E.coli and nutrients in Segment 15			No, but participate as individual orgs.	
USGS	Installation of super gages on the South Platte	Project did not receive funding		No, project did not received funding	
USGS (Ryan Banta)	Conduct geomorphology assessment pre/post instream improvements in Segment 14 (and maybe 15).			Jon to send additional information to SP CURE	DDPHE Trout Unlimited
BMW	Phosphorus-free fertilizer initiative			SP CURE to host Steve Lundt with BMW to learn about ways to contribute	
Metro Water Recovery	Installation of interpretive signage on Segment 15		Extend signage upstream	SP CURE to potentially partner on this effort to extend signage into Segment 14	
Adams County	Little Dry and Clear Creek confluence; signage			SP CURE to potentially partner on this effort to extend signage into Segment 14	
CU-Denver, Dr. Christy Briles	Community-based practicum, varying topics. Temperature, nutrients, macroinvertebrate constructed reference site		Oversee project(s)	SP CURE to potentially supply ongoing projects	
CU Denver, Dr. Annika Mosier	Microbial ecology along SP River, analyzing relationship between microbes and metal/nutrients		Share data and findings	SP CURE to potentially supply ongoing projects	
Greenway Foundation	Clean River Design Challenge: Year-long design challenge to come up with creative solutions to WQ problems (usually trash)		Always looking for water professionals	No, but participate as individual orgs.	

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			to mentor and judge projects		
CSU - Dr. Mazdak Arabi	Identify strengths and weaknesses of WQ index	EPA grant - still in proposal stage	Potential partnership with CSU	No but stay informed.	

Table 2. SP CURE Board and Monitoring Committee Brainstorm: Potential Partners	
Organization	**Description/Comments**
Barr Milton Watershed Association	Collaborative group focused on water quality
CU Denver	Members already partnering with CU Denver professors, but SP CURE could play a larger role in providing project ideas. Keep them informed on an individual org level; Confluence at the Confluence?
CWCB	South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plans and Colorado Water Plan recognize importance of water quality to other sectors Very interested in partnering on water quality/water supply projects
Denver Trout Unlimited	Pushing to increase trout in the urban SP corridor, becoming a larger player in the urban South Platte Keep them informed on an individual org level; Confluence at the Confluence?
Greenway Foundation	Major player in large water quality projects; very good at fundraising
USGS	Bill is retiring; Ryan Banta is current contact
South Platte Working Group	Mile High Flood District; LE; Merrick. Working to increase access to the river on Segment 14
Mile High Flood District	Involved in many regional water quality projects in the Metro area
Green Latinos/ Sand Creek Greenway organization/ Conservation Colorado/ Groundwork Denver	Could be beneficial to do a water quality standards 101