



## SP CURE Monitoring Committee Meeting Minutes

**Thursday September 7, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Location: Thornton Wes Brown Water Treatment Plant  
3651 E 86<sup>th</sup> Ave; Thornton, CO

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### High Level Take-Aways

- Nicole Laurita presented her progress on the arsenic study. She was able to pull South Platte Basin basemaps of geology, point source dischargers, land use, and mine locations and will compare these maps to arsenic concentrations.
  - The group decided to move forward with presenting the arsenic evaluation at the November 10-Year Roadmap meeting.
  - Thornton prepared sulfate and ammonia samples. Monitoring Committee participants will send their results to Patrick O'Brien when complete.
  - The group discussed outcomes of the Water Quality Forum retreat. Most of the proposed workgroups were approved, and the Feasibility workgroup will be a subgroup of the 10-year Roadmap (to kick off in early 2024)
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### Action Items

- Everyone to send round robin results to Patrick O'Brien when complete.
  - Nicole to work on a qualitative comparison of arsenic levels to geology, point source dischargers, land use, and mines – aim to have ready by the October Monitoring Committee meeting.
  - Erin to work with Beth on finding speaker volunteers from the Board.
  - Brian Tietze to look into DDPHE arsenic stormwater data.
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### 1. Introductions

### 2. Discuss/Approve June Meeting Minutes

Approved: Last meeting we hosted the USGS on potential projects. We also discussed Nutrient Hearing outcomes and completion of the SP CURE White Paper.

### 3. Water Quality Workgroup Updates

#### a. Water Quality Workgroups

**Water Quality Forum Retreat.** All of the proposed workgroups were approved during the WQF Retreat (July 13 and 14) with the exception of the Permittee Communication and Engagement, which will be incorporated into the Permits Webinar. Workgroups include: Aluminum, 10-Year Roadmap, MS4, Permits Webinar, Regulation 22, Regulation 82 (401 Certifications), Regulation 21 (Procedural Rules), 303d Listing Methodology, and Sediment

Policy 98-1. A lot of conversation and pre-work around the Nutrient Hearing where feedback was gathered and will be discussed further with the Steering Committee. Retreat themes included transparency of Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) and appropriate timelines for data inclusion and review. Notably, there was not a lot of discussion of the Feasibility Workgroup, which will be a subgroup of the 10-Year roadmap and will kick off in 2024.

**Water Quality Forum:** Next meeting September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**10-Year Roadmap:** Next meeting today! September 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm.

**Permits Webinar:** Last meeting was August 17<sup>th</sup>. The Division discussed Chemical Evaluations (high level) and provided general permitting updates. They will be adding 3 permit writer positions to help get through a large backlog of permits. They are wrapping up South Platte Basin permits and moving into the Gunnison Basin.

The former Permits Issues Forum group will be working closely with the Division on a few key issues. The next Permits Webinar meeting will include extra time to discuss Chemical Approvals in greater detail, as there continue to be delays with approvals. A shared concern is chemical approvals for nutrient treatment, and the Division's lack of toxicity information that places a large burden on individual facilities to run tests.

**Fee Setting Rule:** next meeting September 20, 2023. Background: fees were previously set in statute, but due to 2023 legislation will now be set by the Commission.

- b. **Colorado Monitoring Framework:** working with Division on PFAS communications regarding the Biosolids public-facing website. Working to organize a strategic planning meeting with other stakeholder/watershed groups to see how CMF can best address water quality issues where there are shared interests and concerns.
- c. **Other Updates.** None

#### 4. Water Quality Control Commission Hearings

Planning Session September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

#### 5. Round Robin! (Sulfate and Ammonia)

Thornton provided samples of free ammonia and sulfate. The group will report results back to Patrick and be sure to include what methods were used and whether the sample is preserved.

#### 6. Discuss Arsenic Analyses Evaluation

Background: permittees are concerned with meeting future low total recoverable arsenic levels. The Division is working to update water quality standards but is waiting on EPA's 304a criteria (still delayed). The Division currently holds a statewide temporary modification for arsenic. SP CURE wants to be prepared to pursue compliance options if they are needed. Use Attainability Analysis requirements include:

- Characterize existing conditions.
- Identify sources and potential causes.
- Characterization of highest attainable use/ rationale for revising the current use.

Initial SP CURE analyses suggests that permittees dilute As levels, but concentrations nevertheless increase longitudinally across the Metro Area. Grouped data indicate that some sites are clear hot spots while others are well-constrained.

SP CURE is striving to further arsenic characterization and source identification, and is currently exploring whether the group has the bandwidth to present a technical study at the Division's 10-year

roadmap workgroup. Nicole has volunteered to help move SP CURE’s study forward with her amazing ArcGIS Story Map and Power BI skills. She presented her preliminary findings. She started by pulling in arsenic data from 2012 through 2022 for wells, reservoirs, lakes, and streams. She also created maps for land use, point source dischargers, geology, and mines which she is hoping to correlate with arsenic data.

The group discussed if we can locate any arsenic data in stormwater. Perhaps Brad Cox with City of Denver/BMW can share their data. Brian also thinks DDPHE has data.

Next steps: Nicole to correlate arsenic data with point source, land use, mines, and geology to see where we have a relationship between arsenic levels and potential sources. Aim to have some items complete by the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. This will be a qualitative analysis to start.

## 7. Check-Ins/New Business

- Colorado Data Sharing Network – Jordan reported that the data call for Reg 38 went smoothly.
- Jordan reported that the South Platte Urban Waters Partnership Tool is ready for the public!
- Metro Water Recovery is starting their fish sampling program again, and Jordan will be looking for volunteers.
- Brian reported that macroinvertebrate sampling is starting at Denver with habitat assessment included.

## 8. Next Meeting Date

October 12 – Virtual

October 17 – Confluence at the Confluence

| Meeting Attendees |                    |  |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Present           | Name               | Organization                                 |
|                   | Juliana Archuleta  | Adams County                                 |
| X                 | Claire Likar       | City of Aurora                               |
| X                 | Nick Tino          | Centennial Water and Sanitation District     |
| X                 | Brian Tietze       | Denver Dept of Public Health and Environment |
|                   | Curt Bauers        | FRICO  |
|                   | Jim Dorsch         | Metro Water Recovery                         |
| X                 | Jordan Parman      | Metro Water Recovery                         |
| X                 | Patrick O’Brien    | City of Thornton                             |
| X                 | Caleb Owen         | City of Thornton                             |
|                   | Christine Johnston | Xcel Energy                                  |
|                   | Eric Marler        | Suncor Energy                                |
| X                 | Michael Haxby      | South Adams Water and Sanitation District    |
| X                 | Nicole Laurita     | South Platte Water Renewal Partners          |
| X                 | Erin Donnelly      | Coordinator - Brown and Caldwell             |

Minutes prepared by Erin Donnelly