



## **SP CURE Monitoring Committee Meeting – Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday June 8, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Location: Virtual  
[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)  
(888) 404-2493 United States (Toll-free)  
Conference ID: 774 845 259#

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### **High Level Take-Aways**

- The Monitoring Committee hosted the USGS to learn about water quality projects in the urban South Platte, and discussed potential areas to partner.
- The group discussed outcomes from the Nutrient Hearing in April. While lakes/reservoirs standards were adopted, they will not be implemented below qualifying dischargers until 2027.
  - The Division will convene a Feasibility Workgroup to discuss stakeholder concerns, discharger-specific variances, and developing site-specific standards.
- SP CURE completed the informational White Paper to be able to share with potential partners.
- The group brainstormed potential parameters for the round robin, to be confirmed via email.
- The group brainstormed potential topics for the 10-year roadmap in November to be confirmed via email.

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### **Action Items**

- All members to think about the potential to partner with USGS on water quality projects in the urban South Platte.
- Erin to send follow up email to confirm round robin parameters and potential 10-year roadmap topics.
- Erin and Nicole to discuss arsenic study next steps.

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### **1. Introductions**

### **2. Discuss/approve February Meeting Minutes**

Last meeting we discussed the White Paper (which was completed!)

### **3. Joint discussion with USGS to learn about their current sampling efforts and discuss potential areas for partnership**

USGS Guest speakers:

Tanner Chapin – Lakewood field office water quality supervisor

Meghan Bell – (USGS, filling in for Ryan Banta)

Jordan provided an overview of SP CURE. South Platte Coalition for Urban River Evaluation is a group made up of different organizations doing water quality work. SP CURE was started in 1998 to collaboratively resolve water quality issues on a watershed scale.

The USGS maintains four flow stations on the mainstem South Platte and two on Cherry Creek and they have a new dashboard [USGS | National Water Dashboard](#)

There is a water temperature sensor at 64<sup>th</sup> ave. Cherry Creek at Denver and they've added PFAS – 22 samples annually.

The USGS is also currently supporting physical habitat characterization on the South Platte to establish baseline conditions prior to stream restoration efforts.

Ideas for collaboration

- Enhancing existing sites
  - Turbidity
  - FDOM – DOC proxy
  - Total algae – fCHL or fPC
- Alyza orthophosphate logger – continuous ortho data (See State of Illinois)
- Reservoir logger
- Lagrangian phosphorus sampling: is there interest in another study?
  - Urban Water Federal Partnership: environmental justice focus. Preliminary proposals for FY 2024 are due August 4, 2023.

#### 4. Water Quality Workgroup Updates

##### a. Water Quality Workgroups

**Water Quality Forum** meeting was held on May 15<sup>th</sup> where they discussed environmental justice issues, water quality /quantity nexus, and the updated Water Plan and One Water concept. Rationales for the Water Quality Forum Retreat are due June 15<sup>th</sup>. The retreat will be held on July 13-14 at the CSU Water Campus (in Denver). Legislative summary: <https://coloradosun.com/2023/05/11/colorado-legislature-water-issues-drought-task-force/>

**Permits Webinar.** Andrew Sayers-Fay's first webinar mostly getting up to speed. Industrial stormwater permit is finalized and will go into effect July 2024.

COG641000 Water Treatment plant wastewater discharge general permit – two stakeholder meetings so far, renewal permit expected this summer.

**10-Year Roadmap.** Prioritization process for Total Daily Maximum Loads (TMDLs) between 2024 and 2028 were discussed. The Division needs an additional prioritization process because the Division cannot address all of the Commission's priority streams, finalized in the Reg 93 hearing in May 2023 (only 5-10% of priority streams). Priority pollutants include *e. coli*, sediment, selenium, temperature, nutrients. Low priority pollutants include arsenic, iron, manganese, and sulfate (WS).

Priority by watershed: Colorado Enviroscreen tool (disproportionately impacted communities). Stakeholders can provide input via 10-year roadmap or via the Division website next spring.

Regarding the Nutrient Hearing in April, the Division acknowledged that stakeholders felt that they were not able to engage in a way that informed decisions. They also had concerns how the stakeholder process allows for late alternative proposals.

#### **b. Colorado Monitoring Framework**

Continuing to work on PFAS in biosolids communications and discussing a dues restructure.

#### **c. Other Updates**

Fee bill: Water quality fee rule passed this session: it will transfer fee setting authority from the legislature to the WQCC; it changed the composition to the WQCC (no more than 5 of members can be from a certain political party; 2 must be from west slope; criteria stating the a certain number of commissioners must represent fee payers; 1 from agriculture.

South Platte data call to consider for Reg 93: data can be sent via a template or through the Colorado data sharing network. Contact the DSN by July 1 to make sure the DSN can support. Accepting all parameters between 2018 through 2022 (5 years).

### **5. Water Quality Control Commission Hearings**

- a. **Regulation 31/85 Nutrient Hearing.** On April 12 the Water Quality Control Commission adopted the Water Quality Control Division's revised lake nutrient water quality standards proposal. This occurred during a 2.5 day hearing and testimony from nearly 40 stakeholders. The Division's revised proposal considered new information from a Cost-Benefit Analysis and Regulatory Analysis completed by the Division, as well as surrebuttal statements from several parties.
  - Standards for total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) for cold and warm water lakes above qualified dischargers will be adopted into Regs 31 (statewide standards) and 32-38 (basin-specific regulations) in 2023.
  - Standards for chlorophyll-a (chl-a) will be adopted into Regs 31-38 to all CO lakes and reservoirs in 2023.
  - A rulemaking in 2027 will determine the adoption of TN and TP standards in cold and warm water lakes below qualified dischargers. Until that point, TN and TP will not be applied to WWTF permits.
  - A Feasibility and Implementation Workgroup will be convened by the Division in the meantime, to work through WWTF concerns, discharger-specific variances, and developing site-specific standards. Results of the stakeholder effort will be reported to the Commission by the Division in an informational hearing prior to 2027.

### **6. Round Robin Brainstorm**

2023 ideas: aluminum; low-level ammonia (Jordan to check with lab if this is a different analysis, sulfate, TP, TN. Erin to send reminder to group to confirm parameters.

Past Round Robins:

2022: Total and dissolved iron; total and dissolved sodium  
2021: Field parameters (temperature, pH, conductivity, DO) and Arsenic (diss and total recoverable)  
2019: orthophosphate, TDS, ammonia  
2017: Field pH, chloride, nitrate  
2016: Total phosphorus, Arsenic (diss), electrical conductivity  
2015: Specific conductivity, phosphate, arsenic  
2012: Arsenic, phosphate, nitrate/nitrite  
2011: Ammonia, selenium, *E. coli*  
2009: Phosphate, cadmium, *E. coli*  
2008: Nitrate, selenium, total dissolved solids (TDS)  
2001: Ammonia, copper, nitrate  
1999: Ammonia, nitrate  
1998: Nitrate, ammonia

**7. Discuss Action Items from Board Meeting**

**a. 10-Year Roadmap Meeting Topic**

Non-technical ideas: highlight SP CURE as a resource for data and stakeholder engagement. Showcase Confluence at the Confluence and DSN data availability.

Technical ideas:

- Advance arsenic study or present current results
- Total phosphorus: can we incorporate the Lagrangian study?
- Chloride and sulfate: Let's get a better understanding of chloride and sulfate baseline levels.

**8. Discuss Next Steps for Arsenic Analyses**

Last meeting the group had limited workload availability to dedicate to advancing this effort. As a reminder, our previous actions items included 1) Research loading studies, such as what would a GW contribution look like? 2. Look into geologic map and touch base with Jon Novick; 3. Need volunteer to calculate overall loading to South Platte, perhaps at the top of Segment 14, 15, and 1a.

Nicole may have availability to take a look at this. Erin to follow up.

**9. Check-Ins**

**a. Colorado Data Sharing Network – Jordan**

September data call (discussed previously)

**b. Water Connection/Greenway Foundation Updates**

Cross Currents big event; Mater student water quality projects

**c. South Platte Restoration Project.** Agreement has been signed and various workgroups are active. The project has been rebranded “the Waterway Resiliency Program.” Denver and USGS are doing the baseline habitat studies.

## 10.New Business

- CWCB's Drought Summit report out: water quantity/water quality nexus panel included discussion on the need for a longer "10 year roadmap" (similar to the Water Plan)
  - Metro is undertaking Phase 5 for habitat planning – 4 phases so far in Segment 15.

## 11.Next Meeting Date

August TBD – I will need to reschedule the August 10 Meeting to later in the month

Meeting Attendees		
Present	Name	Organization
	Juliana Archuleta	Adams County
	Zach Trabold	City of Aurora
	Nick Tino	Centennial Water and Sanitation District
X	Brian Tietze	Denver Environmental Health
	Al Polonsky	Denver Environmental Health
	Curt Bauers	FRICO
	Jim Dorsch	Metro District
X	Jordan Parman	Metro District
	Santiago Ramirez	City of Thornton
	Caleb Owen	City of Thornton
	Christine Johnston	Xcel Energy
	Eric Marler	Suncor Energy
X	Nicole Laurita	South Platte Water Renewal Partners
X	Erin Donnelly	Coordinator - Brown and Caldwell

Minutes prepared by Erin Donnelly