

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2011 Update of the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (208 Plan) for Larimer and Weld Counties (Region 2) has been prepared by the North Front Range Water Quality Planning Association (NFRWQPA) as part of the continuing 208 Plan update process. The NFRWQPA has now been the responsible 208 Areawide Water Quality Management Agency since 1987. This update contains information on the following items:

- Water quality information for the region
- Statewide Water Quality Management Plan information for the region
- Watershed initiatives
- Policy/management changes
- Current listing of all the designated management agencies for the region
- All changes incorporated to the plan through plan amendments or site applications since the last update
- Update of the information on all municipal point source discharges, including population and loading projections provided by the entities, and a description of the facility and service area map
- Update to description of the operations and treatment facilities for the major permitted point source industrial discharges
- Update to the small community or private systems with NPDES permits capacity greater than 2,000 gpd

1.2 OVERVIEW

The Clean Water Act (CWA), first passed in 1972, and later amended in 1977 and 1987, is the primary federal law which regulates the quality of surface waters in the United States. This act establishes the need for water quality planning which includes regional water quality planning as outlined in section 208. The CWA allows states to administer many programs under the act as long as the state laws and regulation governing these programs are as least as stringent as the federal act. The Colorado Water Quality Control Act was established in order for the state to assume the lead role in many of these program areas including water quality management. This Act authorizes the governor to designate planning agencies for the purposes of the federal act. NFRWQPA is the designated Management Agency for Region 2 which is Larimer and Weld Counties. The Association has the following Mission and Vision:

Mission Statement

To use collaborative regional planning, facilitation, and review to ensure that present and future wastewater needs are met economically and with a focus on water quality protection.

Vision Statement

As an advocate for our streams, lakes, and communities, NFRWQPA aspires to be a highly respected regional leader in resolving water quality planning issues, and a source of reliable information and data, regulatory interpretation, and thoughtful comment on proposals. It is a unifying force in regional long term wastewater and water quality planning, ensuring that wastewater service is provided with coordination of effort, and technical expertise.

As the designated agency, NFRWQPA has the responsibility of developing the 208 plan (also referred to as the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan) and all amendments to this plan. Once approved, the 208 plan serves as the overriding planning document used to coordinate water quality planning in the region. As stated in the Clean Water Act, the plan shall include “the identification of treatment works necessary to meet the anticipated municipal and industrial waste treatment needs of the area” and “the identification of the measures necessary to carry out the plan.” EPA’s 40 CFR 130.6 establishes policies and program requirements for water quality planning, management and implementation under several sections of the CWA including section 208. Included in these program requirements is the need for states to establish a continuing planning process that, among other things, establishes the mechanism for updating and maintaining Water Quality Management Plans. The document, *Colorado Water Quality Management and Drinking Water Protection Handbook: A Continuing Planning Process (CPP)* (WQCC 2006a) establishes this continuing planning process for the state. It also provides additional details regarding the roles and required elements of 208 plans. Appendix D of the CPP provides a list of elements that “need to be kept current through the update and amendment process” in order for the plans to remain useful decision-making documents. A list of these required elements has been included as Appendix E of this update and outlines where in the update these elements have been addressed. A number of these elements are currently covered under statewide programs and will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 2 “Statewide Water Quality Management Plan”.

The Plan provides essential information to ensure that local water quality goals and objectives are considered in state and federal water quality decision making. NFRWQPA is also responsible for carrying out the tasks identified in the plan. The Association has policies and guidance documents that govern specific activities associated with these tasks. These policies are designed to steer the planning process. In the 2011 Update, the following policies and guidance documents have been included in the Appendices:

- Utility Plan Policy
- Utility Plan Guidance Document
- Site Location and Design Approval Review Policy
- Plan Amendment Process

Items included in this update to the plan are the things that the Association has identified as needing to be kept current. These elements include facility needs, facility location, capacity, timing of expansions, population, service areas, level of treatment, partnerships, and regional water quality policies. Updated information on these elements which has been provided to NFRWQPA is included in the basin summaries and the individual data sheets for each management / operating agency. The facilities are discussed in alphabetical order in the data sheets section and in the different categories by river basin. These sections include information such as treatment levels, anticipated future needs, and projections of when the facility will reach 80% and 95 % of capacity. The source of much of this information is Utility Plans which have been developed by the management / operating agencies.

These Utility Plans are critical in determining how wastewater service will be provided to urbanized portions of the region and special case locations that have a permitted wastewater treatment facility. The long-term goal is to have a Utility Plan approved by NFRWQPA for all permitted wastewater treatment systems in the region. In working towards that goal, NFRWQPA has established a Utility Plan Policy that requests any management / operating agency submitting a site application, plan amendment request, or district formation/designation request to have in place an approved Utility Plan. These Utility Plans provide specific information as to how service will be provided to the planning area and include detailed information regarding recommendations including infrastructure to meet projected needs as well as how all water quality standards will be met or exceeded by the treatment processes being recommended. These Utility Plans become the foundation that this 208 Plan Update is built on and support decisions and recommendations that are made by the Association.

In addition to the updated information above, updates have also been made to the Wastewater Utility Service Area (WUSA) boundaries. The WUSA maps outline the boundaries of the areas for which the operating entity will be responsible to provide wastewater service in the foreseeable future. No overlaps in service area boundaries are allowed by the plan unless there is, in existence, an agreement between the involved service entities as to how service will be provided to the overlap areas. The WUSA boundaries are mapped using GIS. Updated GIS data has been included with the plan for all NFRWQPA members and partner agencies (provided on DVD as Appendix F). Any change in these boundaries will require an amendment to the plan unless it is a minor adjustment involving less than ten acres. As indicated above, all changes must be supported by an approved Utility Plan for the entity requesting the change.

The information in this plan updates the information that was included in the 2007 Update and incorporates all amendments to the plan which have been made since the 2007 update through May 27, 2011.

1.3 DESIGNATION OF MANAGEMENT & OPERATING AGENCIES

Originally, in the 208 Plan Update prepared in 1985, lists of designated management agencies and operating agencies in Larimer and Weld Counties were delineated. Those lists have since been updated by the inclusion of additional agencies when they have become eligible for designation. As in previous updates, the management agencies having the authority to implement the 208 plan are defined as:

Land-Use Management Agency: A general purpose type of governmental agency with land use control powers such as a county, city and county, city or town. These land-use management agencies are responsible for oversight of all water quality concerns related to land use within their jurisdiction including point and non-point sources of pollution and activities which can degrade receiving waters.

Wastewater Management / Operating Agency: An agency responsible for controlling all aspects of the collection, treatment, and discharge of sewage or industrial wastewaters within their district boundaries or service area or, in the case of an industrial concern, within their company's sphere of operation.

A land-use management agency should have land use authority to be effective in solving water quality problems associated with development. The land-use management agency would be responsible for land use decisions which could affect the quality of waters in their area of jurisdiction or the ability of the wastewater management / operating agency to provide adequate wastewater collections and treatment. The concerns for water quality related to septic tank use, proliferation of small treatment plants, urban runoff, construction caused erosion and sedimentation, and other activities can be approached through various forms of land use control.

A wastewater management / operating agency must be able to design, construct, operate, and maintain waste treatment works and to finance these operations through the raising of sufficient revenues. As in previous updates, a city or town which operates their own sewage collection system and treatment plant or plants is designated both as a land-use management agency and a wastewater management / operating agency. All agencies should have the capacity to enter into agreements with each other to provide the best cooperative approach to water quality management.

Land-Use Management Agencies

Responsibilities:

- Define urban service areas and urban growth areas.
- Review site approval applications.
- Exercise land use powers based on water quality considerations.
- Provide expertise to the planning process.
- Seek agreements with appropriate wastewater management / operating agencies.
- Make recommendations to NFRWQPA on any service area boundary change or any facility expansion and certify compliance of such with the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan.
- Encourage cooperation in accomplishing pollution abatement activities within their jurisdictions.
- Include in their respective comprehensive plans the necessary water quality considerations.

Designated Agencies: (Recommended for approval)

Ault	Garden City	Mead
Berthoud	Gilcrest	Milliken
Brighton	Greeley	New Raymer
City & County of Broomfield	Grover	Northglenn
Dacono	Hudson	Nunn
Eaton	Johnstown	Pierce
Erie	Keenesburg	Platteville
Estes Park	Kersey	Severance
Evans	Larimer County	Timnath
Firestone	La Salle	Weld County
Fort Collins	Lochbuie	Wellington
Fort Lupton	Longmont	Windsor
Fredrick	Loveland	

Wastewater Management / Operating Agencies

Responsibilities:

- Define their sewerage service area.
- Refer to the responsible land-use management agency any plans for modifying service area boundaries and expansion of sewerage collection and treatment facility.
- Refer to NFRWQPA any change in service area and plans for new service plant expansion.
- Seek agreements with the appropriate land-use management agency on urban growth areas and service areas.
- Operate and maintain their sewerage facilities in compliance with all applicable permit conditions.
- Maintain a viable financial and revenue program to provide for future required capital expenditures and operation maintenance costs.

Designated Agencies: (Recommended for Approval)

Public

Ault	La Salle
Berthoud	Lochbuie
Boxelder Sanitation District	Longmont
Brighton	Loveland
City & County of Broomfield	Mead
East I-25 Sanitation District	Metro Wastewater Reclamation District
Eaton	Milliken
Erie	Northglenn
Estes Park Sanitation District	Pierce
Evans	Platteville
Fort Collins	Resource Colorado Water & San. Metro. District
Fort Lupton	Severance
Galeton Sanitation District	South Ft. Collins Sanitation District
Gilcrest	Spring Canyon Water & Sanitation District
Greeley	St. Vrain Sanitation District
Grover	Upper Thompson Sanitation District
Hudson	Weld Central High School
Johnstown	Wellington
Keenesburg	Windsor
Kersey	

Private - Industry

Anheuser-Busch	Carestream
Front Range Energy	Swift Premium
Lapirino	

Private - Other

Abbey of St. Walburga	Ben Delator Boy Scout Ranch
Aspen Lodge	Berthoud Estates
B & B Mobile Home Park	Best Western Coach House Resort

Bonnell West HOA
Buckhorn United Methodist Camp
CSU - Pingree Park Campus
Davies Mobile Home Park
Fox Acres
Glacier View Meadows Water & Sewer Assoc
Harvest Farm – Denver Rescue Mission
Hemingway Lodge at Eagles Nest
High County Estates
High Peak Camp (Salvation Army)
Laramie River Guest Ranch

Magic Sky Ranch Girl Scout Camp
Pine Lake Village
River Glenn HOA
Rocky Mountain Vista Mobile Home Park
Shambhala Mountain Center
Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp
Sunshine Ranch–Emissaries of Devine Light
Western Mini Ranches
Wind River Guest Ranch
Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park