

**MINUTES**  
**NFRWQPA**  
**August 25, 2011**

**1. Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Earl Smith at Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Roll was called and the following members were in attendance.

Ed Burke – Brighton	Amy Woodis – Metro Wastewater Rec. Dist.
James Duell – Estes Park S.D.	Judy Billica - NCWCD
Earl Smith – Evans	Ray Reling - Northglenn
Ramon Arguello – Fort Collins	David Brand - Platteville
Dennis Schump – Greeley	John Holdren - Severance
Larry Wyeno – Longmont	Rob Fleck – St. Vrain S.D.
Michael McCrary – Loveland	Chris Bieker – Upper Thompson S.D.
	Mark Thomas – Weld County

Also present was Connie O’Neill, Manager for NFRWQPA; and Jeff Ladd with Montgomery and Watson.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Holdren made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Wyeno seconded the motion and it was approved.

**3. Minutes**

Minutes from the July 28, 2011 meeting were considered. Mr. Holdren made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. McCrary seconded the motion and it was approved.

**4. Financial Report**

The financial report for July was presented for review and consideration. Mr. Holdren made a motion to approve the July financial report. Mr. McCrary seconded the motion and it was approved.

**5. Decision Item: City of Fort Collins Site Application Amendment**

Ms. O’Neill explained that the City of Fort Collins has submitted a Site Application Amendment to convert the existing intermediate clarifiers on the north process train at the Drake facility to anaerobic and anoxic zones. This change was not considered as part of the approved Utility Plan for the city but is being done at the request of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Mr. Arguello explained the history of the project. Mr. Ladd explained that a flow and load analysis of Drake determined that upgrades of the north process train would allow for the necessary redundancy as well as nutrient removal and expansions in the future. Mr. Duell asked about the size of the tanks and the level of nutrient removal they are currently seeing at the Mulberry facility. Mr. McCrary made a motion to recommend approval of the City of Fort Collins Site Application Amendment. Ms. Woodis seconded the motion and it was approved.

**6. Public Hearing: Plan Amendment, 2011 Update to the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan:**

Mr. Smith opened the Public Hearing to consider the 2011 Update to the Area wide Water Quality Management Plan. Ms. O’Neill explained that at the July meeting she reviewed all the changes proposed with the 2011 Update. All these changes have been posted on the website on the 208 Plan page. Ms. O’Neill explained that she also reviewed the comments received during the 60 day comment period at the July meeting. Ms. O’Neill explained that there were no controversial changes that she was aware of. A handout was distributed that summarized the proposed changes to the 208 Plan and comments and changes to the draft documents since the review session in July. Most of the changes were the result of entities finding additional items in the draft that needed to be updated or receiving responses from entities that hadn’t responded yet in July. Ms. O’Neill explained that as per the public hearing process she will review the proposed changes, there will then be an opportunity for public comment, followed by an opportunity for member questions, comments and discussions. There will then be the opportunity for the membership to consider the changes.

Ms. O'Neill provided the following summary:

- Introduction was updated including lists of management and operating agencies.
    - Chapters 2 & 3 were switched. Chapter 3 which was Non-point Pollution Activates became Statewide Water Quality Management Plan and includes a discussion of the planning actives included under section 208 which are done at a state level.
    - Chapter 2, Water Quality was updated with the most recent 303(d) list information.
    - Chapter 4, Watershed Initiatives included minor updates.
    - Chapter 5, Basins was updated significantly with information received from entities or through Utility Plans.
    - Chapter 6 is in the data sheets and 208 WUSA maps. All of the data sheets (major, minor, and industrial) received updates, some much more extensive than others. The updates included information received from entities and through Utility Plans or permits.
    - There were six WUSA maps that were posted with the draft that included boundary revisions. Those include Brighton, Ft. Lupton, Loveland, Metro WW Reclamation District, South Ft. Collins S.D. and St. Vrain S.D.
    - Appendix E was also posted with the draft. This is a new appendix that outlines the 208 Plan required elements and describes where and how they are addressed in the plan.
- Ms. O'Neill added two additional changes that had not been posted on the website that are proposed as part of the update. First, a new date was received from the state regarding the completion of the Non-Point Source Management Plan. Second, Estes Park Sanitation District will verify data sheet information. Mr. Smith then asked for public comment. Seeing no public comment, the hearing was closed. Mr. Smith then asked for comments from the membership. Mr. Holdren made a motion to approve the 2011 Update to the Area wide Water Quality Management Plan as proposed by staff. Mr. Wyeno seconded the motion and it was approved.

7. **Other Business:**

**a. Water Quality Control Commission:**

Ms. O'Neill explained at the August meeting there was an informational hearing on the state revolving loan regulations. The Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) is proposing changes to the regulations that may give non-point source projects more access to funds that have historically been for WWTF's. There is a stakeholder process established to get feedback on this and Ms. O'Neill will be attending a meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup>. There was also a hearing to consider changes to the Temperature Criteria Methodology. Ms. O'Neill explained that there were some comments but these were worked out with the WQCD before the hearing.

**b. Water Quality Forum & Workgroups:**

Ms. O'Neill stated that the Water Quality Forum retreat was held the first week of August in Keystone. She explained that there was more focus this year on water supply and storm water than in the past years. Only one new workgroup was established. Ellen Gilinsky with EAP presented. She was previously with the State of Virginia and served on ASWIPCA with Steve Gunderson. She discussed several key issues including budget and the effect on revolving loan funds. She talked about the Stoner Nutrient memo and that EPA is trying to sort out their framework. She also stated that is not the EPA's roll to go into a state and develop nutrient criteria. A state should have a plan that prioritizes efforts and needs to be a grass roots effort for it to be sustainable. Ms. O'Neill also explained that there was an interesting presentation from CSU on selenium work done in the Arkansas basin and nutrients work in the Poudre.

Ms. O'Neill also provided an update on the Policy 96-1 workgroup. NFRWQPA discussed the draft policy at the July meeting and submitted comments. WQCD received many comments from the stakeholders and have slowed the process down. They have asked the WQCC for an extension. It was determined that there would be a new draft with much more stakeholder involvement from small subgroups divided by technical category. The first subgroup will meet over the next two weeks and

establish a mission, general guidelines, and a draft outline. The next full workgroup meeting will be on September 14<sup>th</sup> and at that time the other subgroups will be established and they will be looking for volunteers to serve on these subgroups. Ms. O'Neill stated that she will send the list of subgroups out to the NFRWQPA membership so that those who would like to have input can participate.

**c. Nutrient Standards Update:**

Ms. O'Neill reminded the group that at the July meeting there was a discussion of the new drafts of Regulation 85 & 31 that the WQCD had put out and the comments/suggestions that the Colorado Nutrient Coalition (CNC) was proposing. Ms. O'Neill explained that several of the members did not agree with all the comments from CNC and that she has worked Amy Woodis, Carol Webb, and Randy Siddens to draft a letter to the CNC that included the Association's preferred direction. On August 11<sup>th</sup>, CNC held a conference call to work on final comments to be submitted to the WQCD. Ms. O'Neill reiterated the view of NFRWQPA members. She explained that the Association was in the minority on a couple of the issues such as the Regulation 85 off-ramp being suggested when no water quality impacts are being realized or additional exemptions. On August 11<sup>th</sup>, a final draft of the comments proposed for WQCD was sent out by CNC. Ms. O'Neill explained that she provided comments to this draft. This draft included the issues that we did not support but other CNC members did support. It also included a couple of additional items that had not previously been discussed. Ms. O'Neill stated that she did not support the suggestion that additional monitoring be done regarding sufficient progress by agriculture nonpoint sources. Ms. O'Neill stated that her comments didn't result in any changes as the final comments from CNC provided to the WQCD on August 16<sup>th</sup>, were pretty much the same as the draft.

Ms. O'Neill stated that it is apparent that it will become more difficult to reach consensus as we get closer to going to hearing. Ms. O'Neill explained that she doubts that all the issues that CNC presented will be addressed in the notice version of the regulation so it will be important to get members opinions and weigh whether NFRWQPA has a desire to continue to support any additional CNC efforts. The next workgroup meeting is August 29<sup>th</sup>. The next cost/benefit study meeting will be on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Adjourn**

There being no further business Mr. Holdren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wyeno seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.