



UPPER CLEAR CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

MEETING SUMMARY

Clear Creek Planning: 1041 Floyd Hill Mag Chloride

August 23, 2023

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Clear Creek County, UCCWA & Trout Unlimited

Attendees: Frederick Rollenhagen, John Curtis, Sam Zrust, Brad Benning, Gary Frey, Jo Ann Sorensen, Edward Sigward, Ashley Giles

References:

Clear Creek County

Water Quality and Aquatic Life

- a. The Project will not increase water pollution levels in violation of applicable federal, state, and local surface water and groundwater quality control standards and will result in no net loss of wetland values and functions.
- b. The Project will not significantly degrade terrestrial or aquatic animal life or its habitats.
- c. The Project will not significantly degrade terrestrial plant life or plant habitat.

Wildlife

- b. The Project will avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts on critical wildlife habitat, including breeding grounds, nesting areas, migration routes, and wintering areas. Rare and endangered species habitat protection shall also be addressed.

National Recommended Aquatic Life Criteria table

<https://www.epa.gov/wqc/national-recommended-water-quality-criteria-aquatic-life-criteria-table>

10:30 AM – INTRODUCTIONS & OVERVIEW

The Floyd Hill project is broken into 3 sections, East, Central, and West. A fourth review may take place on other things. The County is reviewing the sections separately and affording a permit for each separately. CDOT does not have a full project (all inclusive) to provide for review. The East section has been approved, but information on the Central and West is not complete.

Clear Creek County would like to have more information on how to monitor the water quality (WQ) on these projects. The 1041 can impose requirements on the monitoring and timeline for that monitoring. Clear Creek County believes UCCWA can help with the WQ monitoring details to impose the conditions on the permit moving forward.

CCC is amending the East section permit to address the utility permit. They are recommending to the Commissioners relocation of utilities. The West section application should come in at the end of the month.

Idaho Springs also will be doing a 1041. WQ monitoring should include salinity, chlorides, and metals. These are perimeters suggested to include.

Can the County ask in the 1041 permit that CDOT develop a more robust Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP) with monitoring at additional locations? The current WQ data collection is not adequate. Make recommendations on how to mitigate the mag chloride trend, and potentially reverse the undesirable trend.

CCC would like recommendations on mitigation options. The Commissioners would need to approve any conditions that the staff recommends, and recommendations would be reviewed by legal to ensure it is in compliance with CCC's own criteria.

CDOT is establishing an Issue Task Force to explore the deicing issue.

11:00 AM – UCCWA / TU ROLE

1. Request CDOT define WQ monitoring detail by means of a Water Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP - [Microsoft Word - WQ Modeling QAPP Guidance Region 10 Dec 2016.docx \(epa.gov\)](#)) and within the QAPP have a Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP - [Quick Guide To Drinking Water Sample Collection - Second Edition Updated \(epa.gov\)](#)), or a series of SAPs for each location (East, Central, West, Bakerville, etc.) to house under the QAPP, as criteria in the 1041 CDOT permit.
 - a. There is no standard in place. Desire a robust monitoring program and monitoring process. CDOT needs to know what standard they need to meet.
 - i. Investigate Reg #38 chloride standard for South Platte and this corridor. Clear Creek has segments of the stream that have restrictions. CDOT is not required to meet these standards. (CCC Regulations - Project will not increase water pollution levels in violation of applicable federal, state, and local surface water and groundwater quality control standards)
 - ii. National Recommended Water Quality Criteria - Aquatic Life Criteria
 1. <https://www.epa.gov/wqc/national-recommended-water-quality-criteria-aquatic-life-criteria-table>
2. A commitment from CDOT to work with experts to develop a plan to mitigate the trend of increasing Mag Chloride.
 - a. Request sampling method and locations be required to be publicly available information with a central database.
 - b. Include catch basins to collect WQ data at critical locations.
 - c. Include storm water monitoring at outfalls in the stream.
 - d. CDOT would pay for plans and assessments that need to be completed.
 - e. Identify mitigation solutions to recommend in the 1041 permit.
 - i. Deicer agents that are least damaging.
 1. Bring to CCC as options to consider.

2. Or, make a recommendation.
 - f. Has CDOT done their due diligence.
3. Participation in the CDOT Issue Task Force to address deicer issue - Jo Ann Sorensen, John Curtis, and possibly Sam Zrust.
4. CDOT Trade Materials / Improved Soil and Habitat Policy – Request amendment to CDOT policy to allow upland trees trade to be used based on the County needs, such as for riparian areas and pre-wildfire planning projects, and request to extend the timeline for distribution of trade materials to 5-7 years as opposed to within the course of the construction project period.

Timeline:

Fred will send an email referral for the West and Central section applications. The full application will be on the County website.

- 1041 Public Hearing on West section is tentatively scheduled for October 17th

NEXT ACTIONS:

- Please send comments and narrative to Diane Kielty based on the four (4) identified topics above.

The deadline for draft UCCWA/TU comments to be sent to Fred is Friday, September 15th.