

# Bear Creek Watershed Association

Approved: August 14, 2013

## Policy 12 Maintain Program Elements Consisting of Vision, Mission, Targets, and Administrative Activities

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### Statement of Basis and Purpose

The Association has established strategies to assist with the water quality and environmental management of the Bear Creek Watershed. The Association has adopted a vision, mission statement, key management objectives and strategies for water and environmental elements, and ongoing administrative activities necessary to operate a watershed association.

The Association will periodically review and maintain program elements/strategies. The Association Board at any regular meeting of the Association with a quorum of Association Membership can review and/or modify any these program elements. Program elements will be considered in establishing the administrative program, annual work plan and projects, budget and monitoring program.

### Program Elements

#### *Vision*

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The Bear Creek Watershed Association protects and restores water and environmental quality within the Bear Creek Watershed from the effects of land use.

#### *Bear Creek Watershed Association Mission*

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The Bear Creek Watershed Association identifies, defines, collectively develops, maintains and implements a local environmental and water quality monitoring, management plan and watershed-based program for the Bear Creek Watershed that meets reservoir and watershed applicable water quality standards and beneficial use classifications as adopted by the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission.

#### *Key Management Objectives*

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1. Association meets requirements of the Bear Creek Reservoir Control Regulation #74.
2. The Association will meet the monitoring and reporting requirements of Regulation #85.
3. Monitor water and environmental quality within the defined watershed boundary as specified in the Control Regulation and to assure compliance with established water classifications and standards listed in Regulation #38 and the Basic Standards for Colorado waters.

4. Use watershed level adaptive management strategies, implementation programs and methods,
5. Maintain specific watershed and Bear Creek Reservoir targets and management strategies.
6. Maintain a viable long-term watershed Association. Association membership includes counties, local general-purpose governments, special districts (wastewater dischargers), associate agencies, and local citizen groups.
7. Association supports a watershed approach and recognizes the value of a comprehensive management plan that remains collaborative, flexible and effective.
8. Association is primary source of water quality data in the watershed.
9. Association acknowledges the linkage between water quality and water supply and as such addresses water supply issues that could affect water or environmental quality within the watershed.
10. Association acknowledges the linkage between water quality and land use.
11. Association supports local water and environmental education and training.
12. Association supports a linked 501 c(3) Bear Creek Watershed Foundation.

### *Watershed Target Strategies*

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| Targets 1. | Implement management and monitoring measures contained in the Bear Creek Reservoir Control Regulation #74 and as periodically amended by the Commission.  |
| Targets 2. | Implement monitoring and reporting requirements in Regulation #85   |
| Targets 3. | Work cooperatively with the Water Quality Control <i>Division</i> in water quality management.  |
| Targets 4. | Continue as an operational water quality management agency.   |
| Targets 5. | Implement a trading program consistent with the Bear Creek Reservoir Control Regulation (Regulation #74) trading provisions for point to point source trades and point to nonpoint source trades; BCWA Policy 1.                                |
| Targets 6. | Support use of wastewater utility planning for all wastewater treatment facilities and use of the wastewater site application review as listed in BCWA Policy 2.  |
| Targets 7. | Maintain water quality monitoring programs that includes special studies and routine monitoring as described and maintained in an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan with stated standard operating procedures and a sample analysis plan. |

The water quality and environmental monitoring program may include surface, groundwater, and stormwater, to meet the requirements of the control regulation or other applicable regulations (local and state).

- Targets 8. Share environmental and water quality data using collaborative processes.
- Targets 9. Monitor and implement programs to assure that associated recreation, aquatic life and water supply standards are met within the watershed.
- Targets 10. Protect a reproducing Brown Trout Fishery in the mainstem of Bear Creek from Evergreen to Morrison and support efforts to maintain this fishery.
- Targets 11. Support Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife with fishery surveys and support all fishery programs in watershed.
- Targets 12. Support Water Quality Control Division with macroinvertebrate surveys and data collection in watershed.
- Targets 13. Direct or encourage programs designed to control point source wasteload allocations and nonpoint source loadings to such an extent to protect water quality and beneficial uses within the watershed.
- Targets 14. Evaluate impact of septic systems on watershed quality and make appropriate recommendations for management.
- Targets 15. Identify and track environmental and water quality parameters and constituents /conditions considered as stressors in the watershed and incorporate findings into the management program and annual report, as appropriate.
- Targets 16. Encourage local land-use entities (Counties) to reduce sediment loading to Bear Creek Reservoir by maintaining and enforcing sediment and erosion control regulations.
- Targets 17. Identify potential solutions to existing nonpoint source problems; including preferred best management practices (BMPs); develop a long-range milestone schedule for implementation of BMPs.
- Targets 18. Support the 4-step process for referrals as contained in BCWA Policy 3.
- Targets 19. Help increase public awareness of nonpoint source pollution potential, prevention, restoration and involvement in watershed management; develop an education program; make provisions for public review of program progress and success.
- Targets 20. Encourage and support citizen involvement in the management program.
- Targets 21. Analyses of economic forces and incentives; establish economic priorities; develop cost alternatives; assess local and state funding sources; determine responsible agencies.

- Targets 22. Evaluate existing and proposed regulatory programs and assess relationship to management program.
- Targets 23. Determine the type and quantity of additional technical or water quality monitoring information is necessary and required for future programs; defining the water quality objectives to be achieved; estimating the loading reduction to be achieved.
- Targets 24. Ensure an effective management program consistent with the state planning requirements.
- Targets 25. Identify management activities that ensure water quality compliance within the watershed.
- Targets 26. The Association reviews and approves wastewater utility plans associated with dischargers within the watershed.
- Targets 27. Support restoration activities related to water and environmental quality in the watershed through cooperative and collaborative processes.

#### *Reservoir Target Strategies*

- Targets 1. Monitor and implement programs to determine the compliance with standards and trends of reservoirs (Bear Creek, Genesee, and Evergreen Lake).
- Targets 2. In EGL, support the reservoir as a direct use water supply.
- Targets 3. In BCR, target reduction of the annual total phosphorus loading to the reservoir from both point and nonpoint sources found in the watershed; targeting a near-term 75% reduction of point source loads and 35-50% reduction of nonpoint source loads within 10-20 years.
- Targets 4. In BCR, maintain reservoir management strategies that support improving the reservoir fishery and enhanced recreational potential, along with habitat in Bear Creek Park.
- Targets 5. In BCR, support a two-story fishery of mixed warm and cold-water species in the reservoir.
- Targets 6. Stay informed and/or directly involved with any proposed changes to the Bear Creek Reservoir water storage or other reservoir and/or distribution supply proposals.

#### *Administrative Activities*

1. Association will maintain an active long-term watershed association.

2. The Association will collect dues from members as defined by by-laws. Maintain a dual funding process that (1) seek funding to support required management and/or monitoring and (2) pursue supplemental funding necessary for water and environmental mitigation.
3. Association develops and disseminates an annual report and a complete data transfer to the Water Quality Control Commission/Division.
4. Maintain a water quality-monitoring plan, updated at least annually.
5. The Association maintains a Web site as a public information source.
6. Establish necessary agreements to ensure inter- and intra-jurisdictional cooperation.
7. The City of Lakewood assists the Association with reservoir monitoring.
8. The Evergreen Metropolitan District assists the Association with watershed monitoring.
9. Association will hold Board meetings open to the public on a frequent basis and maintain a record of meetings.
10. Association will maintain a set of by-laws and rules of operation periodically reviewed and updated.
11. Ensure a cost effective local wastewater management systems consistent with the control regulation and local planning.
12. Establish and implement management strategies, policies and procedures.
13. Serve as a land-use referral agency to Jefferson, Clear Creek and Park Counties related to water and environmental quality in watershed.
14. Track wasteload compliance, annually and report to Water Quality Control Commission.
15. Support local education and training programs, classes and efforts.
16. Support stormwater management programs of the City of Lakewood and Jefferson County.