

## *Bear Creek Watershed Association*

Approved: December 11, 2013

### Policy 21 – Online Management Process

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#### Statement of Basis and Purpose

The Bear Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) maintains a set of preferred management strategies and options to maintain existing water and environmental quality, and protect or enhance water quality in the Bear Creek Watershed. The Bear Creek Control Regulation #74 (5 CCR 1002-74) requires the Association to develop and maintain a watershed management plan with a goal of improving water quality in Bear Creek Watershed. The regulation further requires the BCWA to implement best management practices:

*Jefferson County, Clear Creek County, Park County, municipalities, and districts in the Bear Creek Watershed shall implement best management practices for control of erosion and sediment. As noted in section 74.10 - statement of basis, specific statutory authority and purpose - Existing legal authority of county, state, and federal agencies to issue erosion control and grading permits or to require best management practices will be used to control nonpoint sources of phosphorus in the basin.*

The control regulation defines best management practices as:

*"Best Management Practices (BMPs)" means best methods, measures, prohibitions or practices, schedule of activities, operation and maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the introduction of pollutants into state waters. Best Management Practices include, but are not limited to, structural and nonstructural controls or policies. Such practices can be applied before, during, and after pollution-producing activities to reduce or eliminate the introduction of pollutants into receiving waters.*

The Association considers the [Adaptive Co-Management Decision Support System](#) (ACM DSS) as a BCWA best management practice. This online management process is an interactive decision support tool to help manage natural resources and protect water and environmental quality in the watershed. The ACM DSS or online management process functions to:

- Evolve and document the BCWA membership and manager understanding of the watershed characteristics and responses, risks and uncertainties,
- Provide a method to learn from past actions and better plan for future actions with an express goal to improve overall watershed resilience, and
- Maintain an online management mechanism to forge partnerships for shared governance and coordinated response to unexpected events.

The BCWA can review ACM DSS analytical results as entered into and maintained in the [Plan](#), [Monitoring Data](#), and [Maps](#) sections of the online program, and use the [Issues Reporting Tool](#) to

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report problems as they are identified in the watershed. The BCWA membership and manager can create mitigating [Projects](#), and then identify stepwise [Options](#) to pursue these goals, incrementally. Projects and options can be set by BCWA membership as personal watershed improvement goals. BCWA membership can also agree to create [Projects](#) with [Options](#) that require more coordinated actions and pooled resources.

Through this ACM DSS process, a wider range of solutions can be more actively pursued by the BCWA membership. The BCWA manager can use this information to guide the watershed management program and achieve membership goals through data, analysis, coordination, and funding efforts. This online management process will also provide a wider variety of potential projects that can be targeted for specific grants and select donations from businesses and foundations through an affiliated not-for-profit corporation 501(c) 3. Both public and private donors can also be provided reports that demonstrate systematic management to build their confidence in the BCWA administrative process.

ACM DSS is designed to allow greater participation over time. BCWA members list partners for each Project they enter to build a growing database of potential partners over time. Trusted partners such as Evergreen Trout Unlimited, Evergreen Audubon, Jefferson Conservation District, Denver Mountain Parks or others that regularly attend BCWA board meetings, or partner on projects will be granted full or limited access to the system to directly enter their own issues and recommendations on Projects and Options.

All BCWA members/ participants will be encouraged to update the **Search tools** to expand information about their own [Group](#) or others they know in their [Local](#) search area and to build the knowledge base by [Topic](#). The BCWA will host at least one annual interactive workshop for orientations. In this way, the online management system will give an improved opportunity for all BCWA membership and participants to access better information and tools, move forward to plan and execute more projects that will have a greater long term impact on the bear Creek Watershed health.

### **Policy Position**

The BCWA supports the ACM DSS or online management process as a long-term, necessary and permanent watershed best management practice. As such, the online management system is deemed a dynamic component of the Bear Creek Watershed Management Plan.

- The BCWA membership and manager will utilize the online management process to help administer Bear Creek Watershed program elements.
- The BCWA manager and a designated ACM DSS coordinator will maintain the established ACM DSS as an online management tool, which includes site-specific orientations for new users.
- The BCWA will allow all designated members and active participants, as approved by the membership, access (user log-on) to the online management system.
- Additional access by potential partners requires approval by the Bear Creek Watershed Association Board when voted on at a regular meeting of the BCWA.