

March 22, 2022

Karen Pecheny
District Administrator
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Cc: Paul Kauchich, Nick Seals, Mark Lyon

Re: SWCCD Goals and the Rock Springs Bitter Creek Reconstruction Work

Implementation of the city of Rock Spring's Reconstruction Plan for Bitter Creek may assist SWCCD in achieving several watershed improvement goals. This memorandum describes several ways this could occur and may serve to prompt discussion at the upcoming BKWAG meeting or during other opportunities for planning between the SWCCD and the city.

The city's reconstruction plan addresses Bitter Creek channel improvement within the city from the Sweetwater Creek confluence to the east South Side Belt Route Bridge. The plan is proposed to be implemented in four segments with the first segment (implementation underway) being from the Sweetwater Creek confluence to the west South Side Belt Route Bridge.

SWCCD should maintain contact with the city during and following the channel improvement work to help to identify, assess, and assist in implementing best management practices (BMP) related to the reconstruction which may help achieve the goals of the SWCCD Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan (BCWBP). BMP that may relate to the channel reconstruction work include:

- Installing pet waste collection stations along project walking paths (this ties in with BCWBP Management Measure - MM 7). Walking paths that parallel Bitter Creek and tie into existing pathways, parks, and sidewalks are planned for all reconstruction project segments. These paths will result in increased pedestrian/pet use adjacent to the creek which may increase need for pet waste collection to prevent waste contributions to the Bitter Creek *E. coli* impairment.
- Removing and replacing source/waste materials encountered during project excavation (BCWBP MM 8 and 9). Reconstruction includes items such as

recontouring channel side slope and overall slope, creating a low flow channel and 2-year flood plain, installing gabion structures, installing trails and access roads, etc. Excavation may encounter abandoned pipelines, septic systems, or other waste material repositories which contribute to the Bitter Creek *E. coli* impairment (or other water quality concerns). These should be properly disposed of and replaced with inert materials.

- Establishing healthy and stable riparian vegetation communities (BCWBP MM 10). Reconstruction plans include establishment of various vegetation within the alluvium, flood plains, and side slopes. Vegetation may be tailored to minimize erosion and to filter waste materials.
- Establishing signage along walking paths to identify areas where WDEQ *E. coli* standards have been observed to be exceeded to educate the public on health/safety concerns (BCWBP MM 18).

Other BMP implementation opportunities associated with the city's Bitter Creek reconstruction may be beneficial to SWCCD goals in areas of interest other than the watershed-based planning project. SWCCD funding assistance may be available for some city BMP measures from sources including WDEQ 319, WDEQ 205j, WACD, NRCS, etc.

Communication between city and SWCCD personnel throughout the reconstruction project will:

- Ensure opportunities to enhance the project or to meet the city's or SWCCD's goals are not overlooked.
- Allow SWCCD documentation/cataloging of locations of abandoned pipelines, materials, irregularities, etc. for correlation to SWCCD pre and post reconstruction monitoring.

Please contact EDE if there are questions on the content of this memorandum or if clarification of topics or additional information is desired.

Respectfully,



Russell W. Hamilton, P.E.