

Dog waste contributes E. coli bacteria to the watershed

Burks' comments on a July 24 AF CURE stakeholder "E. coli field trip" included:

- The Town of Palmer Lake will begin E. coli sampling of its drinking water reservoir in October.
- The daily hiking traffic up to the reservoir is unbelievable.
- Dog waste left on the ground causes E. coli bacteria to go into the watershed.
- Some people collect the dog waste in plastic bags but then leave dog poop bags everywhere.

Some other non-point sources of E. coli include cattle pastures, birds, and large stormwater retaining ponds, which become large bird habitats that worsen E. coli concentrations, Burks said.

AF CURE basin nutrient model study defined

Burks said that the 2018 budget for the Arkansas Fountain Coalition for Urban River Evaluation (AF CURE) will remain about the same as this year and will be divided among the 10 wastewater members proportionally by rated flow capacity. TLWWTF's share for 2018 will be about \$19,845. See www.afcure.org. The final draft of the revised AF CURE organizational structure was unanimously approved on Aug. 1.

Burks and Kendrick said that on Aug. 1, Clifton Bell of Brown and Caldwell presented AF CURE members with an overview of an estimated \$360,000, 10-year project to do nutrient modeling for the Arkansas-Fountain watershed from Palmer Lake down past Pueblo to the John Martin Reservoir. Wicklund said the goal of all the data collected from Monument Creek, Fountain Creek, and part of the Arkansas River is to show regulatory agencies the results already being achieved by discharging facilities, but if that data could also be utilized to make a predictive model, it would be even more powerful.

Water Quality Control Commission hearing results reported

Kendrick said that at the Aug. 7 Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) meeting, with no discussion, temperature criteria methodology policy 06-1 was approved unanimously, and they also approved the final results of the triennial San Juan/Gunnison Water Quality Standards Regulations 34 and 35 rulemaking hearing, held in Durango in June.

Also, to the astonishment of the WQCC stakeholders in attendance, Chris Theel of the CDPHE Water Quality Control Division Standards Unit explained Aquatic Life Use Attainment Policy 10-1, which included a fourth-generation version of multi-metric indexing (MMI) methodology, although it was not



Above: Hikers with dogs, please be considerate! Photo by Deb Geolat.

common knowledge that there had been three previous generations of that methodology, Kendrick said. MMI has been used for over a decade to assess the biological response of fish and macro invertebrates to nutrients in different stream segments. See www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#tlwtfjuc.

The new methodology

will be applied retroactively, according to Theel, Kendrick said. "We expect all the (measured) MMI numbers to be lower.... It has been ratcheted down sequentially.... Everything that was used in the past to decide what was in a discharge permit or be part of a compliance schedule is all gone. Control, alt, delete," Kendrick said.

Burks said that the MMI problem for TLWWTF is already made worse when WWSO withdraws all the flows in Monument Creek, at the Arnold Avenue bridge upstream of the TLWWTF discharge pipe, and pipes this renewable surface water up to Lake Woodmoor for storage. This withdrawal eliminates all previously normal dilution of TLWWTF effluent in the facility's Monument Creek mixing zone downstream to Baptist Road, which is the new Reg. 85 nutrient

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