

On the Water Front

Rocky Mountain Water Quality Analysts Association

Third Quarter 2013

Town of Morrison's New Treatment Plant



Influent Grit Chamber and SBR Basin with filter



The foundation for the Control Room & Headworks

Some of you may have noticed a bit of construction at the northeast corner of C-470 and Morrison Road. This is the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant for the Town of Morrison. Ground breaking for the new plant began in August of 2012 with the relocation of existing piping, because we all know wastewater doesn't stop for construction! Excavation work for the new Sequencing Batch Reactor basins and the new Headworks/Operations/Control building followed in September 2012.

Morrison's existing wastewater plant is still up and running at the northeast corner of the property until the new one is on-line, which was expected to be late summer 2013. The current plant averages 71,500 gallons/day in January & February, and 92,000 gallons/day in July & August. Once on-line, the new plant will be able to handle a monthly average of 350,000 gallons/day.

The plant process will begin with the influent wet well/pump station and circular grit chamber. After screening and grit removal, the wastewater is pumped to the Sequencing Batch Reactor basins where biological treatment will take place. A Flow Equalization Basin will hold rapid discharges from the Sequencing Batch Reactor basins before sending them to Filtration. This added step will help ensure a high quality dis-

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charge to Bear Creek. After filtration, the water will be exposed to ultraviolet light for final disinfection.

For future growth, the plant has been pre-engineered to accommodate expansions in increments of 350,000 gallons/day up to a maximum capacity of 1,400,000 gallons/day.

This incremental build-out seems reasonable for a small growing town, but what about the sudden high volume discharges from an events center like Red Rocks Amphitheater? Red Rocks is one of the largest natural concert venues in the world and seats up to 9,450 people. Imagine that many people all flushing at the same time! How can a small plant handle that kind of flow? The amphitheater has a large retention basin to enable them to regulate discharge rates. Per an intergovernmental agreement, Red Rocks can discharge up to 40,320 gallons/day, not to exceed 1,700 gpm; in addition to quantity, they are limited on the amount of BOD, TSS, P, and Fats and Oils.

If you have questions regarding the new facility please don't hesitate to contact John McEncroe, Utility Director, at utility@town.morrison.co.us

A Message from the RMWQAA Board:

We know that so many RMWQAA members were impacted both personally and professionally by the recent storms and flooding. We would like to extend our heartfelt concern and support.

The RMWQAA community is here for you if you need help!

Let us know if you need assistance of any kind, and we will do our best to facilitate on your behalf. Whether it's borrowing equipment, help with analyses, or moral support, your fellow RMWQAA analysts and their facilities are a valuable resource. Don't hesitate to call on us!

Please contact RMWQAA President Michelle Ryerson: mryerson@mwr.dst.co.us if you need help, or you'd like to find out how to help others.



Earth Tips:

Turn your shoes into a football field! When your shoes are beyond resuscitation by even the most skilled shoemaker, make sure they're recycled rather than sent to landfill. The rubber in their soles has a multitude of uses – for example, as an ingredient of the "turf" for all-weather sports fields!

From
1001 Ways to Save the Earth

Changing Phases: Heidi Bowen & Bryan Gilbert

Metro Wastewater Laboratory



Heidi Bowen, a new face at Metro Wastewater!

Meet Heidi Bowen! Heidi is one of two new Laboratory Analyst I's at Metro Wastewater Reclamation District. She is currently responsible for picking up samples around the plant, collecting grab samples, preserving samples and various wet chemistry analyses. Before coming to Metro, she worked at TestAmerica for seven years. She worked at both the TA-Spokane and TA-Denver facilities. Her responsibilities included a wide variety of wet chemistry analyses as well as metals prep and analysis by ICP and CVAA. She hopes to continue to expand her knowledge of environmental industry at Metro.

Outside of work Heidi has been spending a lot of time in the great outdoors since moving to Denver. She enjoys skiing and hiking. She has climbed a few 14ers in Colorado and hopes to make it to the top of Mt. Rainier in Washington state some time in the future. She is also training for the Las Vegas Marathon coming in November. Her primary goal is to run the whole 26.2 miles, but she would also like to beat Drew Carey's time (4 hours 37 minutes). Good luck Heidi and welcome to RMWQAA!

The other newest member of the Metro Wastewater laboratory is Bryan Gilbert.



Bryan Gilbert is a Tough Mudder!

Bryan is mastering TSS and learning his way around the lab. Soon he will be broadening his horizons with more bench tests and learning his way around the plant site picking up daily process control samples. Prior to working at Metro he worked for TestAmerica in Arvada. His most recent position there was a GC/VOA analyst, testing for EDB, BTEX, GRO and dissolved gases. He also spent time in their inorganics department.

In his spare time, Bryan likes to do anything outdoors. His activities include hiking, biking, rock climbing and kayaking. He has also been training and running obstacle course races including the Tough Mudder and Spartan Sprint.

Bryan is married and his lovely wife works at Home Depot. He has a son who will be one year old this month. Happy birthday little guy! He also has two dogs, one a yellow lab/ husky mix and the other a newfound/ black lab mix.

We look forward to getting to know Bryan and wish him all the best in his new position!

Changing Phases: Zach Dahlgren

City of Greeley Water Pollution Control Facility



Zach Dahlgren spends his free time on the ice!

Zach is the new Water Quality Analyst for the City of Greeley at the Water Pollution Control Facility. His duties mainly include proper completion of standard water quality analyses, and maintaining a functional and sanitary lab. Over his two months of being with the Greeley plant he has earned greater responsibilities and is monitoring the Cache La Poudre River that runs through the plant by doing regular flow measurements and sample collections for new Reg. 85 testing. Zach says the staff at the WPCF has been very accommodating to him as a young new-comer, and he is ecstatic about earning this position fresh out of college.

Before Greeley WPCF he lived the busy life of a full time student and near-full time worker. He attended Colorado State University full time and earned a bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences with minors in Mathematics and Geology. He worked part time for JFE sushi, and part time for CSU's dining services as a sushi chef. Before working as a sushi chef he made his way through college working as a Manager and League Director at the Qdoba Events Center (mostly for inline hockey and youth events) as well as working at the Fort Collins Super Target as a Flow Team member. The Flow Team was responsible for unloading freight trucks in the morning and stocking the sales floor, typically during shifts

scheduled 10pm-6am or 4am-10am. Yikes!

In his my spare time Zach loves to read, plays disc golf, drinks craft beers and whiskeys, and plays competitive hockey. His love of quality beers and whiskeys stems from his father's new passion for home-brewing delicious beers and aiding the production of Feisty Spirits' products, the first distillery to form in Ft. Collins. As for hockey, he has been playing since he was about four years old, and skating inline hockey competitively since he was 10. He played for CSU's club team all four years he attended and was president of the team last year as they won the Regional Championships in the Rocky Mountain Conference in Division I. He is currently getting ready to start the new season for the Professional Inline Hockey Association's Fort Collins team, the Catz. They will have games televised on some Tuesday nights and there are rumors of a potential international tournament to be held in Brazil in 2014. Wow! Awesome!

Currently his goals in life are relatively simple. He wants to move out of his parent's house and into his own place and to pay off his student loans. He would also like to go back to school to study Chemistry and Environmental Engineering. As for more personal goals, he hopes to continue to improve as a hockey player, and continue to explore and maintain the healthy relationship he has with his lovely girlfriend, Valentina.

Welcome to RMWQAA, Zach! Good luck with your hockey season and keep up the good work in Greeley!

What are you up to RMWQAA?

We are always looking for input from our members, both professional and personal. Got stories? Photos? Send them our way!

Email Effie Ginsberg:

eginsberg@mwr.dst.co.us



Fall Festival Fun



September Splendor in the Rockies: Sept. 1–30

Seeing the aspens change color is an annual Colorado event. Celebrate the season in Gunnison and Crested Butte, where the state's largest aspen stand (along Kebler Pass) puts out a riot of color in September. Self-guided tours, farmers' markets, art walks, a harvest festival, mountain-bike tour and more make the month especially merry.

Oktoberfest Denver: Sept. 21–23 and 28–30, 2013

Oktoberfests around the world are largely about beer, but downtown Denver's autumn celebration turns out fun for the whole family with a daschund derby that has to be seen to be believed, costume contests, food booths, polka dancing and live music.

Mountain Harvest Festival: Sept. 26–29, 2013

Colorado's Western Slope town of Paonia covers all the festival bases at their annual celebration of harvest with live concerts, farmers' markets, beer and wine tasting, a chili cook-off, arts and crafts, and farm tours. The bounty from locally owned orchards, ranches and farms brings in revelers from all over surrounding Delta County.

Elk Fest: Sept. 28–29, 2013

The beautifully haunting bugle of a bull elk is unmistakable, and every October spectators head to Estes Park to experience the phenomenon. The elk gather there, at the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park, to show off for their ladies during the start of the rutting (breeding) season. At Elk Fest, you can learn about these beasts' behavior, observe them in their natural habitat, participate in a bugling contest and see performances by American Indians.

Breckenridge Craft Spirits Festival: Oct. 4–6

Fall's the time when spicy spirits become the perfect answer to chillier temps. Sip the best offerings from small-batch, artisan distillers and learn more about the distilling process in Breckenridge, a town with its own pioneering distillery.

Applefest: Oct. 6–7, 2013

Driving into the small town of Cedaredge on Colorado's Grand Mesa, you'll pass row after heavenly row of trees bursting with shiny red and green apples beckoning you to sink your teeth in. At Applefest, more than 150 vendors share the area's agricultural wealth with visitors, who can also check out a classic car and antique tractor show, bands and much more.

Telluride Horror Show: Oct. 11–13, 2013

Already famous for film, Telluride is also embracing the spooky fun of October with this third-annual horror, fantasy and sci-fi film fest in the town's historic Sheridan Opera House. The festival was named one of the 20 Coolest Festivals in 2011 by *Moviemaker Magazine*.

Frontier Historical Museum Ghost Walk: October 11–12, 18–19 and 25–26, 2013

Glenwood Springs' historical society leads tours through its oldest cemetery to hear ghost stories (and maybe encounter!) the town's pioneers and old-timey characters. Bring a flashlight or lantern ... or risk being left in the dark!



What's happening in your area? Get involved and have some fun!

For more events, search for an activities calendar on a city website near you!

Upcoming RMWQAA Events to watch for:

- ◆ There will be a RMWQAA members social gathering in October at the Rock Bottom in Westminster at the Orchard shopping center! Check the website and watch your email for updates!
- ◆ Check the website for an upcoming USGS sampling class and other educational opportunities!

Looking for a Job?

We have new job postings on the website.
Check it out!

www.rmwwqaa.org

The 2013 RMWQAA Certification Exams

Levels I, II, and III will be held

Friday, October 11, 2013

at

Griswold WTP
14201 E. Hampden Ave
Aurora, CO 80014
8:30-10:30 AM

Applications should be mailed to:

Adele Rucker
Wemlinger WTP
18301 E. Quincy Avenue
Aurora, CO 80015

Applications must be received
by

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Exam Topics and Study Materials
can be found at
www.rmwwqaa.org

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