October 1, 2024

METRO WATER RECOVERY.

THE CONNECTOR

Quarterly Updates

First Flows Recorded from Second Creek Interceptor, Marks Milestone for Historic Project

Jack Hennes
Senior Communications Specialist

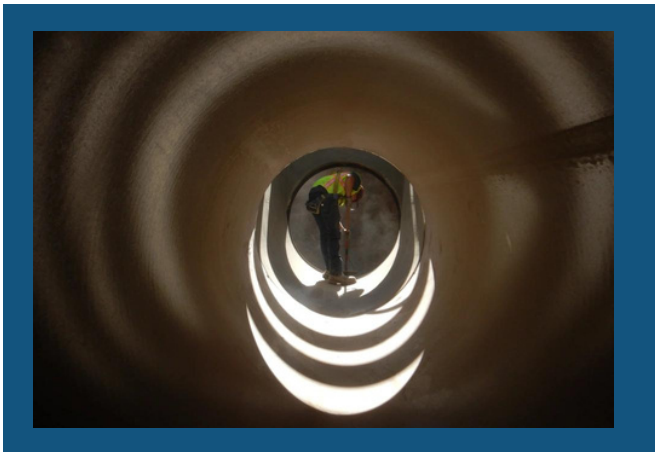
Metro's historic Second Creek Interceptor project reached an important milestone in June 2024: Wastewater began to flow in the pipeline, making its way to Metro's facilities for treatment.

The flow, which originates from eastern Aurora south of Denver International Airport, currently measures at just 0.1 million gallons per day (MGD). "The newly introduced flows are at a trickle right now" said Jon Wicke, Principal Engineer and Metro Project Manager for Second Creek.

While the planned flows are travelling toward Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility via lift stations, they will be conveyed via gravity to the Northern Treatment Plant (NTP).

Now that all tie-ins are fully connected, NTP will receive an expected 1-2 MGD from the new pipeline. In addition, future connections from our members will add to that total soon.

After his involvement in the project's planning and construction for over seven years, Wicke is proud of how far the project



A worker prepares the Second Creek pipeline for service

→

Second Creek , cont.

has come. “This was a lengthy and challenging project. We were able to navigate these challenges and put the interceptor in the ground on schedule and within budget,” Wicke said.

Metro now has 65 Connectors!

Dawn Ambrosio
Chief Strategy Officer

At Metro Water Recovery, we value our connectors. Without them, we wouldn’t have wastewater to treat! We strive to maintain positive relationships and are always working to ensure we are keeping track of who’s who. After collaborating with our connectors and reviewing updated information, we’ve realized our numbers have grown!

What is a connector?
Connectors are the entities whose wastewater we treat at our facilities. Metro has three key categories of connectors: Member Connectors, Special Connectors, and Indirect Connectors.

A Member Connector is a municipality or other government entity that has a contract with Metro Water Recovery, sends wastewater to Metro Water Recovery, and has representation on Metro’s Board of Directors.

A Special Connector is a municipality or other government entity that has a contract with Metro Water Recovery, sends wastewater to Metro Water Recovery, and has no representation on Metro’s Board of Directors.

An Indirect Connector is a municipality or other government entity that does not have a contract with Metro Water Recovery and sends wastewater to Metro Water Recovery through a Member or Special Connector of Metro.

These are somewhat simplified definitions, meant to be easily understood by anyone in our community. The official definitions can be found in Metro’s **rules and regulations**.

So, how many connectors do we have?
Our Member Connector and Special Connector numbers have not changed this year. However, these connectors have provided updated information on Indirect Connectors, and our numbers have grown!

Here are the numbers to use for our connectors, as of July 2024:

- Member Connectors: 23
- Special Connectors: 27
- Indirect Connectors: 15
- Total connectors: 65

We will be updating the connector information on our website and other external communications soon.

Metro Water Recovery Wins NACWA's Platinum Peak Performance Award

Left to right: Chief Strategy Officer, Dawn Ambrosio, CEO, Mickey Conway, and Chief Legal Officer, Emily Jackson

Amy Lovatt
Public Information Specialist

Metro Water Recovery has received a Platinum Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for 100% permit compliance for five consecutive years at its Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility in Denver.
Metro was honored on July 24 at the 2024 Utility Leadership Conference in Buffalo, New York.

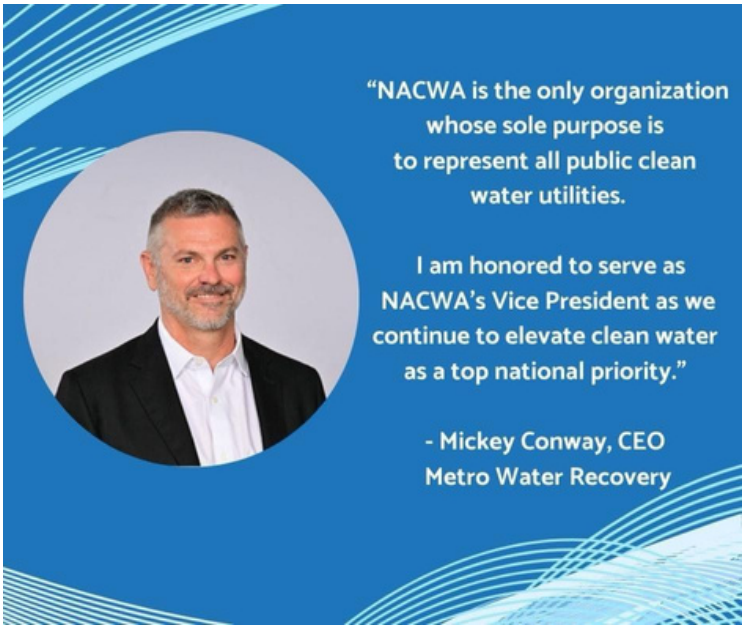
The award recognizes excellence in wastewater treatment as measured by compliance with our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. As of 2023, only 173 facilities across the U.S. had achieved between five and 24 consecutive years of perfect compliance with their permits.

"Receiving this award is a significant achievement, and Metro is grateful to all of our employees for continually doing the dedicated work to make it possible," Chief Operating Officer Liam Cavanaugh said. "Metro remains committed to consistently protecting the region's health and environment by cleaning water and recovering resources."

Metro's Northern Treatment Plant in Brighton received the Gold Award this year. Gold Awards are presented to facilities with no permit violations for the entire calendar year.

"The awards highlight Metro's collaborative efforts to ensure nearly 140 million gallons of water discharged into the South Platte River daily are suitable for agriculture, aquatic life, recreation and water supply," Cavanaugh said.

Metro's CEO, Mickey Conway, Elected Vice President of NACWA



The Crestview Team, From left to right: Guest Cheryl McDonald, employee Sam Chavez, Guest Scott Konke, Metro Representative Mike Barrett, employee Courtney Salazar, employee Bob Russell, Director Danny Sweeney, Director Kathy Laurienti, Board Vice-President Tom Ryszkowski, Board President Mike Doak, employees Jose Molinar, Lori Lucero, Michael Hoff, Domenick Noffsinger, Alejandro Yepez, Blake Casselberry, Donovan Norton, Clarice O'Hanlon, Tyler Aldor, Rubin Thomas, District Manager, Mitch Terry, Bill Rendek and Rick Flynt.

Crestview Water & Sanitation District Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Mitch Terry
District Manager, Crestview Water and Sanitation District

On June 30, 1949, The Baker Metropolitan Water And Sanitation District (BMWSD) organized to provide safe drinking water to its residents, including collecting and disposing its customer's wastewater from the Baker neighborhood in North Denver.

In the 1950s, BMWSD built a new treatment plant near 61st Avenue and Federal Blvd, but in four years realized that this plant was no longer capable of treating all of the Baker wastewater, which resulted in the construction of a new plant at Pecos Street and 64th Avenue. Continued growth through the 1960s created even more strain on the Pecos facility, and in 1964, BMWSD entered into an agreement with the Metropolitan Denver Sewage Disposal District No. 1 (now Metro Water Recovery) to assist in the treatment of the overflow of incoming wastewater.

BMWSD was renamed Crestview Water and Sanitation District (Crestview) in 1972 to reflect its larger service area, and its continued expansion created the need to send all of Crestview's flows to Metro Water Recovery for treatment by the late 1970s.

Proud of its 75-year history, and excited for a future that could include even more residential growth within the next decade, the Crestview Board believes that being a member of Metro Water Recovery will serve its customers for a very long time.

Crestview currently serves over 5,300 water accounts and 6,000 sewer accounts.

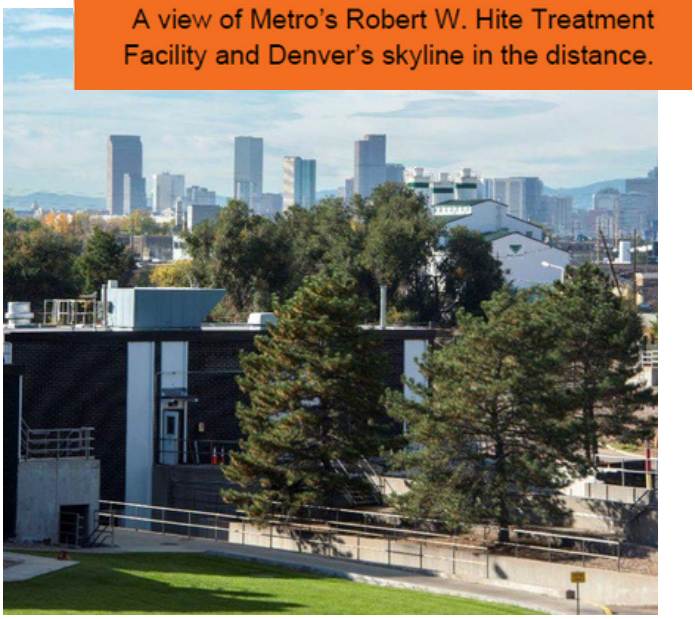
FLOWING FORWARD

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY A "WIN" FOR METRO WATER RECOVERY AND CONNECTORS

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) recently updated Implementation Policy Number 19: Regulation No. 22 – Site Location and Design Regulations for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works (5 CCR 1002-22) to reflect updates developed through stakeholder input regarding 1) historical infrastructure that does not have documentation demonstrating site location and design approval and 2) construction flexibility through the site location and design application processes. These updates will positively impact Metro and its Connectors as they provide important regulatory certainty and flexibility for any organization owning or operating domestic wastewater treatment works. **Click here to read the latest policy**.

HISTORICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Colorado Water Quality Control Act and Regulation 22 Site Location and Design Regulations for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works requires that no person shall commence the construction of any domestic wastewater treatment works or the enlargement of the capacity of an existing domestic wastewater treatment works, unless the site location and the design for the construction or expansion have been approved by the Water Quality Control Division (Division). This requirement has existed since November 1967.



A view of Metro's Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility and Denver's skyline in the distance.

Through routine implementation, the Division identified a notable number of historical lift stations or interceptors that do not have site location or design approval and initiated a stakeholder process to determine the best way to rectify these gaps.

The Implementation Policy Number 19: Regulation No. 22, Appendix C now clarifies how the Division plans to act on historical infrastructure, specifically lift stations and interceptors, without documented site location or design approvals. Based on the stakeholder process, the Division defined historical infrastructure as existing lift stations and interceptor sewers

constructed over five years before the present date. The policy does not specifically define the 'present date', but the policy became effective on June 17, 2024.

The Division may learn about historical lift stations or interceptors when:

- New infrastructure is connecting to existing historical infrastructure (e.g., newly proposed lift station discharging to an existing unapproved lift station);
- A sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) discharge is reported to the Division that resulted from historical infrastructure; or
- The Division conducts a compliance evaluation inspection (CEI).

Once identified as historical infrastructure, the Division will evaluate the infrastructure based on the following criteria:

- Degree of hydraulic loading compared to hydraulic capacity.
- Condition of the infrastructure.
- History of sanitary sewer overflows.
- Location of the infrastructure relative to habitable structures and waterways.
- Adequacy of emergency facilities.
- Odor complaints.

Not all evaluations require historical infrastructure to receive site location and design approval. However, infrastructure posing potential risks to public health and the environment will be referred to the site location and design application process for necessary improvements. Failure to obtain approvals or to construct necessary improvements may result in formal enforcement action from the Division.

CONSTRUCTION FLEXIBILITY

The Division historically required the constructed and approved design capacities of domestic wastewater treatment works be aligned. This approach either necessitated:

- The installation of oversized infrastructure to meet a 20-year or more planning horizon, which did not operate efficiently under initial conditions, or
- Multiple regulatory approvals and construction projects over time to incrementally expand the infrastructure.

Both options proved to be inefficient and costly. To address these shortcomings, the policy allows for design capacity phasing as part of the site location and design approvals. This approach supports extended construction efforts and phased infrastructure installations.

Emerging Issues - Flowing Forward, continued

The following list summarizes a few of the key requirements to qualify for design capacity phasing:

- The design submittal must accommodate the ultimate design capacity needs, including hydraulic, organic, and water quality planning targets.
- The application must clearly identify construction phases and equipment at each phase, with each phase meeting redundancy and resiliency requirements.
- The application must include the final design documents (plans and specifications) for design capacity at the initial design phase.
- The applicant must notify the Division when initiating the next approved construction phase and submit a construction completed as approved form for each phase.

In addition to providing construction flexibility for new infrastructure, the policy also allows owners to request construction flexibility for existing infrastructure. For example, consider the following scenario where an owner seeks to derate existing infrastructure while maintaining its currently approved design capacity.

1. A wastewater treatment facility receives a new discharge permit with more stringent limits.
2. The utility decides the existing facility could meet the discharge permit requirements by operating differently and at a lower phased design capacity.
3. The utility could request, through construction flexibility, to maintain the permitted discharge capacity, derate the constructed infrastructure (with possible design approval only) and receive Division approval for a phased-capacity increase aligning with federal and permitting expansion requirements.

The construction flexibility enables owners to more readily salvage and repurpose existing infrastructure while meeting evolving regulatory requirements.

FLOWING FORWARD

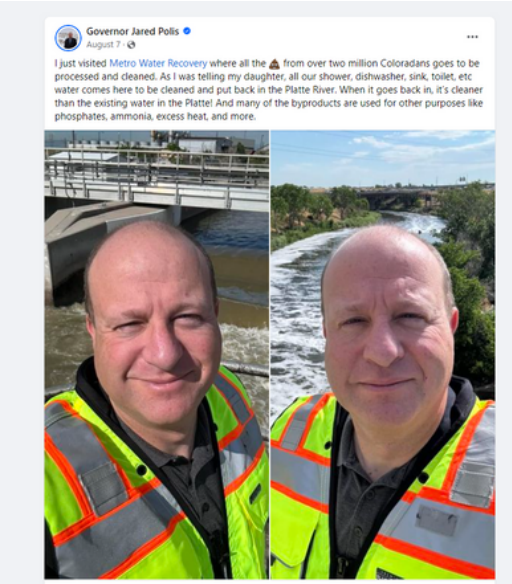
Metro Water Recovery remains dedicated to proactive engagement in regulatory processes and the implementation of updated policies. By adapting to revised regulations, Metro ensures its facilities operate sustainably while meeting stringent environmental standards. Ongoing support and commitment to the shared goals of environmental sustainability and operational excellence is appreciated.

For further information, please contact Renee Paplow, Principal Permitting Engineer (Rpaplow@MetroWaterRecovery.com).

Metro's new Board Officers from left to right: Marena Lertch, Chair Pro Tem, Aurora; Del Smith, Secretary, Bancroft-Clover; Sarah Niyork, Chair, South Adams; and Janet Kieler, Treasurer, Denver

Governor Polis Tours the Metro Water Recovery RWHTF Plant

Brad Bagby
Digital Communications Specialist



Last month, a very special visitor took a selfie that led to a STAGGERING amount of engagement and new followers added to our page! We're talking about Governor Jared Polis.

The attention that the Governor's visit gave to Metro provided several opportunities for us to communicate with members of the general public about our mission and what we do every day. It brought a few eyes to our webpage that perhaps wouldn't have looked us up prior, and that's unbeatable publicity.

Meet Metro Water Recovery's Teams:

TRANSMISSION

The Metro Water Recovery Transmission Division is (back, left to right) Kisha Ortiz, Robert Rodriguez, Gabriel Vigil, Marco Saucedo, Lance Wenholz, Juan Magana Jr., Joshua Mallorey, (front, left to right) Michael Carney, Mark Schantz, Tom Acampora, and David Tatham.

Alyse Greenberg
Communications Specialist

What's the first step in wastewater treatment? Getting the wastewater to the treatment facilities. Metro Water Recovery's Transmission Division ensures wastewater is safely transported to Metro facilities, protecting public health and the environment. This team protects, inspects, monitors, repairs, and cleans key infrastructure, such as interceptors, lift stations, manholes, and more. Over 230 linear miles of interceptors, three lift stations, and 103 meters are in their care.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Some key recent projects for this team include:

- Exploring the feasibility of installing gates in diversion structures in place of stop logs;
- Enhancing communication with remote flow meters by using cellular communications instead of radio; and
- Retrofitting a new type of flume.

At Metro Water Recovery, We Are Committed to Transparency

[View our 2025 Annual Budget]

[Read Our 2023 Annual Water Quality Report]

Annual Charges Summary

Click the links below for Metro's one-pagers on charges:

Rules and Regulations

Annual Charges Planning

Annual Charges Process

2025 Annual Charges Summary

Metro Welcomes Stew Stewart to the StratComm Team

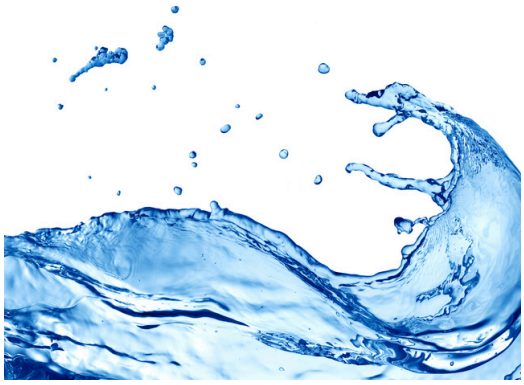
Stew Stewart joins the StratComm team as a Project Manager, leading medium to large cross-functional projects in support of Continuous Improvement. Efficiency and sustainability are what drives him, seeking ways to best support and/or improve how we accomplish our work. Stew arrived at Metro following 10 years of project management and product development at a small manufacturing company in Golden, building products to store alternative energy fuels. But the water cycle aligns with Stew's passion, making Metro such a good fit!

Previously, he spent a few years in Latin America travelling and working as a Water and Sanitation engineer. In fact, Stew and his wife, Jill, set off from Denver on an old Honda motorcycle to head south, looking for opportunities and adventures along the way. They found both!

Living in Tutubuka (or Nieuw Aurora) on the Upper Suriname River was an incredible experience, being immersed within a unique culture while assisting with community-based drinking water solutions.

And caretaking for an organic farm near Mendoza, Argentina was an interesting hands-on way to learn about that community's approach to irrigation and to guide their approach to point-of-use drinking water treatment.

Aside from those few years abroad, Colorado has been Stew's home since attending undergrad at Colorado State in Fort Collins. He appreciates the amazing access we have here to hiking, camping, skiing, and snowshoeing, along with our phenomenal roads for motorcycle rides and scenic rivers for rafting!



Dates to Remember

10/14/24: 3Q Sewer Connection Charges Due

10/15/24: 3Q Connection Charges Due

12/16/24: 4Q Annual Charges Due

12/18/24: Commercial Water Use Reports Due

01/15/25: 4Q Sewer Connection Charges Due

03/01/25: Member Connector Updated Service Area Maps Due