

Colorado WaterWise Board Meeting

Thursday, February 14th, 2019
Boulder County, 1325 Pearl St, Boulder, CO
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

P: Called-in via phone
X: Attended in-person

Board:

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| X | Amelia Nuding | Western Resource Advocates | amelia.nuding@westernresources.org |
| X | Amy Volckens | Brendle Group | avolckens@brendlegroup.com |
| X | Alyssa Quinn | Platte Canyon W&S District | alquinn@plattecanyon.org |
| X | Brad Brady | Yearout Energy Solutions | bbrady@yearout.com |
| X | Courtney Black | Headwaters Corporation | blackc@headwaterscorp.com |
| | Diana Denwood | Aurora Water | ddenwood@auroragov.org |
| X | Eric Olson | City of Fort Collins | eolson@fcgov.com |
| X | Katie Helm | City of Fountain | khelm@fountaincolorado.org |
| X | Laura Wing | City of Thornton | laura.wing@cityofthornton.net |
| X | Lyndsey Lucia | Northern Water Conservancy | llucia@northernwater.org |
| X | Nina Cudahy | Green Mountain Water | ncudahy@greenmountainwater.org |
| P | Quint Redman | Agriburbia | qredmond@agriburbia.com |
| X | Ruth Quade | City of Greeley | ruth.quade@greeleygov.com |
| | Thomas Riggle | City of Centennial | triggle@highlandsranch.org |
| X | Tyler Kesler | Boulder County | tkesler@bouldercounty.org |
| X | Melissa Walford | CWW Board Staff | admin@coloradowaterwise.org |

Guests:

Margo – Recent CU Boulder Grad
Heather Schinkel – Peaks to People Water Fund
Amanda Thomas – City of Thornton

Call to Order

Lyndsey called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

Board Business and Action Items

Approval of January Board Minutes. Laura motions, Ruth seconds. January minutes are approved.

Guest Speakers

Heather Schinkel, Executive Director of Peaks to People Water Fund

Based in Fort Collins, Peaks to People Water Fund focuses on the Big Thompson and Cache la Poudre watersheds to organize project that maintain the health of the watershed for water supply purposes. They are funded from an anonymous foundation and various organizations. The organization has a working group and steering committee with members including water providers, conservation practitioners, landowners, and breweries. Currently have 6 board members from various backgrounds represented. They are currently focusing on wildfire risk and potential and the link to water supply. Looking to understand how work performed within the watershed may benefit downstream users and seeking funding for watershed projects by city businesses. To quantify the benefits a watershed investment tool was created with assistance from CSU to be able to find the projects that will have the greatest benefit for downstream users. This tool, Watershed Health Outcomes Tracker, is an open-source system that can potentially be used more broadly across the Front Range. Peaks to People has currently funded 3 projects for a total of 174 acres of treated area. The goal is to have projects through

2020 to treat a total of 1,000 acres. There is a resources page on Peaks to Peoples website with all the information available for download. Amelia asked if they have reached out to insurance companies for funding and they have but without success. Amelia asked about what the request is of CWW, Heather said it would be great to get the word out about the work they do through social and other channels which CWW is happy to assist with.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Initial discussion in December to identify a need for a policy for potential current or future conflict with board members. Policy would be signed by all current board members and be part of the onboarding process for new board members. The policy would require a board member to disclose if they have a conflict before being able to benefit from a project or contract. The board votes on the current draft of the policy. Katie motions, Alyssa seconds, Conflict of Interest Policy is approved. Melissa will get digital signatures from everyone and save to files. Secretaries will be adding this policy to the handbook for future implementation.

State Conservation Report

Amy has had a lot of work going on with this project with assistance from Diana and MPA student assistant. Amy will email the project plan to all board members. Diana met an MPA student that is helping with the initial phases of the conservation report for \$500. Diana and Amy will co-mentor to oversee the MPA person and currently meeting weekly with a focus of her work being to research utilities across the state and compile basic information. The project steering committee is Amy, Tyler, Thomas, Courtney, Kevin, Diana.

The project has multiple phases to allow for a good allocation of resources, time, and money. Phase 1 will include baseline assessment and gap analysis. Phase 2 will follow in April 2019 to determine how to get the remaining information that was not found in Phase 1. Based on discussions, CWCB grant funding may come through for this project, if needed. The goal is to have the findings finished by October to be able to present at Symposium. Melissa will hold a slot for report session during 2019 Symposium schedule. Amelia asked if we will make it public or select it as a member benefit. Amy said that if we get a CWCB grant then it is required to be public so we would need to keep that in mind when thinking about funding sources. Additional tactics are still in the works including a survey that would allow us to interact and engage with current and potential members. It was noted that even if we made the report public we could make the database information available to members only as a benefit.

2018 Financial Report

Laura presented a summary of 2018 financials. The net Income was up about 66% in 2018 compared to 2017. Total Liabilities & Equity increased about 30%. We currently have a large amount in savings and it was discussed that three months operating expense in savings is best practices for non-profits. The board discussed how we want to handle the additional money we have. It was brought up that we could consider offering a scholarship to a water studies student.

Annual Report Update

Laura passed out draft language of annual report for 2018. Laura is requesting photos from board members to include in the report. The plan to send the report out by end of March. Some discussion on the content, including how to gather recommendations or positive feedback. Melissa will add a comment section to webinar feedback survey to gather feedback on events being hosted.

LLYLI Update

Alyssa provided an update and mentioned that the LLYLI committee is meeting after today's board meeting. The contract with Evoque is complete and has a SOW including assistance with LLYLI webinar scheduled March 20, LLYLI ad creation, website content, monthly LLYLI update to be include in monthly CWW emails, Hike4Water contest to be 1 month instead of 2 this year (likely in July), and creation of industry specific template graphic. Tyler suggested a Bike4Water contest as well and tie into breweries. The group is looking at how to restructure the partner levels to get larger groups in LLYLI. Laura talked with Holly from Longmont and received feedback on program and will be discussing details and next steps with the committee. Lyndsey mentioned that Northern is working on newspaper ads currently and using LLYLI materials for these.

RMSAWWA Advertising

Melissa received an email about an advertising opportunity through RMSAWWA last month and has been talking with the LLYLI committee about its potential. \$2,000 investment for 1 year of banner website advertisement. The board has concerns over the reach and expense as well as not having materials prepared for the ad. The board decided to pass on this opportunity.

Roundtable Discussion

- Laura has WaterNow Alliance coming to Thornton next week to help with water efficient new home project. They will be talking with the Home Builder Association. And Amelia will be assisting. This will also include internal stakeholder meeting with the association. Thornton is also working on a drought plan that Cortney Black is assisting with.
- Courtney is working with Thornton draft drought plan and will be having internal meeting to be able to work together better. She is also starting the Steamboat Springs water conservation plan update. **Melissa to provide LLYLI packet to Courtney for Steamboat Springs meeting.**
- Fort Collins has recently passed a 0.5 gpm limit on aerator and 1.8 gpm showerhead limit into the building code update. They are hosting drought workshop on March 21 with contractors attending. They are also considering 3 day a week watering limitation for customers.
- Alyssa discussed starting to plan for this year's water festival. They are planning for 1,300 students and being held at Red Rocks Community College this year on May 15. They are currently looking for presenters.
- Nina is still working on Dropcountr launch and hoping to be live in March.
- Brad is working with two water districts on feasibility study to use performance contracting.
- Amelia continues work on land use and water integration work. She noted the goal stated in state water plan for 75% of population are living in communities with integrated land use and water planning by 2025. This is a great connection to the recently developed guidebook WRA helped put together. They are working to take this guidebook to communities directly to be used by planners – Greeley, Fountain and some other smaller cities. Also mentioned that the Dept. of Local Affairs now has a full-time staff member working to integrate land use and water planning.
- Amanda working on planning water festival for 1,600 students, May 16, and is also looking for presenters. She is also doing research on graywater treatment systems.
- Amy is working on water efficiency planning for City of Eagle and working on land use planning codes.
- Tyler discussed the Arbor day foundation program will be launching again this year in the Spring. They are working with watershed groups to get input on sharing data and resiliency and drought conversations in the county.
- Katie is doing Arbor day foundation program again as well but for drought tolerant trees this year. They are partnering with Resource Central to do slow the flow as well as classes this Spring/Summer. Also working on activity booklet for energy and water use and trying to get more involved with the water festival.
- Lyndsey discussed that Friday is deadline for their transition grant and that they have several already submitted. IA classes are coming up in March along with G3 training. They have partnered with CSU to host short course for green industry as well as CSU bootcamp for residents. Also noted that the Conservation Gardens Fair is June 8.
- Melissa provided update on symposium planning to date and potential venue options for this year's event as well as updating the sponsorship levels.
- **Ruth requested information from groups on water festival for newsletter.** Working with drought and water budgets to coordinate these two programs. They are no longer doing water festival this year but developing an event for older school groups.
- Margo is working on article for newsletter based on capstone project from Boulder County.
- Quint is working a lot with land use planning – agriculture in particular.

Wrap up and Adjourn

Lyndsey adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM.

Submitted by:
Melissa Brasfield