

Colorado WaterWise Board Meeting

Thursday, July 8, 2021

City of Greeley - 1001 11th Ave, 2nd Floor, Greeley, CO
10 a.m. to noon

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

Board:

X	Alyssa Quinn	Platte Canyon W&S District	alquinn@plattecanyon.org
	Amy Volckens	Brendle Group	avolckens@brendlegroup.com
P	Brad Brady	Yearout Energy Solutions	brad.brady@yearoutenergy.com
	Courtney Black	Intera	CBlack@intera.com
X	Diana Denwood	Aurora Water	ddenwood@auroragov.org
X	Don Drew	Courageous Marketing	d.drews@courageousmarketing.com
X	Eric Olson	City of Fort Collins	eolson@fcgov.com
P	Katie Helm	City of Fountain	khelm@fountaincolorado.org
P	Lance Ackerman	Colorado Springs Utilities	lackerman@csu.org
X	Laura Wing	City of Thornton	laura.wing@cityofthornton.net
	Lindsay Rogers	Western Resource Advocates	lindsay.rogers@westernresources.org
P	Lyndsey Lucia	Northern Water Conservancy	llucia@northernwater.org
P	Quint Redmond	Agriburbia	qredmond@agriburbia.com
X	Ruth Quade	City of Greeley	ruth.quade@greeleygov.com
X	Thomas Riggle	Centennial W&S District	triggle@highlandsranch.org
P	Tyler Kesler	Town of Erie	tkesler@erieco.gov
P	Melissa Brasfield	CWW Board Staff	admin@coloradowaterwise.org

Guests:

Katie – City of Golden
Bridget Butterfield – Platte Canyon W&SD
Ashley – Centennial W&SD Intern
Charlie – Centennial W&SD Intern

Call to Order

Katie called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM

Board Business and Action Items

- Introductions
- Approval of June Board Minutes. Ruth motions, Alyssa seconds. June minutes are approved.

BMP Manual

Courtney was not at the meeting. Katie brought up the two questions that Courtney asked in her email about legal review and how to distribute the RFP. Laura mentioned we have not had a legal review in the past. Katie asked if there are any free platforms to post the RFP to. Tyler mentioned that because we are a 501c3 we are not required to do any special legal review or special RFP process. It was determined that we will post the final RFP on our website and share throughout our networks.

Committee Update – Symposium

Melissa announced the Symposium date of October 26 at Mile High Station. The venue is where we had intended to host the event in 2020 before we had to cancel due to COVID. Melisa mentioned the session topics – Urban Gardening,

Grants/Funding, CO Conservation Study update, Landscaper Certification update, and Business Water Efficiency. We do have the venue through the late afternoon and will be hosting a happy hour on site. Registration will begin in late-August. We are inviting Mike Nelson back as a Keynote speaker, he was supposed to be our keynote in 2019 but the snowstorm cancelled that. We are also working to have a recording for opening remarks from Governor Polis. We have also talked about who will emcee this year's event. **If anyone is interested in being emcee this year, please let us know. If your organization is able to sponsor, please be in touch with Melissa. Also, if you know of an organization that might be good to reach out to for sponsorship, please reach out to Melissa.** Melissa also notes that this year's event is going to be hybrid – offering both in-person and online ticket options.

Diana noted that there were a couple raffle tickets from CO Conservation study, so we need to coordinate on that. Diana also talked about the Membership Retention plan initiatives. One of these items is that board members are spread out around symposium to chat with other members and non-members. We would also review and identify individuals that we want to make sure to talk with during the event. Diana also discussed the process that is in the works for making sure our members feel a part of CWW. As a component of this, we will be coming to the board to get test participants in the member retention program.

Don noted having a hybrid option will be great to increase attendees and having the student membership we will want to make sure to contact those universities to promote the event. Don asked about if we considered drought or land use topics for the symposium. Thomas noted we did but we have also been hitting a lot of that recently. Eric noted that natives might be another topic. Diana asked if the agenda is full right now. Melissa confirmed the agenda is full and noted that the committee discussed these topics but did not want to have too much overlap with the webinar series that has been very focused on drought and the urban gardening topic could be considered a land use planning topic. Diana mentioned we can weave in the drought message through emcee notes, welcoming message, and keynote message. Melissa noted that we planning to announce the recognition program in the opening remarks session as well.

State of Urban Water Conservation in Colorado

Diana announced the draft report is complete. Diana and Amy have sent it back to the CO conservation study committee and that group has 2 weeks to review and provide comments. After that, Diana and Amy will clean up the report and provide it to the board for review.

The findings did not change much from last year's update. There have been small updates to the data with some late submissions and addition of the 1051 data. Some findings include a lack of staff and financial resources on multiple levels. The study also found there is not a common methodology for measuring water savings. The final product will be a 30-page report with a 1-page summary. Thomas asked if AWWA has a methodology. Laura said there may be some from the Alliance for Water Efficiency. Diana noted that there are resources out there we may want to look in to.

Legislative Update

Thomas noted there was not anything groundbreaking in water legislation this year. One of the interesting things that did occur with all the stimulus money coming into the state, the state decided to transfer money out of the general fund and into other projects that wouldn't otherwise have money. Some examples include \$20 million toward the state water plan funds which means there should be some very solid grants coming. It also included general fund transfers for drought and agriculture resiliency, CWCB construction fund, forest health finance fund, and studying emerging technologies in water management.

Thomas was surprised that a bill to study underground water storage for beneficial use failed. This bill would be looking at how much we can store in hopes of getting away from building reservoirs. There are pros and cons to the program such as having to treat the water pre and post injection.

The HB21-1266 is environmental justice for disproportionately impacted residents created new environmental justice provisions to better protect communities, raises GHG fees, raises funds for mitigation and clean up, and requires clean energy plans from all Colorado electric utilities. There were also several bills to cut home energy waste.

The Keep CO Wild bill passed which results in a \$40 fee on your car registration renewal for a state park pass. You have to opt out of it if you don't want to pay the fee. This makes state park passes cheaper and puts a lot of money into the state park system.

Sustainability of Transportation System bill will generate \$5.4 billion over 10 years through money from the general fund, gas fees and other sources. The money will go towards repairing and improving roads, expand electric vehicles and other areas.

The management of plastic products bill passed but with some changes to get it through. It will eliminate plastic products including Styrofoam containers by 2024 but does not have preemption. It also requires customers to request plastic materials, like silverware and straws.

There was also a big push to create monitoring systems around pollution sources that will send a warning to the neighbors when levels have been exceeded. This monitoring also provides a model for how the pollutants are traveling within the communities.

Thomas noted that Governor Polis did not want to have hard goals on many of these bills. He wants things to be more voluntary. This could be a challenge with contractor certification project we are working on and may be something we want to pursue under different leadership. Thomas also noted that they likely have Sierra Club on for a non-functional turf bill next year. Diana noted that we will want to keep up with that bill for CWW support.

LLYLI Update

At the last drought coalition group meeting, the group requested a bill insert be created which we do not currently have in the LLYLI toolkit. The bill insert material will focus on water in the west/western slope. We did get some feedback from the drought coalition to have both a drought/west slope and more general water conservation bill insert. The bill inserts will be various sizes.

Alyssa received an email from Amy Conklin about the EPA project that recently secured funding to implement messages around clean water. They are gathering a group of people to meet and come up with some messaging and they don't want to start from scratch. They are focused on the South Platte River and watershed. They are looking to leverage the fund with the efforts already underway with LLYLI. Ruth noted we should work with stormwater groups because they have money and a requirement for education within the permits.

Colorado Native Landscape Document

Ruth noted the only comment on the document was from Laura about a label for CO Native Landscape plants. Thomas noted it seems short. Laura said it's a good start and more advocacy toned. Ruth mentioned this might be something to include or reference in our updates to the BMP. Laura noted they mention a model ordinance but don't have it in the document. Diana asked if they still want comments. Ruth said yes since the meeting is pushed until August. **Please provide comments until then.**

Round Robin

Thomas noted they are starting to work on their Integrated Resource Plan. If there are good examples, Thomas would appreciate looking at them.

Eric mentioned the IIC now has a technical document available. Eric has received interest from Tyler, Laura and Thomas. They are looking for funding to carryout testing for irrigation products.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. After lunch, Ruth provided a tour of Greeley's recent turf-to-native grass conversion at Bittersweet Park.

Submitted by: Melissa Brasfield