

Colorado WaterWise Board Meeting

Thursday, September 9, 2021

City of Fort Collins Utilities 222 Laporte Ave, Fort Collins, CO 80521

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
X	Amy Volckens	Brendle Group	avolckens@brendlegroup.com
X	Brad Brady	Yearout Energy Solutions	brad.brady@yearoutenergy.com
X	Courtney Black	Intera	CBlack@intera.com
P	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
P	Laura Wing	City of Thornton	laura.wing@cityofthornton.net
P	Lindsay Rogers	Western Resource Advocates	lindsay.rogers@westernresources.org
X	Lyndsey Lucia	Northern Water Conservancy	llucia@northernwater.org
	Quint Redmond	Agriburbia	qredmond@agriburbia.com
X	Ruth Quade	City of Greeley	ruth.quade@greeleygov.com
P	Thomas Riggle	Centennial W&S District	triggle@highlandsranch.org
X	Tyler Kesler	Town of Erie	tkesler@erieco.gov
P	Melissa Brasfield	CWW Board Staff	admin@coloradowaterwise.org

Guests:

Mac Marsh – Boss Defrost

Diana Lopez Starkus – Boss Defrost

Jessica Thrasher – CSU Colorado Stormwater Center

Elisabeth Bowman – Resource Central

AJ Brown – Irrigation Innovation Consortium

Call to Order

Diana called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM

Board Business and Action Items

- Introductions
- Approval of August Board Minutes. Laura motions, Alyssa seconds. August minutes are approved.

Boss Defrost

Mac Marsh started the presentation with an introduction of Boss Defrost. A water waste stream many of us might not be as familiar with is a process called slacking. Slacking is the continuous running of water to thaw food. Slacking occurs in a variety of settings including restaurants, K-12 schools, hospitals, senior care facilities, and grocery stores. The Boss Defrost replaces the process of slacking as a USDA approved alternative to thawing food. It is a plug and play device and mobile. Mac started out as an engineer in a hotel and would go into kitchen and constantly see slacking taking place. He asked the chef why they were doing it and thought there had to be a better way.

The device is 3rd party tested and National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified to ensure safe defrosting. Traditional slacking uses 125 gal/hr. the Boss Defrost uses 5 gal/task which is as much as a 98.5% water savings. In restaurants alone, we are using half a billion gallons of water across the country from this use every day. Boss Defrost launched in January 2020 and is expanding largely through word of mouth.

Boss Defrost has a quick comparative study tool located on the Boss Defrost website to allow utilities or food service operators the ability to see water savings based on how long their facility typically slacks. There is also a 30-day case study for food service operations that are considering Boss Defrost or aren't sure how much water they currently use. There is also interest in rebates for businesses looking to reduce water waste. Fort Collins has a rebate available through Efficiency Works.

Diana mentioned that many of us work with CII customers to reduce water use and this could be a good resource. Eric asked about the capacity with large sinks versus smaller sink applications. Mac said it recirculates 1,000 L/hr regardless of the size of the sink. Diana asked about the USDA water temperature requirements. Mac said the unit has a temperature gauge to monitor the water and the unit agitates the water to keep the water cool enough to meet the standards. AJ asked about how consistent the 98% water savings is. Diana noted it depends on how much water is coming out of the faucet. The 98.5% water savings is a fairly stable number but does depend on the size of the project, as larger projects may require a water change to maintain water temperature. Diana asked about the price point. Mac said it is \$439 and can typically be paid off in a few months.

BMP Manual

Courtney reminded people the RFP is out. There were no specific questions received before the question deadline. After the deadline, we did get a question about page limits, and we added clarification to the website. The grant application is due Dec 1. September 15 is the RFP submission deadline and **Courtney will be reaching out to the committee to quickly review those RFPs and select the firm.** We need to be clear on our goals and how we would be wanting to structure the various stakeholder groups. **We will want to add this topic to the October board meeting to discuss information we want to share with the consultant.** Brad asked if we would need any financial statements for the grant application. Courtney doesn't think so but will check and reach out if we do. Melissa asked if we want to put a meeting on the calendar for the committee to review the RFPs. **Courtney will send something out.**

Committee Update – Tools

The committee met yesterday to discuss the 2022 action plan. The committee has been functioning with a focus on outdoor water efficiency and looking into a water irrigation audit app. We have been able to get the app from Greeley to be used in more locations. We are not yet to the point of wanting to promote that platform so the pilot will continue past this season. The State of Conservation study is coming together and will be getting finalized likely by the end of October.

Eric will be the interim committee lead moving forward. Amy asked about our standing committees versus ad hoc committees and making sure they are working well together. Do we want to merge ad hoc committees back into the Tools committee? Diana noted we need to discuss how frequently we do the state of CO conservation study and if it becomes a regular thing then we can think about having that be a stand-alone committee. Jessica asked if we need more participation in that committee. Amy said yes. Don asked how much the committees like tools and education events are working together. Eric said we should try to diversify and is looking to focus the group and bringing in new voices that could help to progress some of these projects. Amy noted the Webinars used to be housed within the Tools committee and noted the Tools committee works on a different timescale than the education events group so she thinks it makes sense to have them separate but talking back and forth would be great. Amy noted that it might work to have smaller groups working on projects then the whole group comes together for updates to the other groups.

Financial Update

Brad presented the financial update. He has updated this report with the transition of LLYLI away from a separate income stream and merged it into membership. Our savings continues to grow so we are still in a very good position with the upcoming expenses for the BMP update. For Management, General and LLYLI, we are ahead of our year-to-date budget. Our annual budget is about \$55k. We are keeping Management and General expenses low and are below expected expenses so far. The LLYLI expenses are also below budget. Symposium is a separate graph in the report. There were no registrations so far but we have received about \$7k in sponsorship. **Next month we are going to be talking about our budget for 2022 so be**

thinking about what we want to add to our budgets. Tyler added that if committees have additional budget requests during the year, feel free to bring them up in your committee then to the board.

Action Plan Approval

Membership

- Updating \$45k increase in membership goal.
- Removing membership survey because we did that this year.
- Remove retention plan because it has been created.
- Continue membership spotlight in the Newsletter.
- Removing COVID membership follow up.
- Remove student membership goal because we created it but removing the contractor level goal.
- Keep the membership event as a goal.

Website

- No changes to the current plan.
- The big changes are complete.
- Making sure the seasonal pages are updated.

Newsletter

- We need to talk about the length because it keeps getting longer.
- Some questions were added to the survey to gain feedback.
- We might do another survey for specific feedback for the Newsletter .

Tools

- Eric is leading the audit app pilot project.
- Board training on outdoor irrigation audit.
- Next irrigation contractor training in person.
- Make irrigation training communication clearer on website and emails.
- BMP update continues.
- Conservation study is still TBD.
- One day training on CII training – Q1 or Q2 2022 with Colorado focus.

Education Events

- Current goals are continuing.
- New reach goals to provide events bilingually.
- New goal to increase technology use to capture audience attention with interactive components.

Symposium

- Most of the goals carry forward into 2022.
- We are increasing our goal for both registration and sponsorship by 10%.
- We were able to accomplish the hybrid event and will continue to keep that.
- Our reach goal to host a training before the event will continue.
- Also adding a goal to include bilingual services to the Symposium.

LLYLI

- Expanding the reach of LLYLI continues.
- Continue to create new materials.
- Continue social media presence.
- Finalize trademark process.

Diana asked for all final edits by Friday, October 8.

LLYLI Update

Amy Conklin reached out to get some input and assistance with creating a bill insert with a message on fertilizer use and water quality that will be paid for by their organization. Melissa and Alyssa will be meeting with Amy on Monday to talk about the logistics and questions that the LLYLI committee had. They are also wanting to house information on the LLYLI website.

Alyssa is continuing to participate in Water 2022. There is opportunity to work to increase the Commit page on the website through the Water 2022 event.

The remaining money in the 2021 budget for LLYLI will be used to translate remaining materials and to update some of the older materials to ensure all the materials are up to date and consistent. Jessica is also blocking out time for the Symposium to help staff the table during the event.

Lyndsey asked about the use of Melissa's hours for the website updates for the Care page updates with Amy's group. Alyssa noted it would not be CWW paying for those time and hours. Jessica Thrasher mentioned that the Colorado Stormwater Center has a lot of materials that may help to link to on the LLYLI page as well. There may also be an opportunity to work with Boss Defrost with reaching out to restaurants in 2022. Tyler also noted the statewide green certification program and the focus on water conservation measures.

Round Robin

There was no time remaining for this topic.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Melissa Brasfield