

Colorado WaterWise Board Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Virtual Zoom

10 a.m. to noon

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

Board:

P	Alyssa Quinn	Platte Canyon W&S District	alquinn@plattecanyon.org
P	Amy Volckens	Brendle Group	avolckens@brendlegroup.com
	Brad Brady	Yearout Energy Solutions	brad.brady@yearoutenergy.com
P	Courtney Black	Intera	CBlack@intera.com
P	Don Drew	Courageous Marketing	d.drews@couragemarketing.com
P	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
	Lyndsey Lucia	Northern Water Conservancy	llucia@northernwater.org
	Quint Redmond	Agriburbia	qredmond@agriburbia.com
P	Ruth Quade	City of Greeley	ruth.quade@greeleygov.com
	Thomas Riggle	Centennial W&S District	triggle@highlandsranch.org
P	Tim York	Aurora Water	tyork@auroragov.org
P	Tyler Kesler	Town of Erie	tkesler@erieco.gov
P	Melissa Brasfield	CWW Board Staff	admin@coloradowaterwise.org

Guests:

Diana Denwood – Aurora Water

Brian Bair – ET Irrigation

Dylan King – Town of Erie

Call to Order

Katie called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

Board Business and Action Items

- Introductions
- Approval of February Board Minutes. Melissa noted that Don was marked in attendance in the minutes document that were circulated but he was not at the February meeting. Melissa has made that edit in the document. **Alyssa motions, Don seconds. February minutes are approved.**

Meeting in person

Alyssa noted we had planned out in person meetings earlier this year, but we have still been meeting virtually so far. With things going back to more in person meetings, we wanted to gauge interest in moving to in person meetings or keep the meetings fully virtual. Alyssa added that the virtual option will continue even with in person meetings. Tim noted the City of Aurora is slowly reopening, they can not host meetings but that may change soon. His preference is to go to in person meetings. Katie noted that for people hosting in person we need to test equipment to make sure it is conducive to a hybrid meeting. Amy agrees and adds it might be good to put some roles in place for handling questions and chats for both virtual and in person people. Alyssa noted the schedule includes April at Centennial, May at Fountain, June at Agriburbia. We will

continue to plan for those locations. Melissa noted we can do a test run with equipment at locations that may not be sure about the setup.

State of Conservation Report Update

Amy and Diana have finished the report but were not able to send it out to the board prior to the meeting. **The final report will be emailed out to the board later today.**

Outreach channels for pushing the report out:

- New webpage on CWW site. This is not yet published.
- Directly distribute it to anyone that participated in the survey and others that have reached out about the report.
- Monthly email – April.
- Newsletter article.

BMP Update

Courtney noted we have been selected to move forward to the CWCB board to get approval of the water plan grant. The CWCB board meeting is March 15 and 16 and the project will be recommended for approval. We do not need to attend the board meeting and CWCB staff will present on everything. We should hear shortly after that meeting and be able to move forward with the contracting.

The Colorado River District grant was submitted on Feb 14 with additional support letters. We have not heard anything back on that yet. This will not delay the start of the BMP project.

Courtney asked about the hiring of the additional staff person. Katie and Melissa provided an update on the applications received and next steps.

Proposed Changes to Bylaws and Handbook

Katie noted the management team is proposing putting together a document with the high-level changes, we will share that with the board to review in advance, then spend time at one board meeting to vote on the proposed changes. Ruth asked if we would want to extend a board meeting for this topic. Alyssa clarified that was just for the management team review.

Motion to create a Fundraising Committee

Ruth noted based on comments from the last meeting the motion was changed to address those comments. Updates include adding clarification on the annual progression, connection to committee chairs and treasurer participation.

Don makes a motion to create a fundraising committee. Ruth seconds. **Creation of a Fundraising Committee.** Tyler wants to join the committee. The other members of the Colorado Gives Day committee will continue to participate in this committee.

Housekeeping items: credit cards, PO Box, etc

Alyssa provided an update on the new PO Box which is active and working well. We are working on getting the address changed to the new PO Box. We want to identify who has information and materials.

- Diana has a PO Box key. **Diana will mail the old PO Box key to Alyssa.**
- Alyssa has both keys for the new PO Box. Thomas and Alyssa will each have a PO Box key.
- Laura and Tyler have credit cards. They are working on getting Thomas on the account and get him a credit card.

Turf Replacement Bill

Lindsey sent an update via email with information to the board. The Bill passed the House Ag committee. The bill does include two amendments. The first was in response to stakeholder concerns to make sure defensible space and fire wise landscaping is being considered, ensuring this is a voluntary program, doesn't add anything to the CWCB water efficiency plan requirements and added accountability to the 3rd party contractor that would be working with people on the turf replacement programs. The second amendment adds appropriations language and includes \$4 million over the first three years from the general fund. Those two amendments were approved by the committee without opposition. Currently the bill is in the House appropriations committee. It's possible the 18th of March is when the long bill could go out to the Senate committee. Lindsey

wanted to ask if board members are able to vote on the support of this bill. Lance noted that many individuals support this. Katie agrees and reinforces this is challenging.

Tyler asked what the concerns were. Lance noted the water savings estimates may cause deficit watering and also concerns with unplanted rock landscaping not being prohibited. Lindsey noted there were changes from the CSU comments which include the clarification on changes to water efficiency plans. Alyssa noted Platte Canyon doesn't have much legislative decisions and support. She noted that CWW should probably determine how we handle supporting pieces of legislation. Amy suggested that the last time we had this conversation that we would follow the by laws and we would need quorum, but we could add a footnote about who abstains from voting. Tim has a similar comment to Amy, and that he supports a vote from the board. Alyssa added thinking through the big picture for CWW and our mission is to be a leader in conservation and if we as an organization can't support that, how are we fulfilling our mission? Don added we should include something that this is not binding to any individual organizations.

Amy made a motion to have CWW support this bill and is not binding to the individual organizations. Laura seconds.

Voting:

Yes – Laura, Tim, Amy, Eric, Don, Courtney, Alyssa, Ruth, Tyler. Thomas voted in support via email.

No – No opposed votes

Abstain – Katie, Lance, Lindsey

Not in attendance – Lyndsey, Quint, Brad

Round Robin

- Tim is working on a new water conservation ordinance. First presentation will be Wednesday night. It would not allow turf in any front yards for new residential constructions and sets limits on multi-family, commercial, parks and does not allow any new golf course development within city limits. Ruth asked about how they got the language passed with development ordinances. Tim noted their front yard landscape ordinance already included development plans to allow this. This was also driven by the Mayor and City Manager which helps. Hopefully passes in April/May with implementation later this year.
- Eric is working on Graywater codes in Fort Collins. They have also implemented new rules that all commercial properties above 30,000-gallon annual use will have a separate irrigation tap. They are also getting preliminary irrigation plans along with landscaping plans in new development areas.
- Ruth noted they passed new landscape ordinances with a lot of revisions. The builder also must submit a water budget for the property.
- Laura is working on a pilot project with Boss Defrost. Thornton bought 10 units and is giving them away for free and will track water use after installation. They have 3 deployed so far. Ruth asked if they have separate meters. So far, they do but they are looking at shopping centers with shared meters. Amy noted there might be opportunities to work with the schools. Laura noted they are in discussions with the school sustainability contact.
- Brian is working with Castle Pine Metro District to put together water budgets for all taps within their districts and also working to change the billing structure to budget based billing. This should be put in place this year. Tim asked if they are doing it for residential. Brian said they are doing all taps and are targeting a 30% reduction in water use.
- Amy is working on the Growing Water Smart metrics pilot program working with Fort Collins and Evans. Both identified non-potable water use and metrics and reporting.
- Courtney is working with East Cherry Creek Valley on ASR groundwater recharging to see if you can help manage groundwater levels or event stabilize levels. Also started working with Dominion W&SD on drought planning.
- Dylan noted the turf replacements program is up and running in Erie. They also have interest from an HOA. This is the first year the town is doing it and looking forward to seeing the success. Katie asked if it was in connection with Resource Central or on their own. Dylan said it's a bit of both. \$2/sq ft for low water use and \$1/sq ft on warm season grasses. Ruth noted she is getting more interest from HOAs as well. Laura noted they have one HOA last year that did a little over three acres.
- Amy asked about how the Rain Barrel webinar went. Melissa noted it was the first bilingually offered webinar this year. We learned a lot about hosting an event bilingually and plan to continue to offer that at future events. Lindsay noted we had at least one Spanish speaker.

- Amy asked about the connection with the Alliance for Water Efficiency. Melissa noted Diana was the one who initially spearheaded those collaboration/partnership. We continue to cross-promote events and job postings. There is also the potential to have a RMSAWWA partnership – Tim is active and can keep tabs on items for potential collaboration.
- Don noted the value stream in sharing these resources through the round robin process. He noted the Climate Action Collaborative would be a good group to connect with on a lot of these conversations.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Submitted by: Melissa Brasfield