

Colorado WaterWise Board Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Zoom

10 a.m. to noon

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

Board:

	Alyssa Quinn	Platte Canyon W&S District	alquinn@plattecanyon.org
P	Brad Brady	Yearout Energy Solutions	brad.brady@yearoutenergy.com
	Courtney Black	Intera	CBlack@intera.com
	Don Drew	Courageous Marketing	d.drews@couragemarketing.com
P	Eric Olson	City of Fort Collins	eolson@fcgov.com
	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
	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
P	Ruth Quade	City of Greeley	ruth.quade@greeleygov.com
P	Thomas Riggle	Centennial W&S District	triggle@highlandsranch.org
P	Tim York	Aurora Water	tyork@auroragov.org
	Tyler Kesler	Town of Erie	tkesler@erieco.gov
P	Melissa Brasfield	CWW Board Staff	admin@coloradowaterwise.org

Guests:

Diellza Muriqi – CWW Board Staff
Dylan King – Town of Erie
Abbye Neel – Brendle Group
Amy Volkens

Call to Order

Brad called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM

Board Business and Action Items

- Introductions
- Approval of May Board Minutes. Tim motions, Thomas seconds. May minutes are approved.

Amy Volkens Vacancy

Brad noted that Amy notified the board that she is leaving the board effective June 3. Abbye Neel is interested in fulfilling Amy's role on the board. Amy has approximately two and half years left in her term. Ruth asked if she had thought about her committee commitments. Abbye noted that she is happy to do whatever is easiest. Amy added that she was between committees with Eric taking over chairing the Tools committee and was in the process of joining the Newsletter committee but notes that Abbye can probably choose the committee she is most interested in. **Brad or Katie will do a new board member orientation and can review the committee options.** Approval of Abbye Neel to replace Amy Volkens's seat. Ruth motions. Laura seconds. Abbye Neel is approved to fill Amy's term.

AWE Vote for reciprocal membership

Brad noted we have a reciprocal membership with AWE currently for the past two years. We must get board approval to re-establish the AWE membership. Brad shared the benefits of AWE membership. Tim asked if this was a show of support or if CWW, as a board, uses the materials. Ruth notes it is more about support and sharing information about events. Laura noted that in the past we had asked about a discount to AWE for CWW members but it wasn't feasible from a logistics perspective. Melissa noted we share events and the CWW job posting with AWE to broaden the reach. Melissa also asked about one of the benefits which is the ability to sit on a committee and one of them is education. Is there interest or the possibility for someone from CWW to sit on that committee given the tie with LLYLI? **Brad will look into this with AWE.** Approval of AWE reciprocal membership. Laura motions. Tim seconds. Membership is approved.

Committee Update – Website

Melissa provided an update on the activities taking place so far. We have updated the "Drought" page information with updated information and links. We have updated the "Xeriscape" page connection and content as well as added the Colorado Native Landscape Coalition content. We are also working on seasonal pages with for summer/winter watering tips. The content is being developed so we don't have anything to share right now. Melissa reminded people to forward events and job postings to the committee so we can add them to the website. Brad asked if it's hard to add things to the website. Melissa noted that events are a little more time consuming, but job postings are really easy. Building out pages and updates website pages is also more complicated.

Committee Update – Finance

Thomas shared his screen with the financial reports. Thomas noted the cash and investments include the Northern Water money from their training. The credit union is not making much on interest.

Right now we are under budget on income. We are also under our expenses so far through this month. Thomas asked about the membership gap. Melissa noted membership is lagging and has done some outreach to individuals that have not renewed. **Melissa will send a list of memberships that have not responded to our outreach to see if anyone has an updated contact information.** Tim asked about the operating income. Thomas noted it is the balance between income and expenses. Melissa asked if the new hire expense is spread evenly across all 12 months and because we haven't hired that role, we aren't seeing those expenses. Thomas said the expense is spread out.

New Hire Update

Diellza provided an introduction to the board. Brad discussed Diellza's role and will be working for a maximum of 600 hours over the course of the next 12 months. Melissa, Katie and Brad were able to divide that scope between the BMP update and case studies, administrative, fundraising, membership and social media.

Symposium – Update

The event has been finalized for Wednesday, October 26 at Mile High Station. We are working on finalizing the session topics. We are still soliciting sponsors. **If your organization is interested in sponsoring, please reach out to Melissa.** We are working with WECO on a Water '22 event after the Symposium at Mile High Station. More information will be coming on that. Registration should be opening by late-July. **Melissa will send out the Symposium sponsorship information.**

Annual Report present/highlights

Melissa shared her screen to go through the final Annual Report document. A couple additional items will be updated before this is published including, changing the cover image, swapping out the board image, add the trademark to the LLYLI page. Laura asked if there was room to adding in a table for the report. Melissa noted space is a little tight in that area.

Policy update – Turf Replacement Updates

With the passing of the turf replacement bill recently and additional funds becoming available, it might be a good to compile everyone's programs to be a resource to other organizations and keep tabs on best practices. Dylan is looking to send out a survey to gather details of the various programs. **Ruth noted she has a spreadsheet and will send that to Dylan.** Brad asked if he was thinking of sending the survey to just the board members or a larger group. Dylan is thinking sending it to the board initially then making any adjustments and sending it out more broadly. But he is open to other approaches.

CNLC Sponsorship Discussion

Thomas, Ruth, Laura and Lyndsey have been working with the CNLC for a little over a year. They are anticipating a funding request from CNLC soon. We don't know how much they will be asking yet, but it is likely to be \$1,000 annually. They are looking to hire part time staff as well. Thomas noted we would have some expectations with membership around the materials they would be developing. Ruth noted there are currently five member organizations and CWW doesn't have a seat at the table right now. Thomas added what CNLC is doing aligns very well with the work CWW does and is mutually beneficial. They are also asking us to add native landscapes to the seven principles of xeriscape. Thomas asked if they are also interested in changing the definition of xeriscape. Ruth said they would probably be okay with us adding the native plants principle. The group is wanting to give the board a heads up and see how the board feels about the level of contribution.

Tim asked what their member benefits are and what would members get. Thomas noted they are working on developing committees, one of which is a HOA guide. Ruth noted they are a big participant in the Native Plant Conference in February. They are very grassroots and trying to grow. The money will give them a boost to start providing additional resources. Laura said they are also working with nurseries to increase production and a labeling system. They are also working with Resource Central to develop a fully native landscape garden in a box. They would also probably be working on policy initiatives.

BMP Update

Brad provided an update on the BMP project from Courtney. He provided an overview of the various tasks that are upcoming for the project.

Round Robin

- Quint shared information about the SPUR grand opening yesterday with the trellis on the green roof. Next month there will be a farm tour. Mentioned that new Tahoma 31 turf. They may end up becoming a grower.
- Eric just wrapped up the sprinkler audit training. They also have a few open positions as well.
- Laura has been training interns. Getting a lot of calls about rebates.
- Tim is processing a lot of rebate requests. The ordinance is getting pushed another month due to some opposition but still thinking it will pass in July.
- Amy is in between roles. She will be working on climate strategy with RTI International.
- Ruth's turf replacement program is almost full and the commercial side is filling up as well.
- Abbye is working on commercial water audits. And working on Growing Water smart metrics will be coming at the end of the year.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.
Submitted by: Melissa Brasfield