

Colorado WaterWise Board Meeting

Thursday, October 13, 2022

Virtual

10 a.m. to noon

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

Board:

	Abbye Neel	Brendle Group	aneel@brendlegroup.com
P	Alyssa Quinn	Platte Canyon W&S District	alquinn@plattecanyon.org
P	Brad Brady	Yearout Energy Solutions	brad.brady@yearoutenergy.com
P	Courtney Black	Intera	CBlack@intera.com
	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
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
	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 Contractor	admin@coloradowaterwise.org
P	Diellza Muriqi	CWW Board Contractor	associate@coloradowaterwise.org

Note: Quorum 60%: 10/16 board members

Guests:

Dylan King – Town of Erie

Catherine Moravec – Colorado Springs Utilities

Call to Order

Katie called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

Board Business and Action Items

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

Native Grass Group Collaboration

Austin from Denver Water reached out to Alyssa about joining the Native Grass group to see how CWW could be involved in the work moving forward with grants. Alyssa turned it over to Catherine for additional information on the group. The group consists of 45 people who are working on installing and maintaining native and waterwise grasses. The group acknowledges there is a lot of momentum for turf replacement and we have to think about what goes back in its place and native and waterwise grass is a good option in those situations. A draft manual is going out for review. The group would like to adapt that manual from a static resource to a website resource with best practices and photo galleries and a decision support tool. The tool would provide possible landscape ideas based on the grass characteristics and site specifics. The group was talking

about applying for a CWCB water plan grant to get the project funded and were pitching the idea to some CWW board members to partner on the project. The idea would be to have CWW be the fiscal entity to facilitate the project through invoicing and application submission. A water provider can serve as a fiscal entity for the grant but there are limitations to invoicing other project partners to divide costs and it would require an excessive procurement process. The structure would maintain the working group as the project management, CWW could charge an administration fee to do the invoice and website management.

Katie asked to confirm breakdown. There is a breakdown below of the two roles between the working group and CWW. Brad asked about time involved by CWW. Catherine estimated it would be less than 100 hours. Melissa asked about the timeline for this and what would take place before the end of the year versus into 2023. Catherine noted the grant deadline is December 1 then there will be a waiting period for grant approval. Once the grant is approved the project will begin and invoicing process will begin. Brad asked how much money they are seeking for the project. Catherine anticipated \$25-50k. Lindsay asked where the matching funds would come from. Catherine noted verbal confirmation from Northern, Denver Water and Colorado Springs but other organizations may join in as well.

Melissa asked about what ongoing website maintenance would look like. Catherine mentioned they have talked about that and don't have an answer but do understand the need for that. Melissa mentioned we can use the ongoing LLYLI website maintenance for a possible estimate of what that would look like.

Alyssa noted what CWW gets out of this. Frank noted we could consider all participating utilities are members. We could also consider cobranding this with CWW logo. There was also potential from the working group to have this project live under CWW from an organization standpoint. Eric noted this could even live under the Tools committee workload. Lyndsey noted there is also a future option for contractor training. Tim echoed that support and future growth for CWW with membership by builders and contractors.

Laura asked if the Native Landscape Coalition is a part of this group as well. And asked if there will be a stakeholder process built into the grant process. Alyssa noted she has talked with Austin about the Native Landscape Coalition. He was not familiar with them and Alyssa provided the contact she has for NLC.

Working group role:

- Creating grant application
- Managing web development
- Grant progress reports

CWW role:

- Invoicing to CWCB and partner agencies
- Submitting progress reports

Membership Update

- We are adding a new "Education Institutions" membership level which will better allow school districts, private schools and universities to join. They would gain access to LLYLI at a \$250 level which would help to spread the message across the state. There may be additional benefits we want to offer such as utility tours, participation in job/career fairs/days, shadowing opportunities, etc.
- Similar to last year at the Symposium, there will be a dot on name tags for non-members or recently lapsed members. Make sure to say hi to those individuals and talk with them.
- Melissa reviewed the draft Membership survey questions. Dielza and Melissa made notes to the survey based on comments from the board.
- Timing for evaluation of membership will come after survey is complete later this year.

Colorado Water Congress Conservation Track

Tim noted this idea came from higher up within Aurora Water so he does not have all the details. Colorado Water Congress does not typically have a water conservation track and Tim was asked to see if CWW would interested in helping plan a conservation track. This is not a guarantee that something will happen but could happen as soon as the January conference.

Courtney noted we should consider this and if we aren't able to put a full track together that we should consider putting together a session or two. Melissa agreed and we could probably assist given the timing of the CWW Symposium being complete once heavy planning for this event would occur. Melissa also noted if there is interest from Colorado Water Congress it would be nice to have a "Conservation" category in their abstract submission process. Lindsay noted WRA has also been looking at doing a follow up session at this conference as well. Tim will say that CWW is interested in assisting to plan a session in January conference and a future conservation track in August. Courtney also noted we could also bring updates on the BMP project.

Update on BMP Project

We are very close to starting the project. The contract is out for final signature. A kick off meeting will be scheduled soon. Committee is Katie, Brad, Tyler, Melissa, Eric, Quint, Luth, Laura and Lindsay. Courtney asked about having Diana on the committee even though she is not on the board. Everyone was comfortable with including Diana on the committee.

Board and Officer nomination soliciting

Alyssa noted Don, Tim, Lindsay, Lyndsey, and Lance are up for reelection this year. Tyler is at term limit for treasurer and Katie is up for renewal for co-chair and Alyssa is up for renewal for secretary. **Melissa will send out board nomination email request and make an announcement at the Symposium.**

Budget Discussion session

Tyler noted it is the time to put together 2023 budget. **If your committee has any budget requests, please send them to Tyler and Thomas.** The treasurers are continuing to work through changes to membership and impacts to budget.

Symposium update and logistics

The agenda is final and Melissa shared the high level topics. Thomas will be the emcee for the event. We are currently at 111 attendees registered and will continue to grow. **Some board members have not yet registered. Please do so as soon as possible.** Happy hour is happening at the venue immediately following the event. Event starts at 9 a.m. registration begins at 8:15 a.m. If you would like to assist with setup a couple of us will be arriving at 6:30 a.m. and having everything setup by 8 a.m.

Round Robin

- Tim will have two positions opening soon.
- Dylan provided an update on the pilot turf replacement rebate program. It is complete and they replaced 50,000 sq ft of turf this season.
- Brad was at the Texas Municipal League and found that water was a very hot topic.
- Laura noted there is a conference in January for Colorado Municipal League there might be a good place for a discussion on turf replacement.
- Lance attended the WaterSmart Innovations conference which had a heavy focus on non-essential turf which was great to hear about.
- Courtney is working on some drought monitoring plans for Aurora and Erie.
- Tim asked if other utilities are putting drought restrictions in place. Most are holding steady.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Submitted by: Melissa Brasfield