

Colorado WaterWise Board Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 2022
Thornton Water
10 a.m. to noon

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

Board:

P	Abbye Neel	Brendle Group	aneel@brendlegroup.com
X	Alyssa Quinn	Platte Canyon W&S District	alquinn@plattecanyon.org
X	Brad Brady	Yearout Energy Solutions	brad.brady@yearoutenergy.com
P	Courtney Black	Intera	CBlack@intera.com
	Don Drews	Courageous Marketing	d.drews@courageousmarketing.com
	Eric Olson	City of Fort Collins	eolson@fcgov.com
X	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
X	Lindsay Rogers	Western Resource Advocates	lindsay.rogers@westernresources.org
P	Lyndsey Lucia	Northern Water Conservancy	llucia@northernwater.org
X	Quint Redmond	Agriburbia	qredmond@agriburbia.com
X	Ruth Quade	City of Greeley	ruth.quade@greeleygov.com
X	Thomas Riggle	Denver Public Schools	thomas_riggle@dpsk12.net
	Tim York	Aurora Water	tyork@auroragov.org
X	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:

Kathleen Schwaab – City of Golden
Luis Galvin – Shedit.Pro
Dylan King – Town of Erie
Jessica Thrasher – Colorado Stormwater Center
Diana Denwood – Aurora Water
Elisabeth Bowman – Resource Central

Call to Order

Brad called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM

Board Business and Action Items

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

Confirm meeting schedule for 2023

We have the schedule lined out. Ruth sent out a request for details to confirm address and parking directions. Tyler asked about potentially looking at the western slope as well as a board retreat (either half or full day) but nothing has been confirmed.

Ruth noted that summer might be a good time to do that, and she is willing to give up her date if we decide to do that. The current schedule is noted below.

J – Yearout Energy
F – Denver Public Schools
M – WRA
A – Aurora Water
M – Colorado Springs
J – Agriburbia
J – Greeley
A – Platte Canyon
S – Fort Collins
O – Virtual
N – Erie
D – Thornton

Symposium report

Melissa shared her screen with the final budget and what we spent this year along with what the 2022 budget was then a couple of options for 2023 budget with increases in our goals as well as two options for increasing ticket prices. Brad noted he wasn't aware we did as well on sponsorship as we did this year. Alyssa asked if we factored in parking into the future budgets. Melissa explained where that is in the budget and that a parking expense was carried forward into the 2023 event budget. She also noted the amount we had budgeted in "Other Costs" included money to be spent to have the event be bilingual in some way. She did not factor that into future budgets, but we should talk about what that looks like since we are not projected to make money on this event in any of the proposed 2023 budgets. Melissa noted in future years she has split out the happy hour food from the event food costs. She also noted the catering contract for the event is where we run rentals for the stage and pipe and drape so that's part of why we have exceeded the \$5,000 budget. We also have not kept up with the growth of attendees at the event with our food costs. We have not increased the food budget over the years, but we are seeing about 20-40 more people attending the event than in the past. These costs are assuming we stay at the same venue, but the committee will have additional discussions on other venue options for 2023. Abbye asked if we have done any inflation adjustments over the years and if we might want to consider doing that in the future budgeting. Jessica noted the Hydro building should be finishing in early 2023 and would be a great venue option. Luis noted the Highlands Masonic Lodge would be a great venue option. Quint noted we could have a sponsor benefit be to go toward certain aspects of the event. Melissa noted we have talked about that with the committee more around the happy hour sponsors, but the committee will continue to be more strategic in how we promote sponsorship opportunities. Tyler asked about the translation services and if we have examples of what other events are doing or have done in this space. Jessica noted she is working with ALCC on ProGreen to provide a single panel in Spanish. She can provide some feedback once the event is complete. She has also seen events which do a combination of both English speakers with Spanish translations and Spanish speakers with English translation. Melissa explained how we got to the initial budget for this with translation of slides as well as interpretation personnel. Melissa noted it would be good to include some money in the budget to be able to look into this. Brad asked if Melissa is looking for an answer on which 2023 budget we are doing. Melissa noted this was more to share information and make the board aware of where we stand and to make the board aware that the prices may increase in 2023. Luis asked about sponsorship options. Melissa would be able to share information when the details are finalized.

Update on BMP project

Courtney provided an update and Diellza is onboarding for the project liaison role. We have received the Colorado River District initial grant payment. The consultant team and project team met for an initial kick-off call and is working to schedule a second kick-off meeting after the new year. The consultant team is meeting every two weeks currently. They are looking at the original BMP in detail and working through what updates we may want to update, change or add. Scheduling the stakeholder meetings is a high priority and could be an opportunity to have a board meeting in conjunction with the stakeholder meeting on the west slope. Diellza will be meeting with the treasurers and co-chairs tomorrow. Brad asked if they had any location in mind for the west slope stakeholder meeting. Courtney said they do not at this time, but we can bring that up on the next consultant team call and noted the Colorado River District would likely want to contribute to the discussions.

Round table

- Ruth discussed her rebate programs. They did about 120,000 sq ft this year. She is seeing a lot of interest from HOAs and churches. They are piloting a program targeted at low incomes properties, about 5-10 properties help with irrigation and Garden-in-a-box.
- Diana noted last year there were discussions around having all the utilities that offer some sort of rebate or turf replacement program come together to talk and learn about the different programs.
- Elisabeth is working on a forum with the CWCB to talk about turf removal funding programs. They are also working on adding turf replacement topics to the waterwise series of events. They are also working on quantifying their savings in their programs through a CWCB grant.
- Lindsay also noted that education events could schedule an event when the turf removal programs are launched. We could also do a workshop after the event as well. Lindsay also shared the landscape professional survey to the board.
- Abbye noted to keep the guidebook in mind as a lot of these programs and projects move forward. Brendle Group was selected to create a model land use code with Clarion intended to help small entities to easily adopt.
- Tyler asked if there are any discussions within CWCB about building codes requirements/prerequisites. Lindsay noted that they recognize the issue, but they may not have any changes to grant applications requirements, but they may weigh it in the evaluation.
- Jessica is looking to apply for a new grant for rain gardens at schools and also to create a career pathway. She has been talking with the Poudre School District Futures Lab where students can learn about different career tracks. If anyone has ideas or would like to be involved can reach out to Jessica. They are starting in Fort Collins and Denver.
- Luis asked about the timing for turf replacement programs. Lindsay noted much of the funding would come through water providers.

NOTE: The board entered executive session at this time. Visitors were removed from the virtual and in-person meeting room for the duration of the meeting.

Officer Elections

Co-chairs: Katie is at her term limit. Alyssa was nominated. Katie made motion. Lindsay seconds. Alyssa is approved.

Co-secretaries: Alyssa is appointed to co-chair. Laura was nominated. Ruth made motion. Katie seconds. Laura is approved.

Co-treasurers: Tyler is at term limit. Tim was nominated. Alyssa motions. Ruth seconds. Tim is approved.

Board of Directors

Existing board of directors renewals

- Tim York. Alyssa motions. Thomas seconds. Tim is approved.
- Lindsay Rogers. Ruth motions. Thomas seconds. Lindsay is approved.
- Lyndsey Lucia. Brad motions. Ruth seconds. Lyndsey is approved.

New board of directors

- Diane Block – Colorado Spring Utilities Laura motions. Alyssa seconds. Diane is approved.
- Dylan King – Town of Erie Alyssa motions. Ruth seconds. Dylan is approved. Tyler recused himself from the vote.
- Elisabeth Bowman – Resource Central Laura motions. Katie seconds. Elisabeth is approved.
- Jessica Thrasher – Colorado Stormwater Center Thomas motions. Laura seconds. Jessica is approved.
- Kathleen Schwaab – City of Golden Alyssa motions. Lindsay seconds. Kathleen is approved.
- Victoria Arling – Water Now Alliance Laura motions. Brad seconds. Victoria is approved.

First reading of the budget

Katie acknowledged the timing of budget review with staff contract is in conflict. Thomas motions. Ruth motions. Melissa's contract is approved.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Submitted by: Melissa Brasfield