

Colorado WaterWise Board Meeting

Thursday, June 13, 2019

City of Fountain, 101 N. Main St, Customer Service Center Community Room, Fountain, CO

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Board:

	Amelia Nuding	Western Resource Advocates	amelia.nuding@westernresources.org
	Amy Volckens	Brendle Group	avolckens@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	Headwaters Corporation	blackc@headwaterscorp.com
X	Diana Denwood	Aurora Water	ddenwood@auroragov.org
P	Eric Olson	City of Fort Collins	eolson@fcgov.com
X	Katie Helm	City of Fountain	khelm@fountaincolorado.org
	Laura Wing	City of Thornton	laura.wing@cityofthornton.net
X	Lyndsey Lucia	Northern Water Conservancy	llucia@northernwater.org
	Quint Redman	Agriburbia	qredmond@agriburbia.com
X	Ruth Quade	City of Greeley	ruth.quade@greeleygov.com
X	Thomas Riggle	City of Centennial	triggle@highlandsranch.org
X	Tyler Kesler	Boulder County	tkesler@bouldercounty.org
P	Melissa Walford	CWW Board Staff	admin@coloradowaterwise.org

Guests:

Claire Ewing – Centennial Water

Call to Order

Lindsey called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM

Board Business and Action Items

Approval of May Board Minutes. Thomas motions, Lyndsey seconds. May minutes are approved.

Fort Collins – Water Wise Lawn Care Tool

Eric provided an overview of their new water wise lawn care tool. The City of Fort Collins met with an app designer last year to develop it. The website uses a lot of catching and fetching from websites to predict what the weekly water will be to determine how much water to apply. Eric gave a bit of the history of program; the City of Fort Collins is conscientious of water use on lawns. When Eric start at the utility 12 years ago, he was given the task of doing a lawn water guide, which entailed getting on the website daily to determine what the ET was and calculate how much water needed to be put into the landscape. That original tool was a good one with 1,500-2,000 hits per year. Last year they sat down and discussed that people don't know how to put down 0.7 and that they need to add information on runtimes and information based on head types. The updated website is completely automated based on head type and weather data.

This is currently a pilot project in its first year, so it still has a few quirks to be worked out. Thomas asked about the information shown in the charts, specifically whether the "last watered" is how many days ago was the last time you watered. So if it was 7 days ago you should be watering for 28 minutes. Eric confirmed this understanding though mentioned the website is having issues pulling information. The website link is: Fcgov.com/lawn-guide. Ruth asked when

this would be available for CWW to enter zip code information. Many people had positive thoughts about adding it to the H2O app as well so utilities can direct customers to the CWW website or app.

Lunch 'n Learn with RMSAWWA

Thomas has been talking with RMSAWWA and CWW about hosting a joint lunch 'n learn event. Diana and Nina have been working together and came up with the topic of water industry workforce development, diversity, and inclusion. Diana reached out to a speaker from the ACE conference and asked if she would be interested in presenting at the next Lunch 'n Learn. However, she may not work out as she is not an industry expert and instead just planned an activity.

Diana then reached out to a potential speaker at the [Chinook Fund](#) who works on diversity and inclusion but the contact does not know much about water industry. Diana asked that if the board has ideas or contacts to let her know. Ruth mentioned the recent newsletter article from Castle Rock which has a program of getting young people into the industry. Ruth suggested creating regional groups for workforce development. Diana said that this would be a great panel discussion to create more external conversations and spur action after the discussion. Thomas has been working with Sierra Club on this topic and has found that people want to be paid a lot of money to come and teach you about the topic. Instead, Castle Rock would be a great resource given their current program. Ruth suggested working with a university program as well. **Thomas will reach out to a CDPHE contact** about speaking. This Lunch 'n Learn is scheduled for December in Aurora with a \$10-15 fee for lunch.

State of Colorado Conservation Project

Diana doesn't have a big update on the project. Amy, who was the leader of the project, has taken a temporary leave from the board. Amy mentioned at the last meeting that the student helping out earlier this year had completed her portion of the project and left us with a working document. We recently learned that CWCB has some updates to the original data we were given which needs to be edited and incorporated. There will be a delay in creating a spreadsheet to provide to our membership because of the QA/QC and additional database work.

Ruth, Melissa and Diana have volunteered to help. We have about 600 utilities and still have a lot of gaps in accurate information. Thomas discussed that we need to decide what information to provide with this spreadsheet and we need to determine how frequently we will update this information. Diana also mentioned that Margo Fragola has agreed to help with the database, as well. Tyler asked how those accessing it would use this information. Diana discussed that it would be most helpful to small and medium sized utilities around what conservation programs are being implemented and the success of those programs across the state. Thomas added that we would be able to see an overview of conservation for the entire state. Brad confirmed that this data set is CWW's. Thomas said we should continue to have college students help with this and the potential updates. The board still needs to determine how often to update the information.

Dropbox

Lyndsey mentions that we are at our max storage limit for Dropbox and wanted to have a discussion on clean up or upgrading to a paid version with more storage space. Lyndsey asked if anyone else was having issues accessing the folders. Lyndsey has not looked at the pricing structure and Ruth mentioned that she paid \$99/year. Thomas asked how much space we currently have which was unknown. Lyndsey mentioned that we have many duplicate files and so clean up in probably needed. Katie asked if we use Dropbox and Google Drive. Diana mentioned that there is not much on Google Drive besides LLYLI information. Melissa said we currently have 2.21 GB of data in the folder. **Melissa will work on cleaning up the Dropbox folders for an hour. Alyssa will work on cleaning up the LLYLI folders of Google Drive.** Brad mentioned that he does not have access to the Dropbox. **Melissa will update and add new board members to the Dropbox.** Melissa mentioned who has access to Dropbox and that Frank is owner. **Lyndsey will work with Frank to transfer ownership of folder to the admin email address.**

Membership Update

Melissa discussed the templates that have been updated for membership purposes. We will be sending out the membership promotion email to prospects later this month. We have also been working on updating the renewal emails that are currently sent out. We are working to have a more streamlined process and have a unified look across all our emails.

Diana brought up that the any changes to LLYLI pricing should be voted upon by the board. More will be discussed later in the meeting.

Alyssa ran into Cindy Marshall at ACE earlier this week and asked if CWW was still around and was surprised to hear that Denver Water was not on the board. Cindy mentioned that there may be new interest from Denver Water. Alyssa mentioned that there is a new supervisor that might benefit from a meeting with some people. **Diana suggested setting up a meeting with the new employee that Alyssa mentioned.**

Thomas asked how CWW provides support to larger utilities. Ruth mentioned that the small and medium sized utilities probably get more value from membership and the larger utilities are there to support and help other utilities. Alyssa thinks we need to refocus and reengage with members that may have cancelled their membership. Tyler asked about updating the website to breakdown the mission better on the website homepage with mission to members and public. Thomas mentions that we have made good progress over the last 2 years. Ruth suggested talking more about this around budget time to include money for marketing and a mailer to send to the updated mailing list regarding membership. Katie mentioned that everyone on the board should be able to talk about the tools and benefits of CWW membership during conversations they come across. **Melissa will bring a bunch of membership handouts to next meeting.** Tyler asked about outreach organizations list outside of utilities to reach out to for membership. **Tyler will develop some website ideas to better explain membership goals and work with Diana to incorporate changes to website.**

Ruth asked if it would be beneficial to use one board meeting to discuss this topic in more detail and get some action items going. Tyler said it could be beneficial to have a facilitator at that meeting. Thomas mentioned getting a facilitator through CDPHE to have a brainstorming session with the board. **Thomas will make contact within CDPHE.** Tyler thinks 2 hours would be enough if we have some problem statements developed. Duration may be dictated once we discuss the scope with the facilitator. Lyndsey mentioned we need to make sure we have good attendance, possibly making it mandatory.

Annual Symposium Update

Melissa gave a short update. We currently have no nominations for the Gardener award. And we only have three Pecha Kucha submissions with space for five presenters. Lyndsey mentioned that Frank has an award nomination to submit. Eric Olson from Fort Collins and Brian Warner from Northern are submitting for the Pecha Kucha. **Melissa will send links to board for Pecha Kucha and Award nomination.** Thomas confirmed that Dena has agreed to co-emcee with Thomas.

LLYLI Update

Alyssa showed the flyer for the Bike4Water event happening August 3rd. **Alyssa will email the flyer to the board to distribute throughout their network and organization.** Campus cycles will be donating a cruiser bike as the grand prize. Melissa is in the process of sending out the event announcement email. Facebook events have also been created and should be shared by board members and/or utilities. Natalie has created a social media calendar over the next few weeks to promote the event and participating breweries. **Melissa will be adding information to the CWW website on the event.** Melissa recapped the brewery assignments for board member participation. Alyssa discussed that the Breckenridge Brewing location will have another big event going on that should create good attendance. Tyler asked what the expectations are for board members on promotion of the event. Melissa mentioned that it is recommended to share the event but not a requirement. Diana asked what type of messaging we will be sharing at the event. Melissa mentioned that each brewery has given us talking points for their location which we can share, and we can develop talking point for the public. Ruth asked about what giveaway materials we will have on hand for the event. We will have fact sheets, koozies and stickers and possibly flashing safety lights. The committee also discussed ordering table coverings but this has not been finalized. **Melissa will add this detail for the next Bike4Water call to get the promotional materials to the respective board members that are hosting prior to the event.** Melissa also mentioned that we will be reaching out to breweries about 2 weeks before the event and we will make sure whoever the representative is has all the information and materials prior to the event.

Alyssa brought up the revised partnership level changes. Came up with a two-tier structure – “Stream” half \$2,000 and “River” full \$3,500 toolkits. We need to determine if the board is okay with those changes. Lyndsey mentioned needing to see what goes into them and that we can discuss more on this topic next month.

Round Robin

- Nina has stepped down from the board and Katie will continue as the sole secretary for the remainder of the year. We will reassess this position next year to determine if we need two secretaries.
- Diana received a proposal for the Sustainable Denver Summit at which we staffed a sponsorship table at last year. Diana is proposing submitting a session to the program on behalf of CWW. Thomas said that the committee does not have a strong focus on water but if we are interested in helping than we can likely have a say in the topic and structure of what is presented. Ruth suggested doing a panel with all the tools we have and are working on. Thomas said that we can talk about what is going on in conservation across the Denver area. Lyndsey asked who attends. Thomas said that individuals, industry, businesses, government organizations, etc. attend the event and it has grown steadily each year. **Diana will spearhead that effort and reach out to the board.**
- Brad recapped the feedback and contact they made from the performance contracting webinar.
- Ruth's role has changed some and is working on more big picture projects and will be hiring a new person next year. She will be hammering non-potable and conservation project and buying water from within the city starting with the parks.
- Tyler wrapped up the Arbor Day Foundation project for the year and is now working with the Land Use Department updating the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan being released in 2020 for water and land use planning. Working on the Sonoran Institute Workshop application though Boulder County has a different approach as a county and not a water provider. Boulder County is also getting more involved in the South Platte and Metro Basin roundtables.
- Alyssa discussed a \$3 million sewer project to relocate outfall that is starting soon.
- Lyndsey mentioned their conservation garden fair was last Saturday with over 450 people attending seminars, workshops and demos. Northern Water partner's tour of the west slope is scheduled for Aug 1.
- Katie has been working on sustainable action plan for the city operations. City of Fountain is offering water and energy audits for those at 200% of the poverty line.
- Thomas is working on QWEL training application with the first class a few weeks ago. Centennial is moving to convert to AMI systems with positive response from their board. He is also working with the metro district to convert bluegrass to low water landscaping in parkways. Thomas is working on a bill for a single use plastic ban – includes bags, Styrofoam, straws, and possibly utensils. Also created a ballot initiative for a mini new green deal to increase funding for climate change budget within the City of Denver.
- Claire is working with high water user HOAs and getting them to a meeting to discuss ways to reduce water use. She is also working on a video project with water savvy individuals, businesses and HOAs. They are also working with a new development to get one of the model homes to have a xeriscape landscape.
- Diana had their first rain barrel workshop last night that was decently attended. She presented to Aurora's citizen water advisory committee on a commercial washer machine rebate concept.
- Eric discussed the project to calibrate the Budweiser meter recently. Eric has auditors out in the field for the season. He also has a GIS intern working on mapping irrigation heads for residents. Their Rachio pilot is in full swing and has 55 controllers deployed and working out some issues. Eric is working with two master's students that have developed soil moisture sensors that are \$8-20 each. They are installing them in golf courses and other locations to verify data on ET and soil moisture retention. Fort Collins is underway on the development of a new Ag and landscape testing event center in Fort Collins.

Wrap up and adjourn

Lyndsey adjourned the meeting at 12:12 PM.

Submitted by:
Melissa Brasfield