

Colorado WaterWise Board Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2023
Aurora Water
10 a.m. to noon

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

Board:

X	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
P	Diane Block	Colorado Springs Utilities	dblock@csu.org
X	Dylan King	Town of Erie	dking@erieco.gov
P	Elisabeth Bowman	Resource Central	ebowman@resourcecentral.org
X	Eric Olson	City of Fort Collins	eolson@fcgov.com
X	Jessica Thrasher	Colorado Stormwater Center	Jessica.Thrasher@colostate.edu
P	Katie Duke	City of Golden	KSchwaab@cityofgolden.net
X	Katie Helm	City of Fountain	khelm@fountaincolorado.org
X	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
X	Ruth Quade	City of Greeley	ruth.quade@greeleygov.com
	Thomas Riggle	Denver Public Schools	thomas_riggle@dpsk12.net
X	Tim York	Aurora Water	tyork@auroragov.org
X	Victoria Arling	WaterNow Alliance	va@aternow.org
P	Melissa Brasfield	CWW Board Contractor	admin@coloradowaterwise.org
P	Diellza Muriqi	CWW Board Contractor	associate@coloradowaterwise.org

Note: Quorum 60%: 11/19 board members

Guests:

Brian Bair – ET Irrigation

Call to Order

Alyssa called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM

Board Business and Action Items

- Introductions
- Approval of January Board Minutes. Laura motions, Ruth seconds. January minutes are approved.

Update on BMP Project

Diellza notes the consultant group has finalized the four dates for stakeholder meetings. All the invites have been sent to board members. Ideally board members would be able to attend one meeting – please do not sign up for more than one meeting. There are two for the front range – one virtual and one in-person. And two are for west slope – one virtual and one

in-person. We will also be sending out announcements to the CWW mailing list first then spreading the outreach out more broadly.

Courtney added AWRA Colorado chapter section would like CWW to present at their annual conference in April on the BMP guidebook. The consultant group should have a slide deck available with an update on the project. Courtney would be available to present at the conference. No one on the board expressed issue with presenting on the topic at the conference. **Abbye added a request to share the invite with your network to increase participation.**

Native Plant Guidebook

Lyndsey provided a recap of a meeting with Deryn Davidson and Catherine Moravek on the Native Grass Guide website. Two options were identified for the website hosting. The first is housing it on CSU website and horticulture staff would be the long-term upkeep for the site with a quarterly meeting with CWW to provide additional updates to the site. This option is a minimal cost since CSU has staff resources available. Option two is hosting it within CWW similar to the LLYLI website and getting additional support from partner organizations to cover costs for admin time.

Deryn is meeting again with CSU staff late-Feb. to further discuss the plan in more detail. CSU IT is going through some networking changes which might cause delays causing it to not work out, so we wanted to discuss the second option as well. Katie Duke mentioned Golden has been working with CSU to create a plant list guide. They noted they will be working on updating the guide in May. She asked if it would include firewise landscape plants. Lyndsey noted it is specific to native grasses through a CWCB grant application with a focus on native grasses and low water grasses but not a plant list. Jessica noted she has a plant list she is happy to share. She noted it is really a rain garden list but can work elsewhere.

Melissa noted this process is still dynamic, but CWCB was interested on the long-term maintenance approach and want to make sure there aren't concerns from the CWW board right now if option two becomes the primary option. Jessica asked what the price difference is. Lyndsey isn't sure for option 1 because CSU is still working on it and option 2 would be about \$1,000 per year (which is about what we pay for the LLYLI website annual maintenance). No concerns from the board initially. Someone asked when the manual will be final. Lyndsey noted the draft is complete but not sure about the final completion date for the guide. LLYLI confirmed this is a totally separate site not something that is embedded into the CWW or LLYLI website. Lyndsey confirmed this is a separate site but would still be able to have CWW branding on the site.

Spanish Translation and priorities

Alyssa is bringing this discussion up because translation services is a priority for the board to increase equity and inclusion across what we do with events and materials. The LLYLI committee had a discussion about translations and how there are certain ways to target the materials to be visible to the right people. Alyssa is wanting to make sure we are targeting materials correctly and money is being well spent. Brad noted we have done a lot for webinars and LLYLI materials and curious if there are things we can be doing more of. Abbye asked if we have data on use for the Spanish materials and resources. Alyssa said we are going to be doing some outreach to organizations to see how much they are using the Spanish materials.

Diellza shared information on ADEI about project implicit to identify implicit biases. She discussed an online quiz which helps identify implicit biases you may have. It was discussed that all the board members should make an effort to take this quiz to learn more about the implicit biases to be more aware of this and how it factors into the work we do. **Diellza will send a link to the board to complete the quiz and some additional information.**

Jessica Thrasher discussed the Spanish track at ProGreen. There were over 200 Spanish speaking community members attending. She noticed having Spanish speakers adds an additional layer to the event effort. Jessica noted we should be doing additional targeted outreach by creating partnerships. Jessica also recommends doing additional outreach to partners about what is needed. COCal is a predominantly Spanish speaking landscape organization and may be a good place to start. There may be a way to add a track to the Symposium that is focused a Spanish speaking audience. Eric noted IA would be another good resource to talk to about getting information out. Ruth noted we could also work with the education events committee to plan a webinar on how organizations can be more effective in their Spanish efforts. Alyssa noted the LLYLI committee is also working on hosting a webinar specific to LLYLI toolkit and trying to find some organizations that are actively using the Spanish materials that we could share during that event. Jessica added that it would be great to have the Native Grass Guide translated to Spanish and it would also be good to have the DEI committee which Jessica would be happy to

spearhead. Jessica also encouraged adding a Spanish page to the website with targeted information. Abbye noted there is an equity taskforce within CWCB that could be a good resource to tap into. Jessica added a plug for the upcoming webinar in February on equity and added that there are additional webinars and topics upcoming from the education events committee. Alyssa added that this discussion is also applicable to adding geographic diversity within the organization. Katie added that if we want to add a DEI as a formal committee we would need additional information on goals, budget needed, etc. to get a board approval for the creation of the committee. **Jessica will pull information to share about the creation of a new committee for diversity/equity.**

Fundraising Committee

Melissa reminded everyone about what the committee has been working on since starting the committee. The committee thought it would be good to get some feedback and direction from the entire board on some ideas the committee has put together. Ruth & Laura posted in the room for those in person two sheets of paper with lists of ideas for items to raise additional funds and opportunities for how we can use that additional money. Each person will get 5 stickers for each sheet (a total of 10) to vote and you can vote with multiple stickers on a single idea if you feel strongly about that. Ruth sent the voting sheet to those virtually to complete online and email back to Melissa. Melissa noted we will not be discussing the results of this exercise today but the information will go back for the fundraising committee to discuss then the committee will report out during an upcoming board meeting. The group worked through the exercise for about 10 minutes.

Strategic Planning Session Review and 2023 Goals update

Alyssa recapped the strategic planning process that the board went through in the past and that the management team realized we are not due for an update for another year. However, we will still review the document and make sure there aren't any initial edits to be made. Ruth added that the process we did most recently in 2019/2020 was a pretty significant change for the CWW Mission and Vision statements. Katie shared the screen with the document. Alyssa guided the board through the document. There was some discussion around if this document is on the website. It was noted the document itself is on the About page of the website and the Mission, Vision, and larger Strategic Goals are listed on the website but the objectives are not listed out on the website page itself. Laura asked if we have done any comparison to CWCB listings. Quint added that there is also a list of all the permitted water agencies. Melissa noted we have in the past done extensive prospective member outreach and at one point used the CWCB 1051 database but acknowledged this does not cover all utility sizes across the state. Melissa also noted that membership committee is working on a prospective outreach campaign and should be able to share some initial information at the March board meeting. There may be a need from board members to help send personalized emails if there is a contact on the list that someone has a relationship with.

Round Robin

- Fort Collins is sending mass emails to customers about conservation program opportunities. They are also emailing customers reminding them to turn their irrigation controllers on/off prior to rain events. They are also pushing for more professional certification with irrigation professionals.
- Jessica just completed Stormwater Control matrix across the entire state. It is now available online and is fully translated and able to register next week. There are 30 free seats available for Spanish speakers. Continuing residential raingarden install program this spring. One of her staff is growing some native plants in the greenhouse to help with sourcing plant varieties. Planting layouts with substitution lists are available on the website for the public. She also just applied to a grant through the SPUR campus to build a rain garden kits.
- Dylan is working to get their programs up and running for the year. They have filled Tyler's previous position.
- Katie Duke just posted a water conservation coordinator which is brand new position for the City. They are also presenting final drought plan to council in April. Looking at a turf replacement program. Katie will also be reaching out to the board to gather information on conservation programs and metrics used.
- Elisabeth noted Resource Central is gearing up for their webinars and summer programs. They hired a research fellow to look at documenting actual water savings for Garden in a box. They are revamping the Slow the Flow report to be more statistically rigorous.
- Lyndsey noted the IA classes are up and running on the website.
- Laura asked if the BMP will be standardizing metrics for water savings. Working to revamping water efficiency plan. They also recently released videos on value of water.

- Ruth noted they just had their landscape codes passed by the City Council. They are also rebating landscape contractor certifications.
- Tim noted their watering restrictions will be starting due to supply shortages. They are hiring 17 summer interns. They are also now under the Water Resource division. Their programs are largely staying the same this year.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Submitted by: Melissa Brasfield