

# Colorado WaterWise Board Meeting MINUTES

Z: Called-in via Zoom

X: Attended in-person

## Thursday, April 11, 2024

## Northern Water

## 10 a.m. to noon

Board:

X Abbye Neel Brendle Group aneel@brendlegroup.com

X Alyssa Quinn Platte Canyon W&S District alquinn@plattecanyon.org

Z Austin Krcmarik Denver Water Austin.Krcmarik@denverwater.org

Brad Brady Yearout Energy Solutions brad.brady@yearoutenergy.com

Z Courtney Black Intera CBlack@intera.com

Z Diane Block Colorado Springs Utilities dblock@csu.org

X Dylan King Town of Erie dking@erieco.gov

X Elisabeth Bowman Resource Central ebowman@resourcecentral.org

X Katie Duke City of Golden KSchwaab@cityofgolden.net

X Katie Helm City of Fountain khelm@fountaincolorado.org

Kelly Gordon Fort Collins Utilities kgordon@fcgov.com

Z Laura Wing City of Thornton laura.wing@cityofthornton.net

Z Lindsay Rogers Western Resource Advocates lindsay.rogers@westernresources.org

X 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 Tim York Aurora Water tyork@auroragov.org

X Victoria Arling WaterNow Alliance va@waternow.org

Z Melissa Brasfield CWW Board Contractor admin@coloradowaterwise.org

Diellza Muriqi CWW Volunteer [associate@coloradowaterwise.org](mailto:associate@coloradowaterwise.org)

Z Sheridan Thomason CWW Board Contractor Sheridan@brasfieldcommunications.com

**Note: Quorum 60%: 11/18 Board members**

**Guests:**

* Austin Krcmarik (Denver Water)
  + Approved CWW Board member during meeting
* Lance Ackerman (Colorado Springs Utilities)
* Catherine Moravec (Colorado Springs Utilities)
* Peter Mayer (Alliance for Water Efficiency)

**Call to Order** (Co-Chairs)

Alyssa called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM

**Board Business and Action Items**

* Introductions
* Approval of March Board Minutes.
  + Elisabeth motions; Tim seconds. March minutes are approved

**Voting Item: Board Member Application, Austin Krcmarik, Denver Water**

* Discussion: It would be great to have a Denver representative on the Board (many agreements.)
* Alyssa: Austin is fantastic, super involved, will bring a lot of knowledge to CWW Board
* Ruth motions, and Katie Duke seconds
  + Motion passes: Austin is approved as the newest CWW Board member
    - Alyssa & Ruth will connect with Austin re: next steps and welcome package

**Symposium Location & Date Update** (Katie & Melissa)

* Location change
  + Different factors attributed to venue location decision (ease of parking, break-out rooms, affordability/budget, space to have sponsors in the main room with attendees)
    - PPA was chosen originally but
      * Communication with PPA venue was exceptionally challenging
      * The committee received other concerns about PPA as a venue
  + Marriott Westminster is the new location
    - With new date 09/05/24
      * Committee/Melissa will update the timeline
      * Larger capacity/more potential for increased attendance
  + More abstracts
    - 24 submissions from multitude of organizations/locations represented
      * Will comb through at next Symposium meeting
      * Potential to support 2 break-out rooms
  + The committee updated the sponsorship levels
    - Mainly additional registrations to the platinum level (6 total)
    - This current iteration of sponsorships will be the standard moving forward
  + Save the date finalized
  + Email will go out on 4/11/24
  + Symposium registration will open June (3rd possibly)
  + Student scholarships
    - Setting money aside to allow more student attendance
  + Ask: promote the symposium through Board members’ networks
    - Save the date graphic available soon
    - Promote at SHED
    - Promote through Board members’ newsletters network
    - Save the date graphics will be on CWW’s Dropbox
    - Board push Symposium sponsorships through networks
      * More space available for more attendees (400 people capacity)

**Native Grass Working Group Update** (Catherine Moravec)

* Continue to work with Vermillion on designing and building the website
  + 4 phases: Discovery, Architect Website, Design Website, Develop Website
    - Completed Discovery and Architect website
    - Currently in the last phases of Design
    - Development stage is next
      * Populating the content
  + Approval for invoices 1 and 2
  + Have enough money to complete the project
    - But with approval by the Board there are some enhancements
      * Looking for more funding
      * Target $15-20k worth of extra would add additional levels of professionalism
        + Reaching out to partner agencies for extra funds
      * 3-5 years of maintenance of the site
        + Endowment and security for professionalism
* Workgroup within CWW
  + Once website is populated with content
    - Will need to support and update the content going forward
      * Meet quarterly
    - Every 6 months, the Guide PDF will be revised
* Proposal for additional tools/manuals (possible CWW Tools Committee)
  + Alternative turf replacement tool
  + Manual on irrigation efficiencies
  + Board discussion- hesitancy to add more guidebooks; perhaps redundant
* Discussion about offering Spanish translations
  + Educational Events Committee’s budget could possibly fund this
  + Catherine- best use of resources translate contractor training
    - Considering the monthly meetings on Native Grasses are dynamic and changing
    - Possibly revisit in several months
* Timeline
  + Website finished – July
  + Content populated/subcommittee– End of year

**BP Guidebook Update** (Abbye and Peter Mayer) (44.50-time stamp)

* The Guidebook pdf was emailed to the Board
  + This Guidebook is the result of a 3-year immense effort.
    - Including 2 grant proposals to the Colorado Water Conservation Board and The Colorado River Board to consider
    - CWW’s efforts and resources
    - internal work
    - 6 stakeholder meetings
    - Brendle producing a finished, polished report
  + No discussion other then appreciation for Peter and his team
* Request to approve the final Guidebook pdf
* Motion to approve the final Guidebook: Elisabeth motions, Ruth seconds, Abbye abstains
* Ongoing projects with the guidebook
  + Webify the pdf (interactive pdf)
    - BP on the website to be dynamic and updatable
    - Integrated into Wild Apricot
    - Budgeted $25k
* Proposal for Website Management
  + Task 1: Project Management
    - Request to work with CWW’s Digital Committee directly
  + Task 2: Interactive PDF document
    - Interactive graphics
    - Website will be ADA compliant (hover over image to text)
  + Task 3: Website Development
    - Web page development
      * Wireframe built out with potential pages
        + Simplify PDF and add to pages
        + 7 Best Practices/ 7 sections
        + Max number of pages 24
      * Cost Proposal
        + $18,006
        + Logistically: Board gives go ahead
        + Invoicing to stay the same
* The update will be ready this week
  + Make sure it’s copyrighted (there is a page at the beginning of doc, should be all that is required)
  + Valuable IP
  + The new link needs to be shared with CWCB
* Request an article to be written for CWW’s May Newsletter
  + Peter will (part of scope)

**Voting Item: Update to Handbook Language on Tardiness Policy**

* The current handbook language is: “Each Board member must attend at least nine (9) Board meetings by phone, virtual, or in person per year”
* Request to change the wording in the handbook to add “for the duration of the meeting”
  + Tim motions, Victoria seconds, Austin abstains
  + Motion passes
  + Alyssa will email Melissa the update to the handbook language

**CWW Policy on Letters of Support / Formal Positions**

* Discussion about whether CWW can support bills/policies
  + Had to look through years of emails
  + Previously settled, CWW can write letters of support but CWW members can abstain from the vote
  + Request to put some language into the handbook
    - Which would be documented in public via Board meeting minutes
    - Katie Helm - Background
      * We are individuals but also represent individual organizations; we do not have multiple members from the same organization
      * It would be a shame for CWW not to support the policy since the organizations and talent would be a great support for a bill
    - Lyndsey concern - Northern pays for board members and for her work on the committee
      * Most members are supported by their organizations on the CWW Board
    - Quint - If people are voting representing their organizations, you are obliged to vote for that org
      * We are individuals, but the Board is formatted to support Board members organizations
    - “This could be very complicated”
    - Katie Helm - We should not do letters of support
    - Alyssa - if we are not going to do it, we are not going to do it for anyone
      * Hardline of “No Letters of Support”
      * Or “We Will Vote, and individual Board Members with conflict or not having their organization support abstain from the vote of the Letter of Support
    - Chairs - The Board should continue to discuss
    - Alyssa - “The management team should write something up for the Board to consider (either next or two meetings from now)”
      * Elisabeth volunteered to help craft the language based on co-chair's bulleted list or concepts
    - Lindsay - thinks we should use the opportunity of the powerful voice that CWW can offer.
    - Abbye - what is the purpose of our Board?
      * Is this in scope? Are we an advocacy org?
    - Lindsay Rogers and Katie Duke both would like to keep the door open to potentially supporting legislation

**Voting Item: CWW Support for HB24-1178**

* Based on the discussion above and individual Board members can offer their support for the legislation

**Water Education & Career Fair Debrief** (Victoria and Diellza)

* Career fair at CSU
* Outreach to students
  + Will send follow up emails

**Educational Events Update** (Lindsay)

* First Webinar 2/27/24
  + Key Findings from Colorado’s Urban Landscape Task Force
    - 117 attendees
* Second/Next Webinar 4/15/24
  + The Ins and Outs of Water Supply Demand
* Upcoming Events (Register separately for the tours)
  + July Board Meeting and Tour at Denver Water HQ
  + August Board Meeting and Tour at SPUR Campus
    - Quint will host a tour of the Green Roof Facility
* Ruth brought up the potential of using some Symposium abstracts for future Educational Events

**LLYLI Webinar** (Alyssa)

* It went well; 20 attendees
  + The City of Lafayette signed up to use LLYLI materials

**LLYLI Committee Update** (Alyssa)

* Question to the Board – How to approach the Basins and Roundtables if they were to become a LLYLI member but under a reduced package? Further discussion in the different CWW committees (LLYLI and Membership Committees)
  + Background
    - Julia from Colorado Springs Utilities reached out; she signed the use agreement to use LLYLI but not as Colorado Springs Utilities but as The South Platte Basin Roundtable
    - In the past CWW has worked with Julia and Casey 2020
  + Lindsay – Agree it would be great for BRTs to use LLYLI
    - Possibly pay for basic membership but get full access to LLYLI
  + Abbye – Asked if South Platte is the only basin that has reach out
  + Katie Duke – Has a contact at Rio Grande Basin and has been sending material from CC. She thinks they have interest in LLYLI
  + Quint – This could be an opportunity to get more memberships, an opportunity for CWW to get in early on developing semi-rural districts. Come up with state policy
  + Katie Helm – It would be great if we could make LLYLI materials more affordable for basins and round tables. There is a market, we know it exists. There is talk about collaboration between the Round Tables/Basins
  + Katie Duke – Possibly we could have a subcommittee on Round Table/ Basin memberships
  + Continued discussion – send email to Alyssa or Katie Helm

**Round Robin**

* Katie Duke—CWCB is not able to host the Drought Communications materials on its website because it does not own them.
* Possibly host on Denver Water’s website or CWW’s website (further discussion about duplicate efforts, at a future Board meeting)

**Next meeting: May 9th in Colorado Springs**

**Wrap-Up and Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Submitted by: Sheridan Thomason