



BOULDER WATERSHED COLLECTIVE

Board Meeting Notes

August 9, 2023 from 12:30-2:00PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88187581378?pwd=eGdxUFRGcW9MUjIzUGd3SGJIMFBzUT09>

Attendees: Maya MacHamer, Cat Price, Kim Lennberg, Eric Kennedy, Joe Middleton, Kirin Riddell, Kelsey Lesniak, Catherine Schloegel, Stefan Reinold, Kate Ryan

- I. Board Meeting Management
 - a. Approval of July meeting minutes
 - i. Motion to approve: Catherine Schloegel
 - ii. Second: Kate Ryan
 - b. Next meeting: September 13, 2023
 - i. In-person at TNC Offices
2. Financial Review
 - a. Review Financial Reports
 - i. Positive in account, with another reimbursement coming.
 - b. Review Checks for Approval
 - i. Motion to approve: Stefan Reinold
 - ii. Second: Catherine Schloegel
 - c. Onboarding Accounting Firm
 - i. More complex grants / projects, we've hired Visera.
 1. Redesigning QuickBooks to be able to share grants with reports for each separate grants. Much more clear / transparent.
 2. Kelly will step down.
3. Staffing Developments
 - a. Two new hires to start this fall!
 - b. Forester: Sept 5th start date. Currently employed by a partner org, so not sharing name right now, but excited to find someone that is local, in the industry and already understands the environment we're working in.
 - c. Watershed Program Specialist: Preston Brown. Starting at the end of November. Meadow, beaver, other water-oriented projects, water quality sampling, etc. Has relevant experience. Bringing lots of relevant work from California.



- d. Growing capacity that will make things feel less crazy and allow for more work to get done.
 - e. Already have funding for both of those positions.
 - i. Kim Lennberg: How long are these positions funded?
 - 1. Forester is part of the IA funding – 5 year period.
 - 2. Google funding is paying for half of the watershed position and that current contract is for 2 years with the understanding that that is a good chance to be extended for at least 1 more year, so 3 years total. Will supplement the other 50% with CWCB funding / other.
 - ii. Catherine Schloegel: Board seems to be very important in mentoring staff positions, especially the Forest Service. Kim, Kate, lots of expertise here, so let us know if there's any way we can help.
 - iii. Maya: Would love to call on you all to round out a more broad program offering – seed collection, non-fire mitigation projects, etc.
 - iv. Kelsey: Having convos with Meg Halford to create a forester working group to get all the folks in the game / local partners to be all on the same page: same terminology, same measurements, etc. In development right now, so that will be helpful / increase efficiency.
 - v. Maya: We've spent the last few years in development, planning, securing funding, and now transitioning into implementation, which is a different realm. Collectively we have little skill in oversight of large-scale contractor projects. Want to make sure we're implementing these projects well and not just piling on the new projects.
4. CWPP Updates – Kirin Riddell
- a. Participating on four core teams for local CWPP updates: Boulder County, Mountain View, Nederland-Timberline, Coal Creek Canyon.
 - i. Coal Creek CWPP: Mixture of three different counties, alert systems, regulations. The CWPP update is going amazingly well. They haven't experienced large wildfire or mitigation in their district, so interesting community to work with because they are very high risk, steep slopes, dense forests, minimal egress, dense population, difficult small parcels, but VERY motivated population. Local nonprofit organizations are spearheading the engagement. Super well attended meetings / engagement activities. Bottom up, community driven initiatives.
 - 1. Tying this one together with Ned Timberline one since they share a border. Using the same consultant, Ember Alliance, so combining the modeling for the whole area. One efficiency we were able to find.
 - 2. Only worry I have is that we're going to have all these projects that come out of it, but won't have enough implementation capacity since everyone will be slammed, but we'll see. Very positive overall.



- ii. Nederland Timberline CWPP: Leading the community engagement piece. Completed an MENV project last year, continuing with that effort now. Held a kick-off meeting last week, then will move into public participatory mapping via focus groups based on the planning units for the CWPP. Community input in a geospatial form to be overlaid with core team layers/maps to inform prioritization. That's important in order to reflect community values in the prioritization phase. Consultant (Ember Alliance) is in the data analysis phase, so moving along there.
- iii. Boulder County CWPP: Contracted SWCA as their consultant. Year-long timeframe so will be finished next August 2024. Currently in early stages. Kirin sitting on the communications subcommittee for that one. Holding open houses as the engagement method - multiple over the next few months. Data collection is in the early stages.
- iv. Mountain View: Participating on core team. Fast track timeline. Hoping to have that one wrapped up by Nov/Dec of this year. Data is already in. Modeling has taken place. Core Team is creating/prioritizing action items.
- v. These CWPP efforts have been intensive for community and partners. Hope we're not burning out the community with all the engagement and planning. This is the process though, so it is what it is. Being very collaborative with community and between teams to avoid duplication of efforts.
- vi. Kelsey: Hopefully we'll have an easier go at it when we have to do this all over again in the next 5 years. Should be an easier lift then.

5. Meadow Assessment Project Updates – Kim Lennberg

- a. Project that started in early spring.
- b. Goal is to assess health and function of meadows in the upper watershed.
 - i. Functioning for health ecosystems, but also for post fire impacts and community/infrastructure protection.
- c. Additional goal to create a repeatable protocol for assessing function and develop a checklist for meadows to inform decisions about potential need for restoration / use.
- d. Scope also includes prioritizing 5-7 sites, then conducting the assessments and refining/adapting based on the field work.
- e. Partnered with Juli Scamardo and Sarah Marshall (Colorado Natural Heritage Program).
- f. Juli primarily worked on the checklist – previously worked with Ellen Wohl – used that work as a basis and refined it for this project specifically.
- g. Sarah Marshall has worked extensively on the assessment protocol. Make it the best for the Boulder Watershed as we could. In the process of field testing.
- h. Site Prioritization: Used results from project completed by Katie Jagt – Watershed Science and Design – Sediment Source and Storage Study. Pockets within the watershed that are natural sediment deposition areas OR could



become that with help of meadow restoration. Energy and Sediment sponges for flows post-fire. Especially if they are upstream of a community.

i. Storymap from Katie:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a76eaa904aaa4c0f87feee151d36794c>

- i. Identified 44 locations of sediment storage – green polygons on the map.
- ii. These were a good start to check out for meadows that are good or impaired so that we can help come up with ideas of how to improve or restore function.
- iii. Kim used those to create a prioritization spreadsheet with all sorts of categorization / details about the site. Using all of that info, divided those into specific priorities. Aiming for 5-7, but came up with 18!
- iv. Been in the field 3-4 times so far, moving faster than originally thought. Not doing the full assessment each time, just doing some picked-and-chosen field testing based on certain aspects.
- v. Seen some good ones, seen some that need help, made some new contacts with landowners. Been inspiring so far.
- vi. One notable thing we've recently started doing – Site Assessment Summaries – been giving these to landowners and they are loving them. Includes a map, narrative info, general observations, and brainstorm on potential recommendations. By no means a design, but a good starting point for discussion.
 - I. Really cool thing included that Sarah Marshall has done: she develops a walking species list – identifying all the vegetation she sees, then takes this data back to a database in her office that teases a ton of info out about each and gives you a determination about if the plants in that meadow are more associated with human-altered wetlands or natural, unaltered wetlands!
- vii. This work is also loosely tied to the Google work, since we're looking for the low tech options / beaver relocation characteristics of sites.
- viii. Kirin adds: we're also submitting a proposal for the CWCB Wildfire Ready Communities. This project would definitely build from this work in a big way.
- ix. Catherine: are you looking at how aspens, cottonwoods, other, are being impacted by grazing and ungulates.
 - I. Yes – big part of the assessments. Browsing height is definitely apparent and being taken into account during the assessments.

6. Walk-On Discussion

- a. [Sunset Trail Running Festival](#) on August 20th.
 - i. Benefitting local fire mitigation / forest health work.
- b. Fourmile Community Flood Anniversary Event
 - i. Details TBD.
- c. Harvest Box Fundraiser
 - i. Advertising in Boulder Lifestyle Magazine.



- ii. Mid/late October.
- iii. In planning for that now.
- d. CRA Social in Ft Collins on August 23rd – 430 – 7PM
 - i. 10 year anniversary of the front range flood
 - ii. Maya will be a speaker + other watershed coordinators. CWCB Flood recovery teams. Others.
 - iii. Very informal – trip down memory lane, what’s been happening, hopes and dreams for future. Fun social event.
- e. Eric Kennedy – professional update:
 - i. Transitioning into a full time role at Four Mile Fire Protection District. Will be taking over community planning / implementation of intergovernmental meetings – CWPPs – etc.
 - ii. Starting full time this fall – will be much more involved.

Adjourned at 1:15PM.