

Hello Burton Community!

Below are a few important updates from the Burton Water Cooperative Board about recent events for the Cooperative.

- **Letter of Intent (LOI) Signed!** After a couple of iterations and series of communication with the Sellers, we have a fully executed LOI. This is a big achievement. The LOI spells out the basic outline of the deal and provides a foundation for a more formal (and binding) Purchase and Sale Agreement (P&SA), which is in process of being prepared by our attorney. A couple of important items from the LOI: the purchase price is \$1.2M and the timeline for the co-op to secure financing is 180 days from execution of the P&SA (with the option for four 1-month extensions) to be followed by Member approval and required regulatory approval by the State Utility and Trade Commission. That means that We - the Board and all Committees - are going to be in full 'Go' mode - we'll be ramping up activities to get all of the many pieces in place for the acquisition and financing to happen. And there's a lot to do. We'll communicate more as we flesh out the work plan but know that we'll be busy. If you would like to review the LOI, please ask for a copy of it by emailing info@burtonwater.org
- **Fundraising Goal Met!** We asked, the community responded. We have now received individual loans from members of the community totaling more than \$71,000. Fifty one community members provided loans ranging in size from \$100 to \$10,000. Every single one helped to get us to our goal (A list of awesome supporters can be seen at the following link: https://www.burtonwater.org/media/Contributor_List_220910.pdf). That, combined with the \$5k from the NWDC and the \$25k from the State Legislature, gives us the \$100k that we had anticipated for our need to secure financing and get us to the 'sign here' finish line with the acquisition. Thank you to all those who have stepped up to help us get the important - and not free - contracted work done between now and closing.
- **We extend a special Thank You to Don Furman** whose expertise in utility regulation, mergers and acquisitions, commodity trading, and policy has been so crucial to the initial phase of our work. He contributed immensely to our initial valuations, the Letter of Intent, and our knowledge of addressing regulatory requirements. Don resigned from the Board and his committee work for personal reasons, so we are looking to fill a few roles: (1) an open Board position, (2) Board Treasurer, and (3) Finance Committee Chair. Those roles could be filled by one or multiple people. The Board is working on a process to fill those roles. If you would like to nominate someone (including yourself) for one/some/all of those roles, please reach out (before the end of September) to one of the Board members (William, Chuck, Lisa, Dawn, James, Ben) or write to info@burtonwater.org. We will be able to provide an overview of what to expect when joining the Board as well as the kinds of background and collaborative skills we're seeking for a seat on the Board.
- **More Help.** First, we are lining up additional help for a couple key pieces moving forward (project management and accounting) but we are also looking for more volunteer help from the community to help with the committee work to come over the next 6+ months.
 - **Project Management:** we are pleased to say that Burton resident (and co-op member) Cailen O'Brien has volunteered to start helping the Board with Project Management. Cailen has strong professional experience as a PM and is eager to start assisting the co-op with coordinating completion of the many tasks ahead. He is in the process of sitting down with the Board members to get up to speed with where we're at and will be attending committee meetings to get introduced and meet you all soon.
 - **Financial Management:** we are in the process of engaging a local bookkeeper to assist us with the tasks related to appropriate record keeping for all Co-op funds and expenses. In addition, we are getting set up with QuickBooks accounting software. Special thanks to Burton resident, co-op member, and CPA Kevin Strel for set up, technical assistance, and assistance with monitoring.
 - **Call to Action:** with the myriad tasks that are in front of us prior to closing the deal in ~6 months, we're going to need strong community support. If you have the availability, please continue to be engaged with the committees - your help is needed. If you are interested and have some availability, please consider engaging with one of the committees - Finance, Governance, Operations, Membership - your help is needed. Email us at info@burtonwater.org to get involved.
- **We Need Your Joining Agreements!** Becoming a member of the Burton Water Co-op gives you voting and participation rights. Having high membership is also critical for the co-op in securing the planned financing and also approval of the acquisition from the State Utilities and Transportation Committee. If you have not submitted the Joining/Participation Agreement and paid the \$5 joining fee, you can do so on the co-op website (pay at <https://www.burtonwater.org> and complete the agreement which you can download at the same location) or pick one up at the Burton Store and return it to the box at the Co-op kiosk just inside the door.

Thank you for your attention. We will provide additional updates over the next few months.

Your Burton Water Cooperative Membership Committee and Board