



Date: January 22, 2026
Time: 5:00 – 7:00 PM (PUBLIC MEETING) 7:00 – 8:00 PM (EXECUTIVE SESSION)
Location: Larimer County Longview Health Services Building 2260 W. Trilby Road, Fort Collins 80526 – Goldfinch/Sparrow Room & Zoom Webinar
Contact: Andrea Weber, Senior Administrative Specialist, weberan@co.larimer.co.us, 970-619-4462

Open Lands Advisory Board & Parks Advisory Board Minutes

OLAB MEMBERS		PAB MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Jim Wurz	I	Rob Harris	I	Daylan Figgs	I	
Debbie Hayhow	I	Joe Bakel	A	Meegan Flenniken	I	
Gale Bernhardt	V	Kathy Maher	V	Chris Fleming	I	
Wes Knoll	A	Jeannie Mounts	V	*Jody Shadduck-McNally	I	
Gary Miller	V	Andy Te Slaa	I	*John Kefalas	A	
Ward Nelson	I	Adam Crossan	A	Zac Wiebe	I	
Mike Carter	V	Pete Blume	V	Justin Core	I	
Ellis Carpenter	I	Bill Prater	A	Andrea Weber (minutes)	I	
Mike Roccanti	I	Kristina Kachur Webb	I	Lily Higgins	I	
		Ruthie Rollins	V	Danielle Reimanis	I	
				Lesli Ellis	V	
				Jennifer Almstead	I	

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:00 pm

Agenda Review (5:00 – 5:05 pm)

Review and Approval of the Minutes (5:05 – 5:10 pm)

Rob moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Jim seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Board of Commissioners Report (5:10 – 5:15 pm)

1. Board of County Commissioners Report
 - a. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally discussed the urgent need to address the pine beetle outbreak, highlighting its exponential growth due to climate change and its impact on the Front Range. She encouraged the public to watch a BCC Work Session from Wednesday, January 21st, to learn more about the issue.

Information and Announcements (5:15 – 5:20 pm)

1. Natural Resources events for this month: <https://larimer.org/naturalresources>.

2. To sign up for Open Lands Advisory Board and Parks Advisory Board updates, go to <https://apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click "Subscribe," and check the "Open Lands Advisory Board" and the "Parks Advisory Board" boxes.
3. September, October, November Tax Distribution Letters
4. News Release: Bison Herd
5. News Release: 30 Years of Conservation

Discussion Items (5:20 – 6:40 pm)

1. Process to combine OLAB and PAB into a single Natural Resources Department board - draft board bylaws and work plan (20 min)
 - a. As a result of the upcoming consolidation of the OLAB and PAB into a single Natural Resources Advisory Board, effective February 1, as directed by the Board of County Commissioners, the board plans to resize through natural attrition over the next few years, targeting 9–15 members while continuing elections each July. They will alternate the board chair position between Gale and Kristina.
 - b. Bylaws and a work plan are being drafted and will follow the required adoption process.
 - c. The board reviewed plans for a new approach to the master plan, which will focus more on operational decision-making rather than just capital investments and will include a revised strategy for land conservation and future recreational interests.
2. Larimer County Transfer of Development Rights Program – Danielle Reimanis (15 min)
 - a. Danielle introduced a new Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program for Larimer County, describing it as a tool to complement conservation easements by allowing development rights to shift from sensitive or agricultural lands to more suitable urban areas. The program would be managed by the county through a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, with support from a consulting team.
 - b. Danielle explained that the program would focus on private land exchanges. The program development is structured around four phases: project management, program development and drafting, public review, and adoption by the Board of County Commissioners. Key considerations include water rights, infrastructure alignment, and balancing preservation with growth and affordable housing.
 - c. Discussion focused on how the program could incentivize developers through increased density in designated receiving areas, such as Fort Collins, Loveland, Wellington, and Estes Park, while sending areas could include undeveloped natural lands and agricultural lands. Concerns about neighborhood impacts and public process were noted, with clarification that participation would be voluntary for municipalities and all projects would still require public hearings and county approval.
 - d. Past examples, including the Fossil Creek program and successful TDR models in New York City and Aspen, were briefly referenced as examples of land preservation strategies
3. Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Review/Update – Lily Higgins (15 min)
 - a. Lily presented an overview and update on Larimer County's Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) work at six inspection ramps/stations, performing ~38,000 inspections this year. She highlighted partnerships with the Bureau of Reclamation and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and reviewed inspection procedures, training programs, and recent inspection numbers at Horsetooth and Carter Lake reservoirs.
 - b. She noted the new on-demand decontamination system at South Bay Horsetooth, which has improved efficiency and user experience. Notably, interceptions of infested boats at LC sites are significantly down, likely due to the state's border inspection stations being established.
4. 2026 Small Grants Award Recommendations – Jenn Almstead (10 min)
 - a. Jenn Almstead presented the 2026 Small Grant award recommendations, highlighting seven projects recommended for funding totaling over \$24,000. The proposed projects focus on projects/programs such as community river floats, environmental learning, permaculture, and educational signage.
 - b. The committee consisted of two OLAB board members and two DNR staff. The group discussed the scoring process, which used objective criteria to evaluate applications.

Action Items (Open Lands Advisory Board) (6:40 – 6:45 pm)

1. Approval of Small Grant Awards (5 min)
 - a. Ward made a motion to approve funding for the seven (7) Small Grants applications totaling \$24,771. Jim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items (Parks Advisory Board)

Department Key Updates (6:45 – 7:00 pm)

1. Key Department Updates
 - a. Meegan shared progress on multiple capital projects, including completion of both the Canyon Edge OS road removal and the Inlet Bay Bank Stabilization project.
 - b. Updates were also given on the Poudre Trail development, with a public celebration planned for June.
 - c. Staffing changes were noted, including the departure of Casey Cisneros and the hiring of a new Land Stewardship Manager, Kelly Pruitt.
 - d. Chris shared the new regulations brochure.
 - e. Updates were provided on recent mountain lion activity, which led to the temporary closure of Horsetooth Mountain and increased coordination with CPW to ensure public safety.
 - f. Daylan shared ongoing concerns about pine beetle infestations and forest health, highlighting the need for forest restoration and increased species diversity.

Other Business

Next Meeting Scheduled

February 26th, 2026 – Larimer County Longview Health Services Building 2260 W. Trilby Road, Fort Collins 80526 – Goldfinch/Sparrow Room & Zoom Webinar

Executive Session

Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest.

Adjournment – 6:52 pm

Larimer County's Department of Natural Resources Vision, Mission, and Values: Healthy Landscapes, Healthy People; Connect People, Nature, and Place; Pursue Excellence, Act with Integrity, Trust, & Respect, Focus on Collective Good, Commit to Staff Well-Being, Demonstrate Courageous Leadership.

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Larimer County will provide a reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with a disability who need assistance. Services can be arranged with at least seven (7) business days' notice. Please email us at weberan@co.larimer.co.us, or call (970) 498-7719 or Relay Colorado 711. "Walk-in" requests for auxiliary aids and services will be honored to the extent possible but may be unavailable if advance notice is not provided.

These meeting minutes were prepared with the assistance of AI technology. All content has been reviewed by staff for accuracy.