



Date: August 26, 2021
Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: Larimer County Loveland Campus Building, 200 Peridot Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537, Poudre River Room

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Bob Hewson	x	Daylan Figgs	x	Heidi Pruess
David Marvin	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	
Gale Bernhardt	x	Zac Wiebe	x	
K-Lynn Cameron	x	Justin Core	x	
Linda Stanley	x	Chris Fleming	x	
Mark DeGregorio	x	Lori Smith	x	
Nancy Wallace	x	Alex Swartz	x	
Peter Kelly		Steve Gibson	x	
Rick Brent	x	Jenn Almstead	x	
Sherri Valentine	x	*Jody Shadduck-McNally	x	
Steve VanderMeer	x	Sidney Michl (minutes)	x	
Tom Shoemaker	x			

x = present

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:02 p.m.

Public Comment – none

Agenda Review

Added a debrief on Chimney Hollow site visit to Discussion Items.

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Nancy moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Linda seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Information and Announcements

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

To sign up for Open Lands Advisory Board updates, go to <https://apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click “Subscribe,” and check the “Open Lands Advisory Board” box

Requesting members to assist with the 2022 Small Grants for Community Partnering subcommittee. Bob, Linda, and Steve volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

Update and Reports

2021 Quarter 2 Board Report

- Key stories:
 - Sky View Campground groundbreaking and construction
 - Completion of ANS inspection stations
 - Suggested trail loop routes at Horsetooth Mountain and Devil's Backbone open spaces
 - Financial/visitation summary

Restoration and resource management update

- Zac provided an overview of the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement policy developed by LCDNR in 2020 which defined restoration, created guidelines for restoration project selection, and identified appropriate funding sources. Projects are outlined in property master or management plans and executed by a multi-disciplinary team within the department that performs planning, implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management.
- 2020-2021 restoration projects:
 - Building demolition and revegetation – Forks Park, Little Thompson Farm Open Space
 - Objectives: remove undesirable buildings and footprints, establish desirable native perennial vegetation, mitigate erosion
 - Road reclamation and revegetation – Hermit Park, Red Mountain, River Bluffs Open Spaces
 - Objectives: remove undesirable roads to reconnect habitat, manage weeds to discourage competition, establish native plant communities
 - Habitat improvement – Little Thompson Farm corral restoration and fence removal; Devil's Backbone Open Space grassland restoration
 - Objectives: increase plant community diversity, resilience, and vigor, enhance pollinator habitat, manage weeds to discourage competition, remove down or damaged fences
- Upcoming restoration projects:
 - Devil's Backbone Open Space – Keyhole restoration, grassland restoration phases
 - Red Mountain Open Space – stream restoration/dam removal, building demolition and revegetation
 - Carter Lake – Sky View Campground revegetation

County review of 1041 regulations

- Meegan informed the board the 1041 regulations are being updated and explained how they apply to Larimer County's Land Use Code. The first hearing of the updated 1041 regulations is scheduled September 1st; the Planning Commission will make a recommendation of the draft October 20th and the BOCC will make a final decision by the end of November. More info and a tentative schedule can be found online: <https://www.larimer.org/planning/phase-ii-larimer-county-land-use-code>

Discussion Items

Chimney Hollow Open Space site visit debrief

- LCDNR staff and Northern Water provided a site visit to Chimney Hollow Open Space and future reservoir site for advisory board members prior to the start of construction on August 13th. The visit/presentation included information about the reservoir, project timeline, and types of use the open space will accommodate. Steve asked what role OLAB plays in the plan development process. Meegan explained OLAB will provide feedback and recommendations for the plan as part of DNR's adopted management planning process.

Budget submitted to BOCC for consideration – Lori

- Lori presented the final department budget submitted to the BOCC. The presentation included 2021 actuals and the adjusted/proposed 2022 budget for Land Stewardship, Reservoir Parks, and Open Spaces. Personnel and operating costs were also included with comparisons to 2021.
- The board discussed the indirect cost exemption request of \$738,633.

Action Items

Recommendation to the BOCC on a proposed department-wide fee increase and the initiation of a fee at Devil's Backbone Open Space

- Daylan summarized feedback received during the fee adjustment input period from June 28th-August 10th. The process included 5 public meetings (45 total attendees) and a public engagement webpage (240+ survey responses, 150+ public comments).
- Themes of feedback:
 - Equity and access for all
 - Charging out-of-county residents a greater share
 - Addition of new trails/maintenance of existing trails
- Survey results:
 - 56% visit 16 or more times annually
 - 18% visit 6-10 times annually
 - 67% of respondents are annual permit holders
 - 75% support the county adjusting user fees to ensure maintaining levels of service with facility maintenance/replacement and providing continued existing and future recreational opportunities
 - 77% support initiating a user fee at Devil's Backbone Open Space (south trailhead)
 - 93% support the county maintain its current level of service by adding more conserved land, trails, and parked when indexed to population growth
 - Top 3 responses to, "How should we prioritize your fee dollars collected at parks and open spaces?":
 - Maintaining/managing the current facilities within Reservoir Parks and Open Spaces
 - Conserve/acquire more acres of land to provide recreation opportunities and additional trails that connect communities
 - Conserve/acquire more acres of land for protection of wildlife habitat, rivers, native plants, and scenic views
- Linda moved that OLAB recommends the BOCC approve the proposed fee adjustments for LCDNR properties effective January 1st, 2022. These adjustments include an approximate 10% increase in the rates for day use permits, annual permits, and camping; a new fee at Devil's Backbone Open Space south trailhead; a new Veteran's Combo (boat) permit; and a new Non-Resident Day Use permit (implemented in 2023). Tom seconded. Bob moved to amend the motion to note the Bison and Disabled Individual permits will not be subject to the 10% increase. Tom seconded the amendment, motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

- Dave mentioned the potential for future meetings to return to a virtual platform following county health guidelines.
- Tom requested an update on ecological conditions and resource monitoring for a future meeting item.

Next Meeting Scheduled

September 23, 2021 via 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. K-Lynn moved to enter Executive Session, Nancy seconded, motion passed unanimously at 7:24 p.m.

Adjournment – 8:05 p.m.

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 michlsl@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.