



Date: Thursday, August 25, 2022
Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: Zoom Webinar & Larimer County Loveland Campus Building: 200 Peridot Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537
 Poudre River Room

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Ward Nelson	I	Daylan Figgs	I	
David Marvin	V	Meegan Flenniken	I	
Gale Bernhardt	I	Justin Core	I	
K-Lynn Cameron	I	Alex Swartz	V	
Linda Stanley	I	*Jody Shadduck-McNally	V	
Mark DeGregorio	V	Andrea Weber (minutes)	I	
Mike Carter	I			
Gary Miller	I			
Steve VanderMeer	I			
Tom Shoemaker	V			
Paul Hudnut				
Peter Kelly				

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

*commissioner

Call to Order - 5:02 pm

Public Comment

None

Agenda Review

Draft Pollinator Resolution was not originally included but added after agenda was sent out

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Linda moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Steve VanderMeer 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

May 2022 Open Space Tax Distribution letter

Update and Reports

2022 Quarter 2 Board Report

- Daylan reviewed a few highlights in the report:
 - The Kruger Rock Trail has been reopened this year following damage from the Kruger Rock Fire on USFS lands in 2021.
 - In partnership with the City of Fort Collins, additional acreage at Bobcat Ridge was acquired. He explained that much of the success of conservation and management comes from building long term relationships with landowners and other government entities.
 - DNR anticipates construction of Larimer County's portion of the Poudre River Trail to go out to bid this fall.
- Daylan reviewed the financial summary noting he will discuss the budget in more detail at a future meeting.
 - DNR's revenues increased in 2020 and 2021 faster than the 25-year model anticipated. In 2022, DNR had 3% revenue growth during an 8% increase in expenses due to inflation.
 - DNR shifted dollars around in the budget to fund 6 new positions. This was a net zero gain, requiring only a \$300,000 annual increase as many of the positions were conversions from 9-10 month benefitted seasonal employees to full-time. The focus is to try and keep a negative growth in certain areas of the budget. K-Lynn asked Daylan what staff positions DNR added. Daylan said staff was added in areas of the department where there was need and growth including 1 Land Stewardship Technician, 1 Hermit Park Open Space Maintenance Technician, 1 finance/admin staff, 1 Trails Supervisor, 1 Community Engagement Specialist, 1 Aquatic Nuisance Species Supervisor.
 - Gale asked how the department has been tracking revenue from DBB, and if the newly implemented fees were generating the revenue that was expected. She also asked if there have been any notable changes to visitation since the fees were put in place. Daylan said that real time tracking data has not been looked at closely yet but will be examined at the end of the year.
 - Jenn is finalizing the Devil's Backbone OS visitor study and will provide an update later in the year.
 - Daylan noted that DNR provides visitation data within the annual report.
 - Mike said that he is impressed with the efficiency that DNR achieves while maintaining the 98 miles of trails using limited funds and materials.

Board of County Commissioner update

- Commissioner Shadduck McNally attended virtually and noted the Fallen Aviator Memorial ceremony. Daylan requested to have the link for the news coverage of the memorial be sent to the board members.

Discussion Items

Request for subcommittee members for Small Grants Program

- Jenn shared the [Small Grants for Community Partnering website and 25 year summary](#). Jenn requested 3 board members to sit on the Small Grants Subcommittee. She explained that it is a great way to make a direct impact on the local community through a fun and rewarding opportunity. This year DNR is commemorating the 25-year anniversary of the program.
 - The program was started back in 1998 to support community led projects in the county with a portion of the Help Preserve Open Lands sales tax. Jenn said the grants are awarded to HOAs, schools, and community-based organizations. These grants fund outdoor-based programs and environmental education projects.
 - In celebration of 25 years, grants have been increased to \$2,500. For 2023 grants, the application deadline is September 15th.

- K-Lynn asked if they would be resuming field visits as committee members. Jenn said site visits take a lot of time and energy to plan and because the application is very robust and asks a lot of questions, the decision should be based on the answers submitted in the application.
- Steve VanderMeer encouraged new members to view this as an opportunity to get to know DNR staff and get to know the extent of what open lands is doing with its funding.
- Gary said he would like to participate as a member on the subcommittee and asked to what extent and in what ways the small grants program is publicized and if the program experienced the problem where a handful of organizations know about the grant and repeatedly apply for them.
 - Jenn said that over the past few years they have made tweaks to the program to limit repeat applications specifically focusing on funding capacity building and not ongoing maintenance efforts and requiring organizations that have been funded 3 years in a row are required to take a year off.
- Jenn noted they advertise on many platforms including Facebook, press releases, the DNR website and newsletters.
- Gary asked if the subcommittee would be developing the evaluation criteria for the applications. Jenn replied that they already have one they use that has been revised based on previous subcommittees. She continued that its value/point based and is very fair.
- Linda and Gale both volunteered to be on the subcommittee. K-Lynn confirmed that Gary, Linda, and Gale are the new subcommittee members.

Draft Pollinator Resolution

- Meegan reviewed the Draft Pollinator Resolution as a high-level document that acknowledges much of the work Larimer County is already doing to conserve, steward and restore land, share with the public the importance of pollinators and the use of best practices in management activities.
- The resolution was drafted by Community Planning and DNR staff and the BOCC is looking for a recommendation from several county boards including the Open Lands, Land Stewardship, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences advisory boards.
- Meegan asked the board for feedback.
 - David said that he is pleased with the resolution. He asked for the document to have more clarification with wording. He said that not everyone may know that pesticides refer to: herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides and how the county is, and plans to use these chemicals. Steve VanderMeer agreed with David, he also is concerned with the verbiage of weed and pest control.
 - Tom supported the resolution. He questioned as to what extent the resolution will drive new initiatives or if it was general support of what the county is already doing.
 - Meegan said this is a document to provide high level acknowledgement and is not a policy or action plan. However, in 2023, there are ways that this could transform into a document to form policy around pollinators. DNR would work with the Planning Department if action were to be taken.
 - Linda moved to adopt the Draft Pollinator Resolution. Mike seconded the resolution. K-Lynn asked for a vote. All members vote yes, the draft passed unanimously.

Action Items

Board Election of Officers

- The board elections began with the Chair election first. K-Lynn called for nominations. K-Lynn nominated David. Linda seconded the nomination. David accepted the nomination. All board members voted yes for David as chair. Motion carried.
- David opened the floor for vice chair, calling for nominations. Steve VanderMeer nominated K-Lynn for vice chair, Tom seconded. All board members voted yes for K-Lynn for vice chair. Motion carried.

Other Business

Next Meeting Scheduled

September 22nd, 2022 - Larimer County Natural Resources Administrative Offices, Bison Room, 1800 S. County Rd. 31 Loveland, CO 80537 & 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 - 8:02 pm

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 williajo@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.