



Date: August 28, 2025
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

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

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

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:01pm

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes (both boards do together)

Rob moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Ward 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 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” box.

June 2025 Tax Distribution Letter

Introductions of new board members

Board of County Commissioners Report

Board of County Commissioners Update

- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally shared updates on her recent activities, including a hike on the Bay to Bay Trail and participation in a new forest health funding group. She also discussed budget challenges facing the county due to state cuts and the ongoing budget process.

Discussion Items

Regulation Updates – Chris Fleming, Visitor Services Division Manager

- Will, Trevor, and Joe provided updates to the LCDNR Regulations.
- The regulation updates focused primarily on streamlining regulations, simplifying language, and unifying fines to reduce confusion for both the public and staff while updating regulations to reflect current enforcement practices.
- Specific regulation changes included simplifying and consolidating existing rules around hammocks, noise, and light usage in campgrounds, while maintaining flexibility for rangers to enforce rules based on complaints.
- Swimming regulations will shift from enforcing swimming only in designated areas to allowing it in more places, while maintaining a safe distance from boaters.
- Updates to life jacket requirements for children under 13 and the expansion of these rules to include paddleboarding and other water activities.
- Staff addressed the regulation of hydrofoils, noting that while they are now allowed on reservoirs, certain speed limits and wake restrictions apply.
- The discussion also covered vessel registration requirements and the definition of vessels in the regulations.

Restoration Projects – Zac Wiebe, Planning & Resource Manager

- Staff presented updates on current and ongoing restoration projects on Larimer County Open Spaces. Projects are guided by the open space sales tax ballot language, department policies, and adopted management plans, all of which are intended to enhance ecological outcomes and biodiversity.
- Four key projects were presented.
 - Ongoing restoration of building footprints and roads at Canyon Edge Open Space.
 - At River Bluffs Open Space, an existing irrigated hay field will be converted to wetland and riparian habitat, with plans to realign Fossil Creek closer to its original channel. At Red Mountain Open Space, approximately 1-mile of Boxelder Creek will be restored and reconnected to its natural channel, creating wetland habitat. Both projects will utilize existing water rights for habitat restoration.
 - Planning is underway for shortgrass prairie restoration of Long View Farm Open Space, where long-term dryland wheat farming has occurred, but practices are underway to rebuild soil health in preparation for native restoration.
 - Staff are currently pursuing grants for final construction designs and will ultimately for implementation.

Future Funding Options – Daylan Figgs

- Staff gave an overview of department budget status and introduced that they are preliminarily exploring a second sales tax or funding source to address budget shortfalls.
- In partnership with the Trust for Public Lands, there will be research into feasibility with plans to gather community input through polling in the fall. A future tax could also include watershed health initiatives within the county.

Action Items (OLAB)

Dent Conservation Easement Final Review

- Staff presented the 40-acre Dent property, which is located in the Livermore Conservation Area of the Open Lands Master Plan, and surrounded by the existing D-Dart ranch conservation easement. The county is proposing to acquire a conservation easement on the property to be held by Larimer County.

- Key conservation values include the viewshed along Red Feather Lakes Road (CR 74E), buffering extensive existing conserved lands, intact and diverse native plant communities, and irrigated hay meadows (where water rights will be tied to the CE to support).
- The conservation easement was appraised at \$125,000, and closing is expected in September.
- Ward motioned to recommend approval of the expenditure of the funds to acquire the conservation easement. Jim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Legend Trail Ranch Conservation Easement Final Review

- The Legend Trail Ranch is a 675-acre property in the Livermore Priority Conservation Area of the Open Lands Master Plan and will be protected through a donated conservation easement (CE) held by Larimer County.
- The conservation values include native foothills grasslands, irrigated croplands furthered by 1 share of North Poudre Irrigation Company water that will be tied to the CE, buffer to existing CEs, and the viewshed to Hwy 287 and W. County Rd 80. The conservation easement allows for two potential subdivisions and two building envelopes, with closing expected by the end of summer or early fall.
- Ward motioned to recommend approval of the expenditure of the funds to acquire the conservation easement. Jim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items (PAB)

Department Updates

Key Department Updates – Meegan/Chris

- Staff provided updates on several department initiatives, including a renewed contract with the US Forest Service for \$400,000 to manage vegetation in the Cameron Peak burn area.
- The Hermit Park Open Space generator conversion is completed, and the asphalt paving work at the BOR reservoirs is now concurrently occurring at Horsetooth Reservoir, projected to reduce the total project schedule by half.
- Staff submitted a \$500,000 proposal through the NoCo Places regional partnership grant for facility construction and a \$250,000 grant to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for trail construction at Chimney Hollow Open Space.
- Fire restrictions have been implemented in areas above 6,000 feet in elevation, and water levels are dropping at reservoirs, requiring hazard marking.
- The current agreement with the City of Loveland to patrol two of their natural areas has expanded to include three additional small natural areas near the Big Thompson River.

Other Business

Next Meeting Scheduled

September 25th, 2025 – 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 – 7:33 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 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.