



Date: July 25, 2024
Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: Larimer County Natural Resources Administrative Offices: 1800 South County Road 31, Loveland, CO 80537, Bison Room & Zoom Webinar

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Wes Knoll	I	Daylan Figgs	I	Danielle Reimanis
Gale Bernhardt	I	Meegan Flenniken	I	Lesli Ellis
Tom Shoemaker	I	Zac Wiebe	I	
Linda Stanley	I	Alex Swartz	I	
Debbie Hayhow	I	*Jody Shaddock-McNally	I	
Gary Miller	A	Andrea Weber (minutes)	I	
Jim Wurz	V	Zach Cook	I	
Ward Nelson	I			
Mike Carter	I			
Ellis Carpenter	I			

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 6:30 pm

Public Comment

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

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

Site Visit – Chimney Hollow Open Space re: Management Plan

March 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

April 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

May 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

Update and Reports

Board of County Commissioner Update

- Working through budgets, service proposals and possible ballot initiative impacts. The Commissioners will be holding information sessions.

- Exploring legislative initiatives for 2025 focused on a program to provide wildfire mitigation education and internships to youth.

Water Master Plan Update – Danielle Reimanis

- Work Completed: provisional vision and goals, identified datasets and risks with stakeholder groups, finished baseline mapping, open house for public, misc. meetings and presentations, brainstormed strategies with stakeholder groups, work sessions with LC Board of County Commissioners/Planning Committee, baseline analysis on strategies
- Work to Come: present to advisory boards and request feedback, focused conversations, further define strategies, prioritize strategies with co-benefits or work the County is already doing, start drafting plan.
- Provisional Vision and Goals: Larimer County, guided by a commitment to stewardship, is dedicated to safeguarding local and regional water systems, aligning future land use with available water resources, and helping to build resilient communities and ecosystems equipped to address future water challenges.
 - Minimize the threat to watersheds from hazards (i.e. floods, severe wildfires)
 - Communicate and collaborate to support water sustainability
 - Promote water literacy in our community
 - Align land use planning with water resources
 - Enhance water efficiency and conservation measures
- Priority Watersheds
 - Supply and Demand Planning: increased demand from population growth, uncertain water future as it relates to climate, changes in land use
 - Hazards to Watersheds: wildfires with high burn severity, source water quality, habitat
 - Water Rights: water rights impacted by administrative calls on the river, Colorado Big-Thompson Project (CBT) use, urban encroachment on agricultural lands
 - Infrastructure: water delivery infrastructure, storage
 - Lack of Water Conservation Policies or Measures: policies or guidelines, measures to avoid curtailment, cohesive approach; municipalities, HOA's, County, water efficiency in agriculture, land use policies
 - Lack of Water Education: lack of public awareness, lack of understanding by policy/decision makers
- Menti Poll Questions/Discussion: What strategies would you like to see implemented through the Water Master Plan? Which areas would you like to see prioritized (Supply and demand, hazards to watersheds, water rights, infrastructure, water conservation, water education)?
 - LC has begun conversations with towns, cities and other counties regarding water rights and what those rights mean.
- Next Steps: Draft Plan October 2024, Open House October 2024

Discussion Items

Action Items

Rocky Ridge Acquisition Final Review

- Meegan presented LC Open Lands Master plan identifies 12 priority conservation areas DNR focuses land conservation, including the Buckeye Conservation area (north of Fort Collins/west of Wellington).
- Rocky Ridge Fee-Title – City of Fort Collins lead
 - Acquired April 30th, 2024, for \$5.1 million as a future City of Fort Collins natural area.
 - 484 acres that was marketed for 35-acre subdivisions.
 - One permitted well (existing) no other water rights
 - Characterized by grasslands, rocky outcrops, geologic features, views of mountain backdrop
- Funding Partnership: \$1.5M from LC
 - CE held by LC to protect scenic, natural habitat, recreational values

- The City of Fort Collins has begun inventorying and management planning for future recreation (CE – 5% of the acres are reserved for development of infrastructure/facilities), looking at a trail system, looking to add property and/or trail easements, etc.
- Zac added, DNR staff monitor around 52 CEs annually and the cost is around \$2/acre.
- Linda asked for a motion. Ward moved to recommend the approval of the Rocky Ridge acquisition partnership to the BOCC. Tom seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Prairie Ridge Addition Acquisition Final Review

- Overview: Fort Collins/Loveland (lead) Community Separator: ~3,000 acres conserved to date, 140 acres addition to the South of Prairie Ridge Natural Area, no improvements, dryland wheat production, creates buffer for Prairie Ridge Natural Area from development, City of Loveland has first right of refusal on remainder of the property still owned by the property owner.
- Partnerships: \$6.72 million fee-simple purchase (\$48,000/acres based on appraisal)
 - City of Loveland (co-owner) \$3.44M
 - City of Fort Collins (co-owner) \$1.68M
 - Great Outdoors Colorado Grant \$1.1M
 - Private Donations \$100k
 - Larimer County (hold conservation easement) \$400k
- Gale recused herself from the vote as she is on the Loveland Open Lands Commission.
- Tom made a motion to recommend the approval of the Prairie Ridge Addition acquisition partnership to the BOCC. Ward seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair and Vice Chair Elections

- Linda self-nominated for Vice Chair. All voted unanimously.
- Tom nominated Gale for Chair. Mike seconded. All voted unanimously.

Other Business

Next Meeting Scheduled August 22nd, 2024 - Horsetooth Area Information Center: 4200 W. County Rd. 38 E. Fort Collins, CO 80526 Mountain Lion 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 – 8:15 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.