



Date: January 23, 2025
Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: Horsetooth Area Info Center - 4200 W. County Rd. 38E Fort Collins, CO 80526 & Zoom Webinar

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Wes Knoll	I	Daylan Figgs	I	Lesli Ellis
Jim Wurz	I	Meegan Flenniken	I	
Gale Bernhardt	I	Justin Core	I	
Tom Shoemaker	V	Jenn Almstead	I	
Linda Stanley	I	*Jody Shadduck-McNally	I	
Debbie Hayhow	I	Andrea Weber (minutes)	I	
Gary Miller	V			
Ward Nelson	I			
Mike Carter	V			
Ellis Carpenter	V			

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:01 pm

Public Comment

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Linda moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Wes 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.

September 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

October 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

November 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

Update and Reports

Board of County Commissioner Update

- 2025 County budget has been approved; work on the 2026 budget has commenced.
- General fund cut significantly, impacting general fund departments.
- A new Arapahoe/Roosevelt Forest Manager has been appointed.

Agenda and Meeting Location Notice for OLAB

- The public place for posting the notices of public meetings of the Open Lands Advisory Board is designated as <https://www.larimer.gov/boards#/board/open-lands-advisory-board/>, which is the Larimer County website and is accessible at no charge to the public.
- In the event notice of a public meeting cannot be posted online at <https://www.larimer.gov/boards#/board/open-lands-advisory-board/> (example: website is down or due to exigent or emergency circumstances), notice shall be physically posted no less than twenty-four hours prior to holding of the public meeting at the bulletin boards located at the north and south entrances of the Larimer County Administrative Offices, 200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Discussion Items

Board Annual Work Plan/Agendas

- Daylan noted DNR staff create an annual work plan for each advisory board to be presented to the BOCC to ensure alignment. The plan is laid out by quarter, with flexibility for adjustments as needed

2025 Small Grant Award Recommendations – Jenn Almstead

- The Small Grants Committee, consisting of Debbie, Wes, and Jim, reviewed applications. The total Small Grants award budget for 2025 was \$30,000.
- 2025 grants awarded:
 - American Adventure Sports Club: Restoring connections between underrepresented communities and nature (\$4,000)
 - Colorado Youth Outdoors: Sustainable agriculture demo plots (\$4,000)
 - Estes Valley Recreation and Park Foundation: Permaculture program at Lake Estes golf course (\$3,882)
 - Hispanic Women's Farming Proyecto: Healthy vegetables for Harmony Village families (\$3,961)
 - Fort Collins Museum of Discovery: Tuesday night live programming for "Nature All Around Us" special exhibit (\$4,000)
 - Fort Collins Montessori: Educational gardens (\$4,000)
 - Fossil Creek HOA: Russian Olive removal project (\$3,520)
 - Sproutin' Up: Three Sisters Garden (\$3,500)

Action Items

Approval of Small Grant Awards

- Linda made a motion to recommend approval of the Small Grants Awardees by the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources. Ward seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Final Review Lone Pine Livestock Conservation Easement

- Project Overview:
 - 2,416-acre ranch in Livermore conservation priority area.
 - Adjacent to numerous existing conserved lands and fills a critical landscape gap.
 - Total appraised CE value: \$7.5M
 - Conservation values: natural communities, scenic value, connectivity, wetlands, working lands, and water rights.
 - 2, 12 acre building envelopes are allowed, all accessed by existing roads.
- Partnerships:
 - Larimer County (\$5,164,000), City of Fort Collins (\$1,250,000), GOCO (\$1,000,000), Nature Conservancy (\$35,000), Private Donor (\$35,000), Gates Family Foundation (\$15,000), Friends of Larimer County (\$1,000)

- Larimer County will hold the CE and Fort Collins to be contingent CE holder..
- Final closing date scheduled for February 5th followed by recommendation by the BOCC.
- Ward made a motion to recommend to the BOCC the approval of the Lone Pine Livestock Conservation Easement. Jim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

- Meegan noted the Red-tail Ridge Open Space addition was approved by BOCC and is set to close January 27th.
- Board members inquired about historical documentation of Larimer County properties for the purpose of preserving historical knowledge of conserved properties. Staff and board members suggested involving local historians and academic collaborators.

Next Meeting Scheduled

Thursday, February 27th, 2025 - Larimer County Horsetooth Area Information Center 4200 W. County Road 38E 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 – 6:21 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.