



Date: October 23, 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. **Public Registration:** https://larimer.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ADfY3otIRcqKhTD6g7LtSA
Contact: Andrea Weber, Senior Administrative Specialist, weberan@co.larimer.co.us, 970-619-4462

Open Lands Advisory Board & Parks Advisory Board Minutes

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

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:00 pm

Agenda Review (5:00 – 5:05 pm)

Review and Approval of Last Minutes (5:05 – 5:10 pm)

Mike Roccanti moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Debbie Hayhow seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Information and Announcements (5:10 – 5:15 pm)

1. Natural Resources events for this month: <https://larimer.org/naturalresources>.
2. 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” boxes.
3. August 2025 Tax Distribution Letter

Board of Commissioners Report (5:15 – 5:20 pm)

1. Board of County Commissioners Report

- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally shared the county's budget challenges, including a structural deficit due to revenue caps imposed by the state legislature. She highlighted efforts to find \$6 million in cuts while maintaining services, with help from department heads and staff.
- She announced upcoming events, including a budget hearing on November 1st and a town hall on wildfire and watershed issues on October 30th.
- She also mentioned a film screening and panel discussion on November 3rd about water and agriculture in the Pueblo area.
- She concluded, noting the need for support for local food insecurity organizations, noting the impact of federal shutdowns and budget constraints on communities.

Discussion Items (5:20 – 6:35 pm)

1. 2026 Budget – Daylan Figgs, Department of Natural Resources Director
 - Daylan shared an update on the Department's budget process and forecast for 2026. He noted relative to revenue and expenses, a projected 11% drop in revenue for 2026, but also a 10% reduction in expenses. Revenue loss from downed pay stations has hopefully been remedied with the move to a QR code and text-to-pay system, which has been more reliable and cost-effective.
2. Conservation Easement Status & Monitoring – Zac Wiebe, Planning & Natural Resources Manager
 - Zac noted that conservation easements (CEs) comprise half the department's land portfolio and are a key conservation tool that comes at a significantly reduced cost to manage (about \$2/ac/year to monitor all DNR-held CEs). He highlighted the partnership approach with landowners and the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of aerial imagery monitoring methods. For 2025, staff monitored the 58 conservation easements (CEs) the county holds, completed baseline reports for 5 new CEs, and had zero violations.
3. Short-term Concessionaire license fee increase process and approach – Daylan Figgs
 - Daylan updated the board that staff have decided to hold off on fee increases until additional analysis around reducing administrative costs can be achieved. He presented information on the current number and variety of concessionaires. A board member raised concerns about the lack of opportunities for very small concessionaires charging for educational programs; staff explained that the services provided by this type of operator are already provided at no cost to the public through existing DNR educational programming.
4. Board Survey Results Follow-up – Daylan Figgs
 - Board survey results on the effectiveness of the currently held joint board meetings were discussed. Of the 15 respondents, 75% feel the meetings are good or excellent, with 25% reporting fair or poor. The positive aspects included a greater variety of perspectives, improved time efficiency, and enhanced collaboration between boards. Areas for improvement included time management, meeting structure, and agenda clarity. Already, time allotments to agenda items have been set and the agenda has been streamlined to match the functional work of the department that informs recommendations the boards are tasked to make to the BOCC.
 - The Commissioner explained that while the Parks Advisory Board is not legally required, the Open Lands Advisory Board is mandated by ballot, but both boards could be consolidated under a broader, focused board structure. The Commissioner emphasized that any changes to board structure would require approval from the Board of County Commissioners, and while the current boards are valued, the goal is to maintain service levels while finding operational efficiencies.

Action Items (Open Lands Advisory Board)

Action Items (Parks Advisory Board)

Key Department Updates (6:35 – 7:00 pm)

1. Meegan provided updates on active capital projects, including the Poudre Trail construction, erosion control at Inlet Bay, and paving work at Carter Lake and Horsetooth reservoirs. She shared that the Department was presented the Colorado Lottery Starburst at the COSA conference for the acquisition of Canyon Edge Open Space and that the Department closed on the acquisition of both the Legend Trail CE and the Dent CE in early October. Meegan noted that the Department is celebrating its 30th anniversary with various

initiatives, one being collecting 30 stories for 30 years from individuals who had key ties to making the open space program successful.

2. Chris shared that the Regulation Update was approved by the BOCC and that two large events took place – Blue Sky Marathon and Otillo Swim/Run

Other Business

1. The November and December meetings vary from the normal schedule. The November meeting will be on November 19th, which is a week earlier and on a Wednesday; the December meeting will be on December 18th, a week earlier than normal.

Next Meeting Scheduled

November 19th, 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 – 7:00 pm

Larimer County's Department of Natural Resources Vision, Mission, and Values: Healthy Landscapes, Healthy People; Connect People, Nature, and Place; Pursue Excellence, Act with Integrity, Trust, & Respect, Focus on Collective Good, Commit to Staff Well-Being, Demonstrate Courageous Leadership.

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