



Date: September 25, 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	I	Joe Bakel	A	Daylan Figgs	A	
Ellis Carpenter	A	Pete Blume	I	Meegan Flenniken	I	
Mike Carter	V	Adam Crossan	I	Chris Fleming	I	
Debbie Hayhow	I	Rob Harris	I	*Jody Shadduck-McNally	V	
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	Joel Schwab	I	
Jim Wurz	V	Ruthie Rollins	I	Lesli Ellis	I	
		Andy Te Slaa	I	Alex Swartz	I	
				Andrea Weber	I	

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:00 pm

Agenda Review

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

Mike Roccanti moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Rob 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.

July 2025 Tax Distribution Letter

Commissioners Report

Board of County Commissioners Update (10 min)

- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally shared that the county commissioners had signed a public lands resolution around keeping public lands in public ownership, which she plans to send to the governor and Colorado delegation.
- She also highlighted a successful community project funded by a small grant, which has inspired similar initiatives in a mobile home park.

Discussion Items

Trails Program – Joel Schwab, Trails Program Manager (20 min)

- Staff highlighted that there are over 1,000 miles of natural surface trails within Larimer County. The Natural Resources Department manages 100 miles of trails on 40,000 acres, representing 10% of all trails countywide on 2% of the total land base and thus a relatively dense trail system within the county's open space.
- The department aims to maintain 75% of trails at B level or higher. This has been achieved annually until the high precipitation events in 2023 presented a maintenance backlog, and only 68% of trails were maintained at a B level or higher. With help from a grant, DNR was able to hire 3 additional trail staff in 2024 to catch up, and as of 2025, they are back within the desired metric threshold.
- Recent projects include completion of the Bay to Bay Trail, which won the Colorado Trails Symposium Golden McLeod Award for innovative rock-building techniques.
- Work in 2026 will focus on trail maintenance system-wide, trail construction at Chimney Hollow Open Space, and improving water access segments on the Carter Lake east side shoreline.

Volunteers to review Small Grants applications – Zac Wiebe, Planning & Resource Manager (10 min)

- Staff provided an overview of the program, which allocates funds for community projects, and requested Open Lands Board members to volunteer for this year's review committee. Jim and Gale expressed their positive experience of serving on the review committee.
- Debbie Hayhow and Mike Roccanti volunteered to serve on the review committee.

Action Items (OLAB)

Recommendation to adopt updated regulations (10 min)

- Staff recapped the key elements of the proposed regulations updates, which include simplifying and clarifying language, reducing redundancy, unifying fines to \$100, defining swimming areas, watercraft regulations, and wake speeds. Staff highlighted the need to align with state and federal regulations, particularly concerning paddle craft safety.
- A recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to adopt updated regulations made by Ward and seconded by Wes. Motion passed unanimously by OLAB.

Recommendation to increase Short-term Concessionaire license fees (10 min)

- Staff explained the two types of concession licenses: long-term licenses (such as for marina operators) and short-term licenses, which cover various commercial uses. Staff proposed increasing the short-term concession fee from \$500 to \$750 to cover administrative and oversight costs. The department currently issues 20-30 short-term licenses annually, generating around \$8,000 in revenue.
- Kathy Maher (PAB) raised concerns about the fee increase affecting small, education-focused businesses. Staff clarified that educational programs without commercial gain have a separate, lower-cost process; the current focus was on commercial concessions that generate private revenue. Gary asked if the concessions benefit visitors, and staff clarified that concessions are vetted based on public benefit and impact on resources or visitors. The department is considering limiting the number of concessions and updating the application process to a 3-month window.
- A recommendation to increase short-term concession fees to \$750 was made by Mike Carter, seconded by Ward. Motion passed unanimously by OLAB.

Action Items (PAB)

Recommendation to adopt updated regulations (10 min)

- A recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to adopt updated regulations was made by Adam and seconded by Pete. Motion passed unanimously by PAB.

Recommendation to increase Short-term Concessionaire license fees (10 min)

- A recommendation to increase short-term concession fees to \$750 was made by Rob, but failed to get a second. Motion did not pass.
- Mike Carter (OLAB) explained his reasoning for supporting the fee increase, citing the need to address the private benefit of public lands use by concessionaires and the length of time the fees had remained unchanged. Board members suggested considering reducing the number of applications processed to manage staff time more effectively and requested that a list of concessionaires be shared at a future meeting.

Department Updates

Key Department Updates – (10 minutes)

- Meegan updated the board that the department was awarded a \$213k grant for final wetland/upland restoration designs for River Bluffs Open Space from the Colorado Water Conservation Board.
- Meegan noted that a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program Plan is underway for Larimer County, with DNR staff helping identify “sending” areas that match the Open Lands Master Plan goals for conserving land. The idea is to identify suitable sending areas where conservation outcomes are desired and receiving areas where additional development is desired. Discussion included an explanation of how TDRs work, and that one focus of this Planning Department-led effort will include affordable housing opportunities.
- Meegan shared that Poudre Trail Construction started 9/22 and the schedule is likely through Spring 2026, weather depending; paving work at Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs is underway concurrently at both Carter and Horsetooth reservoirs, allowing DNR to shorten the project timeline by about 1 ½ years.
- Chris noted two recent drownings at Carter and Horsetooth reservoirs, which have spurred the need for additional messaging around water safety. She also shared that two ranger staff attended the National Association of Safe Boating Law Administrators, where Travis Bernstein won the regional boat officer of the year award.

Other Business

Next Meeting Scheduled

October 23rd, 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 – 6:16 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.