



Date: November 20, 2024
Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: Larimer County Horsetooth Area Info Center, 4200 W. CR 38 E Fort Collins, CO Mountain Lion Room & Zoom Webinar

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Debbie Hayhow	I	Daylan Figgs	I	
James Wurz	I	Meegan Flenniken	I	
Gale Bernhardt	A	Zac Wiebe	I	
Tom Shoemaker	V	*Jody Shadduck-McNally	V	
Linda Stanley	I	Andrea Weber (minutes)	A	
Wes Knoll	A	Julie Enderby	I	
Gary Miller	V	Carolyn Rasmus	I	
Ellis Carpenter	I			
Ward Nelson	I			
Mike Carter	A			

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:06 pm

Public Comment

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Jim moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Debbie 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.

Update and Reports

Board of County Commissioner Update

- The LC Water Master Plan is to go to the Planning Commission 11/20.

- BOCC Budget Retreat to discuss tightening budgets and needs, speaking with other counties about state budget and implications for the counties. The proposed budget should be approved Dec. 8th/9th
- Forest Health Council finished and approved the annual report for the year. The Council is currently working on the 30-year Visioning for Colorado Forests.

Discussion Items

Chimney Hollow Open Space Management Plan Overview – Zac Wiebe

- Chimney Hollow Reservoir is two-thirds the size of Cater Lake and the Chimney Hollow Open Space (CHOS) is 1,847 acres. It will be a fee area.
- Plan Objectives
 - Assemble ecological data to clarify conservation values
 - Identify appropriate land and water-based recreation experiences
 - Develop associated management zones
 - Identify appropriate recreation infrastructure to access trail system and reservoir
 - Identify opportunities for environmental education
- Regulatory Context
 - Northern Water IGA and Recreation Lease (2020)
 - No overnight use, wakeless boating only restricted areas, no public access till reservoir filled, footprint
 - Conservation Easement – City of Loveland and GOCO
 - Approval of any infrastructure, 15-acre footprint, non-motorized recreation
- Public Feedback
 - March – August
 - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting #1
 - Public Open House (in person and virtual) ~50 attendees
 - Open Lands Advisory Board
 - Parks Advisory Board
 - Website: 1,398 unique users, 500+ surveys, ~600 comments
 - Trailhead tables
 - October-November
 - TAC meeting #2
 - Public Open House #2 (virtual)
 - Web survey #2 366 responses, 150 comments
 - Open Lands Advisory Board, Parks Advisory Board
 - BOCC
- Public Input Summary
 - Provide a high-quality trail system. Specific preferences for the trail system varied widely, themes include connecting to Carter Lake, minimizing user conflict, providing a nature-based experience, and making trail sustainable.
 - Include meaningful access to the reservoir, including access for fishing, swimming, and hand-launched and trailered boats.
 - Design parking to minimize crowding and include day-use amenities, particularly restrooms.
 - Identify potential to improve ecological function and reduce fragmentation.
 - Protect wildlife habitat, avoid impact to sensitive species.
 - Include opportunities for additional education, inclusion, and outreach.
- Proposed Management Actions
 - Ecological Resources and Topography
 - Management Zones
 - Parking Area Amenities
 - 90 trail access parking spaces: 50 at South Shore at Carter (includes horse trailer spaces) and 40 at CHOS, 125 reservoir access, ~20 boat trailer spaces
 - Reservoir access: boat ramp, hand launch area, ANS inspections

- Fishing access/amenities, swimming areas, picnic shelters, vault toilets, educational kiosks
 - ADA/accessibility amenities (reservoir access, fishing, trails)
- Trail System
 - Sustainably built
 - Experience driven: scenic views, exercise, wildlife watching, recreation, well-being, nature immersion, 10-12 miles of primarily multi-use trails, including shoreline and loop options, evaluate limited use and/or one-way directional during final design, evaluate adjacent alternative segments where natural features exist, consider useability in design
 - Exist within appropriate zones: developed, front country, back country
 - Connects to other areas: connection to Carter, consider future connections to other public lands
- Ecological Management
 - Protect sensitive habitats/species, forest/vegetation management, control invasive species, improve habitat/restoration, ongoing monitoring
- Next Steps
 - Publish draft plan – October 22nd
 - Public virtual open house – October 22nd
 - Advisory Boards – November 2024
 - Board of County Commissioners – November 2024
 - Finalize Plan – December 2024
 - Begin trail construction – 2025
 - Capital construction – 2026
 - Tentative grand opening - 2027
- Board members suggested changing the “Primitive” zone to “no access” zone labelling.
- This plan is intended to help guide what is built over the next 3-5 years and provide a framework on how to move forward into the future. Allowing the department to be adaptive to changes as they come about.

Volunteer and Education Program Update – Julie Enderby

- Public Engagement Strategic Alignment Goals 2024
 - Build a confident, well-trained volunteer team to increase capacity for programs
 - Develop a fun, inspiring annual program calendar which engages the community to increase program participation
 - Streamline volunteer recruitment and onboarding process to attract invested volunteers
 - Create a welcoming and inclusive culture within the Education & Volunteer program
- Year to Date Program Numbers
 - Public Programs **(69)** Participants **(750)**
 - Outreach Events **(6)** Participants **(726)**
 - S.E.E.K Stations **(76)** Participants **(7,857)**
 - Special Requests **(13)** Participants **(330)**
 - School Field trips **(20)** Participants **(1,074)** Schools **(14)**
 - DNR can provide a transportation stipend to schools based on need
 - Unique Moments: Canyon Edge Open Space public tours, Northridge High School, Get to Know series, Night Owl Adventures, LGBTQIA+ Hiking Together: Building Community Though Nature
- Year to Date Volunteer Impact Numbers
 - Volunteers **(545)** – Ongoing **(169)**, One-Time **(376)**
 - 16,560 hours, \$496,800 economic impact, 8.69 full-time employee equivalent
 - Unique Moments: graffiti removal projects at Devil Backbone Open Space, Clena the Shoreline Boltz Middle School, Bay to Bay trail projects (22 projects), Volunteer Naturalist collaboration with Fort Collins Natural Areas
- Goals for 2025
 - Support Volunteers to be confident, well-trained team members
 - Leverage partnerships to increase capacity and meet goals

- Inclusivity and accessibility are part of the culture of the Education & Volunteer program
- Foster stewardship by developing an inspiring and creative annual program calendar
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility (DEIA) Summer Update
 - Began in 2023, aligns with COMPASS (dept. Strategic Plan), two-fold approach (internal & external communities), relationships, partnerships and programs that focus on underrepresented communities, people living with disabilities and indigenous members and relationship to the outdoors, advancing internal training for all staff, efforts are weaved among all levels of department, small steps = meaningful change
 - C.A.S.T For Kids: partnership with Centennial Bass Club, enriching the lives of children with special needs through fishing, reached ~40 families
 - LGBTQIA+ Hiking Together Building Community Through Nature: explore local ecology while connecting with your community, intended to be a safe and welcoming space for members of the LGBTQIA+ community, allies welcome.
 - Host site for ISTAR Camp: support for Native American youth and families in Fort Collins, K-8th grade summer camp, as well as community nights and cultural activities, strong positive relationships that foster belonging and help participants be a source of strength and support for each other
 - Partnership with American Adventure Sports Club: non-profit providing free year-round adventure sports training camps for underrepresented communities, includes youth and adults from low-income households, Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian, and Pacific Islanders, multicultural folks, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Future Advancement: focus on relationship building to strengthen partnerships, programs, impact, leveraging regional resources, learning from training and activating strategies in diverse areas of department (trails, planning, communication, engagement)

Action Items

Recommend adoption of Chimney Hollow Open Space Management Plan – Zac Wiebe

- Linda asked for motion to recommend the adoption of the Chimney Hollow Open Space Management Plan with additional consideration of the verbiage around “Primitive areas” and “prohibited/restricted areas”. Ward made a motion to recommend the management plan. Jim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Next Meeting Scheduled

December 11th, 2024 – 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 – 6:32 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.