



Date: August 22, 2024
Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: Horsetooth Area Information Center – 4200 W County Road 38E Fort Collins, CO 80526 – Mountain Lion Room & Zoom Webinar

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

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

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

Ellis 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.

June 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

2024 Quarter 2 Board Report

Update and Reports

Board of County Commissioner Update

- The Governor is calling a special session the week of August 26th to discuss property taxes.
- Alexander Mountain Fire has reached full containment with limited soil burn severity. Wildfire management and mitigation practices have shown themselves to be effective.

Climate Smart Future Ready Update – Heidi Pruess

- Community-wide program. The plan was finalized in March 2024 and is a 5-year plan.
- Focus Areas:
 - Built environment, circular economy, businesses and jobs
 - Mobility of people, goods and services
 - Natural environment, water and agriculture
 - Interconnection between the areas (including education, outreach, DEI, policies, legislation)
 - 17 strategies – 21 champions for 24 actions, 19 action teams
 - Year one tactics have been identified by Actions teams, 28 tactics across 19 action teams
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory:
 - There are county wide activities (within the borders of the county – not just county workers)
 - Includes: industry, waste, wastewater, agriculture, building energy, oil wells, transportation
 - Goal is to exceed 45% GHG reduction, aiming for a 60% GHG reduction, by 2030
- GHG Emissions – Full adoption of actions:
 - Energy providers are changing fossil fuel mixes they deliver to consumers, and therefore, consumers depend on these providers to act to achieve reduction goals
 - Human health and environmental impacts from GHG over time
- Consumption GHG emissions results
 - Things coming in and things going out (food, secondary impacts like agriculture activity)
 - 7 provisioning systems – Consumption based emissions by sector: Energy (58.3%), Mobility-Connectivity (22.7%), Waste-Sanitation (13%), Buildings (5.2%), Water (0.1%), Food (16.6%), Public Green Spaces (-4.4%)
 - Need better data and additional modeling: soil and grassland impacts, food relations, etc.
- Year One Activities
 - GHG Emission Reduction Focus Update: Identifying programs and initiatives that already exist
 - Actions which will all consistently interact and connect with environmental justice: advancing renewable energy, updating codes in region, commercial building gap assessment and tech assistance program, urban-urban and urban-rural connection needs, active transportation barriers assessment, electric vehicles

Annual Bylaw Review

- Daylan noted OLAB reviews the bylaws annually.
- The purpose of the board is to advise the BOCC and is a requirement of the HPOS sales tax.
- Key things to note:
 - Regular attendance is important
 - Confidentiality surrounding executive sessions is critical
 - Remaining transparent with possible conflict of interest

Annual LC Boards and Commissions Policy and Code of Conduct Review

- Daylan said the County Code of Conduct is a new document to complement the Boards and Commissions policy. It notes how the boards interact as a body, covers preparedness and explains confidentiality.

Discussion Items

Restoration Projects – Zac Wiebe, Planning & Resource Manager

- This presentation focuses mainly on larger restoration Capital Projects. DNR also has smaller projects as well.
- Red Mountain Open Space - Table Mountain Creek (completed April 2024)
 - Goal: Restore ~1000 ft. of perennial stream; develop cattle water source/spring; restore 1.5 miles of roads and house footprint, bank stabilization
 - Outcomes: Riparian and wetland creation (wetlands support 80% of biodiversity but compromise <2% of county land cover), improved habitat for native species, livestock water, carbon sequestration and soil health.
- River Bluffs Open Space – Poudre River Corridor
 - Goal: Restore hayfield to native wetland/riparian and grassland habitat
 - Anticipated to be completed in phases
- Red Mountain Open Space Boxelder Creek Corridor
 - Goal: Restore hayfield and connect 1 miles of stream channel/riparian habitat
 - Outcomes: riparian and wetland creation, improved habitat for native species, transition to rangeland agricultural use, enhanced use of water rights to instream flows, carbon sequestration and soil health
 - Meegan noted the current agricultural lease (focused on cattle grazing) anticipated the need to remove this hayfield from the lease with a 6-month advance notice.
 - Daylan noted the water rights will likely be dedicated to instream flows.
- Future Restoration
 - Long View Farm Open Space
 - Current dryland wheat farm agricultural lease
 - Short-term goal: partner with lessee to implement practices that align with DNR's land management strategy to improve soil health in preparation for restoration. Funding from NRCS EQUIP grant.
 - Long-term Goal/Outcomes: restore to native grassland, improve habitat for native species, transition from cropland to rangeland agricultural use, carbon sequestration and soil health

Trails Program – Joel Schwab, Trails Program Manager

- Trails Key Facts
 - Approximately 800,000 acres of public lands in LC, nearly 1,040 miles of public trails managed by various entities
 - LCDNR manages 100 miles of trails on 40,000 acres, 10% of the countywide trails on 2% of the total Larimer County land base. LC manages high density urban interface trails
- Maintenance
 - A well-built well-maintained trail system is the best tool to protect natural resources and provide quality visitor experiences. The trail crew annually monitors and rates all LCDNR trails with a goal of maintaining 75% of trails at a B average (good condition)
 - 2023 rainfall caused a lot of damage, and ~63% of DNR trails were rated a B or higher average (lower than our performance metric goal of 75%).
 - For 2024 CPW trail maintenance grant to hire 3 seasonal staff to bolster trail crew and conduct priority trail maintenance to get back to goal of 75% a B level.
 - Additional funds for materials and supplies, including tools, safety equipment, replacement of damaged signage, and other supplies for necessary trail work.
- Volunteer/Partnerships
 - Volunteer events: 4 maintenance, 9 new construction (Bay to Bay)
 - Trail Days: Earth Day and National Public Lands Day
 - Larimer County Conservation Corp: With grant funds will help build new Bay to Bay trail.
- Bay to Bay Trail: 1.8-mile connection between South Bay and Inlet Bay at Horsetooth Reservoir
- Upcoming in 2025: Perform ongoing systemwide trail maintenance, Complete Bay to Bay Trail, begin Chimney Hollow Open Space Trail construction

Overview of hunting opportunities on county open spaces - Zach Cook, Visitor Service Manager

- Red Mountain Open Space Limited Quality Hunt
 - The program began in 2010. Total of ~11,000 applications.
 - Lottery process to award 23 special access permits (CPW runs the legal permits to hunt)
 - Hunters must: attend a pre-hunt meeting, hunt weekdays only, follow a hunting boundary (about 9,000 acres), restrictions access from high ecological resource areas and no shooting near trails
 - Success rates: bull elk – 58%, 27 bulls, cow elk ~7% 3 cows Buck 82% 58 bucks
- Eagles Nest Open Space
 - Archery and muzzleloader seasons on weekdays only
 - Hunters can pass through Eagle's Nest OS to access USFS land with unloaded rifles.
- Hermit Parks Open Space
 - Educational/Hunters Experiencing Disability

Action Items

Recommendation on name for Blue Mountain (formerly Heaven's Door Ranch) property

- Meegan said the naming process began in May to name the property.
- Naming criteria included being place-based, two words or less, and not named after an individual or group of people.
- Name suggestions were solicited by phone call/email request to indigenous people that are/were in the area, however no name suggestions were provided. Larimer County DNR staff were asked to suggest names and the suggestions received were narrowed down to a top three: Canyon Edge OS, Canyon Ridge OS, Cascade Ranch OS
- Jim moved to recommend the top three names in the order presented, Canyon Edge OS, Canyon Ridge OS, Cascade Ranch OS, to the BOCC for final decision. Wes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

- Daylan noted DNR's budget has been submitted, with a 4-5% increase in growth. Revenue is doing fine.
- In 2019, a strategy was created to front load land acquisitions. It consists 35% of the sales tax over the life of the tax (set aside 60-70%).
- DNR has \$20 million in the CIP over the next few years. This includes FLAP projects, new capital, asphalt, etc. CHOS will cost around \$6M to build out the infrastructure.

Next Meeting Scheduled

September 26th, 2024 - 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 – 7:43 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.