



**Date:** July 22, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
**Location:** Larimer County Loveland Campus Building, 200 Peridot Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537, Poudre River Room

## OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

| MEMBERS          |   | STAFF                  |   | GUESTS |
|------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------|
| Bob Hewson       |   | Daylan Figgs           | x |        |
| David Marvin     | x | Meegan Flenniken       | x |        |
| Gale Bernhardt   | x | Lori Smith             | x |        |
| K-Lynn Cameron   | x | Chris Fleming          | x |        |
| Linda Stanley    | x | Zac Wiebe              | x |        |
| Mark DeGregorio  | x | Joel Schwab            | x |        |
| Nancy Wallace    | x | Alex Swartz            | x |        |
| Peter Kelly      |   | Sidney Michl (minutes) | x |        |
| Rick Brent       | x | *Jody Shaddock-McNally | x |        |
| Sherri Valentine |   |                        |   |        |
| Steve VanderMeer | x |                        |   |        |
| Tom Shoemaker    | x |                        |   |        |

x = present

\*commissioner

### Call to Order – 5:05 PM

Introduction of new board member, Steve VanderMeer.

### Public Comment – none

### Agenda Review

### Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Rick moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Dave 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

### Larimer County Oil and Gas regulations update – Meegan

Meegan explained the BOCC's efforts to re-examine the county's oil and gas regulations as part of the County's Land Use Code and LCDNR's review of specific elements relative to conserved lands. New language is being proposed that county and municipal owned conserved lands be granted no surface occupancy status unless the applicant can demonstrate natural, cultural, agricultural, scenic and recreation values of equal or greater value exist in the surrounding non-conserved area considered for oil and gas facilities. Considerations for siting within conserved lands would follow a process similar to that used in the Mountains to Plains Energy by Design effort conducted previously by the county and City of Fort Collins and provide guidance for best practices and compensatory mitigation requirements. Any proposal, including on-site or off-site mitigation, will result in no net loss in natural, cultural, agricultural, recreational, or scenic values on the conservation land. The proposal was reviewed at the Larimer County Planning Commission meeting last night and will be reviewed next by the BOCC on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Nancy said the discussion at Planning Commission was controversial with ~40 public comments.

Linda asked about the opportunity for OLAB to make a recommendation to the BOCC, it was noted public comment is available online leading up to the public hearing on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Regulations were since adopted by the BOCC on July 29<sup>th</sup>: <https://www.larimer.org/planning/phase-ii-larimer-county-land-use-code/oil-gas-regulations-phase-ii-update>

### Trails management and projects update – Joel Schwab, Trails Program Manager

Joel provided an overview of the Trails Program including maintenance goals, professional staff (1 full-time trails supervisor and 3-8 seasonal employees), annual budget (~\$110k), and volunteer hours (800-1,600 annually). There are approx. 800k acres of public lands in Larimer County with 961 miles of trail (802 miles of natural surface single track, 140 miles of paved) managed by various entities. DNR manages 99 miles of trails on 40,000 acres of public lands (10% of the county-wide trails on 2% of the conserved land base). Management plan updates, including the upcoming HTMOS update, include adaptive trail management and planning to balance visitor experiences with resource protection.

Recent examples of adaptive trail management:

- Trail realignments at Red Mountain OS to improve visitor experience, reduce impacts from cattle and off-trail use, and adjust trail connectivity
- Suggested one-way routes, adjusted maintenance standards, and additional infrastructure on high use trails such as HT Rock, HT Falls, and Wild and Keyhole trails at DBBOS
- Trail improvement and social restoration along upper Sunrise (HT Reservoir) to minimize erosion, visual impacts, and unsafe paths

The group discussed diversity, equity, and inclusion related to trail access. Advisory board members were invited to attend an optional volunteer trail day to meet with Joel and staff.

### Fee increase public meeting July 7<sup>th</sup> and upcoming meeting planned July 27<sup>th</sup>

The July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was held via Zoom with minimal turnout; the in-person open house with Commissioner Shadduck-McNally on July 19<sup>th</sup> saw greater attendance with ~16 public attendees. The upcoming meeting planned for July 27<sup>th</sup> will be hosted on Zoom. Daylan explained the department is asking for an average 10% fee increase including a fee for non-Larimer County residents and a new entry fee at Devil's Backbone OS. The group discussed challenges with automated pay stations and opportunities for broadband connectivity.

Horsetooth Mountain Open Space Management Plan Update public meeting planned August 9<sup>th</sup>

Zac Wiebe provided an update on the management plan for Horsetooth Mountain OS. The first public forum for the HTMOS Management Plan update will be held via Zoom on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. More information including a public survey and comment board can be found online:

<https://lcconnects.mysocialpinpoint.com/horsetooth-mountain-plan-update/horsetooth-mountain-plan-update-home/>

Dakota Ridge partnership acquisition closed on June 25<sup>th</sup>

Meegan provided an update that the property acquisition closed June 25<sup>th</sup> by the City of Loveland and the process to develop the management plan will begin in 2022. Larimer County and Colorado Open Lands (COL) will co-hold the conservation easement with COL assuming the responsibility of annual monitoring.

## **Discussion Items**

Budget Approached continued

Daylan explained this presentation includes what the department intends to submit to the BOCC.

Lori provided updated estimates for expense and revenue budgets, including Utilities and Central Services. Updates on mandated items:

- Regular wage and benefit increases: 2% market, 2% merit benefits
- Utilities increases: 6%
- Central Services: 3%

It was noted 2021 actuals are being processed with more data forthcoming.

## **Action Items**

Board Election of Officers

Dave Marvin was elected as chair, K-Lynn Cameron was elected as vice-chair with both motions passing unanimously.

## **Other Business**

## **Next Meeting Scheduled**

August 26, 2021 at the Larimer County Loveland Campus Building, 200 Peridot Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537, Poudre River Room

## **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 – 7:19 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 [michlsl@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:michlsl@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.