

Date: June 4, 2024
Time: 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Location: Larimer County Natural Resources Administrative Offices: 1800 South County Road 31, Loveland, CO 80537, Bison Room & Zoom Webinar

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Bill Prater	A	Chris Fleming	A	Jeff Stahla
Jill Wuertz	A	Daylan Figgs	I	Lesli Ellis
Kathy Maher	I	Steve Gibson	I	
Kristina Kachur	I	Cindy Claggett	A	
Adam Crossan	I	*John Kefalas	A	
Pete Blume	A	Andrea Weber (minutes)	A	
Robert Harris	A	Jon Plybon	I	
Ruthie Rollins	I	Noel Rodriguez	I	
Phil Stout	I	Travis Bernstein	I	
Geoff Townsend	A			

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = Absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:33 pm

Public Comment

Agenda Review

PAB Bylaws Action Item moved to August PAB meeting.

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Approval of the minutes from last meeting, May 7th, 2024, were postponed until the August PAB meeting.

Information and Announcements

Natural Resources events for this month: <https://larimer.org/naturalresources>.

To sign up for Parks Advisory Board updates, go to <https://apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click “Subscribe,” and check the “Parks Advisory Board” box.

Board Member Term Expirations

[Chimney Hollow Open Space Website](#)

- Daylan noted DNR will offer two public information meetings, one in-person and one virtually.

Update and Reports

Park District Updates – Steve

- Steve provided an update for Cindy and Carter District in her absence.
 - Rangers responded to an individual that fell 150 feet off a cliff on Glade Road. The patient was airlifted from the scene.
 - New full time rangers RJ and Joe have completed officer training. RJ will be in the Carter District and Joe in the Big Thompson District.

- Marina Lottery:
 - The process went well. Carter received 85 applications and filled 14 open spots and Horsetooth (HT) received 175 applications and filled 3.
 - For 2024, residents and waitlist individuals were added into the lottery drawing twice. For 2025, only LC residents will be entered twice.
 - Would ideally like to have lottery by size and capacity of boats.
 - Daylan noted current slip and mooring residents can choose to renew each year, they do not have to reenter the lottery every year. They can stay as long as they would like.
- Hit capacity on Memorial Day.
- Steve
 - One of HT's full time maintenance staff was injured and is on light duty.
 - Rangers assisted PFA with paddleboard rescues and invited them to join boat rescue training.
 - The Cast for Kids event went well.
 - Working with Lory State Park to address underage drinking and driving in the Eltucks.
 - Staff are reaching out and building relationships with neighbors in the HT area.
- Steve provided an update for Chris in her absence. The License Plate Reader (LPR) system is in the works. The original plan/proposal was more costly than expected.
 - Daylan said DNR is investigating the use of T2, a system DNR already uses, for the public to purchase permits online while also capturing license plate information. Visitors will be able to purchase their permits at the park or before they come.
 - Board members shared concern with pre-purchasing permits if the lots end up being full when they arrive.
 - Rangers will be required to drive parking lots and confirm the vehicle has purchased a permit; however, it will set up the system and process for plate readers in the future.
 - Connectivity will remain a challenge.

2024 DNR Boat Academy – Travis Bernstein

- 60 hours of Instruction primarily focused on training seasonal rangers but includes maintenance staff.
 - Launching and recovering of a vessel, rescue operations, LC rules and regulations, low and high-speed maneuvers on open water, boating accident report, boating under the influence, trailering and backing, vessel contacts/tow and boater assists.
- Basic Water Survival: Wear full gear in a pool to get real life experience being in the water. Trainees then practice in the reservoir.
- Boat Rescue Training: All boat rangers were upgraded to Force Six Rescue Ops Life Jackets. Full-time LCDNR Rangers become National Safe Boating Council Certified Instructors.
- Cultivating Partnerships - Safe Boating Contacts: DNR partnered with the Centennial Bass Club, who volunteered/donated boats and time so rangers could practice contacting different vessels on the water.
- Vessel Safety Checks: Staff provide vessel safety checks onboard before visitors get out on the water to ensure all proper safety equipment is present. This increases safety for the boaters and reduces the need for ticketing from DNR rangers. DNR is partnering with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to do boat safety inspections at no cost. In 2024, the Coast Guard will provide safety stickers for visitors, noting they have everything they need on board.
- Feedback/Questions: Kristina asked if the program was offered to other entities or at Ranger Excellence School. Travis noted boat academy is only for DNR staff, but it is something DNR is working on expanding to others. However, DNR holds a boat rescue refresher program in which PFA and other partner entities attend.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update – Jon Plybon

- Help Preserve Open Space (HPOS) Sales Tax Allocation: Management of County Open Space (**48.9%**), Open Space Land Acquisition & Habitat Restoration (**35.3%**), Capital Improvements/Renewal on County Open Spaces (**12.7%**), Capital Improvements/Renewal at BOR Reservoirs (HT, Carter. Pinewood, Flatiron) (**3.1%**)

- CIP 2024 Review - \$6.3 million total (\$2.7 million grants secured)
 - \$2.3 million (M) – Capital Replacement
 - HT Mtn. OS Improvements – HPOS (**funding source**)
 - Waste Water Infrastructure Projects – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
 - \$3.3M – New Capital Infrastructure
 - Poudre River Trail – HPOS & 3 grants (Regional trail from Watson Lake to Greeley)
 - Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Facilities – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) & park fees
 - Hermit Park OS Maintenance Shop – HPOS
 - \$670k – Habitat Restoration
 - Eagle's Nest/DBB RESTORE – HPOS & grant
 - River Bluffs Wetland/Upland Restoration – HPOS & future grant
- 5 Year Capital Plan - \$16 million total
 - Capital Replacement - \$6M
 - New Capital Infrastructure - \$9M
 - Habitat Restoration - \$1M
- Ongoing Capital Asset Maintenance Projects
 - Asset Maintenance: \$100k/year
 - ADA Improvements: \$10k/year
 - Asphalt Maintenance: \$50k/year
 - Gravel Maintenance: \$50k/year
- CIP 2025 - \$5.47 million total
 - Capital Replacement - \$2.5M
 - HT Reservoir Rotary day use parking lot rebuild – Lottery & BOR grant
 - Carter/HT Res. Access ('25-'27) – Lottery, park fees & FLAP grant
 - New Capital Infrastructure - \$2.2M
 - Chimney Hollow OS ('25-'27) – HPOS & future grant
 - Carter day use/swim area – ARPA grant
 - Habitat Restoration - \$700k
 - Blue Mtn. Property (temp name for Heaven's Door Ranch) habitat restoration – HPOS & future grant
 - Red Mtn. OS Boxelder Creek restoration – HPOS & future grants
- CIP 2026 - \$4.57 million total
 - Capital Replacement - \$1.9M
 - HT Mtn. OS Soderberg parking lot rebuild - HPOS
 - New Capital Infrastructure - \$2.6M
 - Carter/HT Res. Access ('25-'27) – Lottery, park fees & FLAP grant
 - Chimney Hollow OS ('25-'27) – HPOS & future grant
- CIP 2027 - \$860k total
 - Capital Replacement - \$760k
 - HT Reservoir Satanka Bay Improvements – park fees & future grant
 - New Capital Infrastructure - \$50k
 - Blue Mtn. Property Planning – HPOS & future grant
 - Habitat Restoration - \$50k
 - Long View Farm OS Restoration Design – HPOS & future grant
- CIP 2028 - \$800k total
 - New Capital Infrastructure - \$350k
 - Blue Mtn. Property Design – HPOS & future grant
 - Habitat Restoration - \$250k
 - Long View Farm OS Restoration – HPOS & future grant
- CIP 2029 - \$4M total
 - Capital Replacement - \$360k
 - Increase asphalt, gravel & asset maintenance budgets
 - New Capital Infrastructure - \$3.64M

- Blue Mtn. Property Construction ('29-'30)
- Feedback/Discussion:
 - Kathy inquired about DNR's management of cheatgrass (RESTORE project). Jon noted staff use Rejuvra, but Casey Cisneros would be able to provide more information.
 - Ruthie asked, as DNR brings more properties online, will there be a point when building out new properties will be put on hold because maintaining everything is not possible.
 - Daylan said DNR uses the 25-year projection model with built in strategies to help pace out new properties and build them into the CIP. DNR is redoing the projection model and master plans. Currently, DNR puts 3% of the Help Preserve Open Space sales tax into the reservoir parks but can do more if needed.
 - Kristina asked, as DNR moves in the direction of long-term planning, does the department see separated or combined budgets as more efficient and beneficial.
 - Jon said DNR's budget accountant and other staff will assess what the projections and actuals will be. They will set what is available through each funding stream. The CIP is built out from those numbers and streams. Certain funding streams can only be spent in certain places, reservoir parks or open spaces, and projects are selected from plans.
 - Daylan noted some dollars can be spent in both parks and open spaces and moved around.

Discussion Items

Action Items

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Update

Northern Water Conservancy District Update

- Jeff said because of good rains on the eastern slope, less water was used for irrigation and thus Horsetooth Reservoir will fill quicker than originally anticipated.
- Northern Water is hosting a Chimney Hollow Community Day event for neighbors and partners on June 23rd at one of the construction pads.
- Each month Northern Water will have an outreach booth on Tuesday mornings at Flatiron Reservoir to answer questions and provide information.

Board Member Reports

Director's Report – Daylan Figgs

- Geoff Townsend sent in his resignation from the board. Daylan thanked him for his service.
- Staff have begun discussions on the 2025 budget as well as re-doing the 25-year projection model.
- Parks Advisory Board will have new board members in August.
- DNR has started the Chimney Hollow planning process including building the revenue and staffing model. Jeff added, Northern Water has submitted the first fill request and should know by July.

Next Meeting Scheduled - August 6th, 2024, at Administrative Offices at 1800 S. County Road 31, Loveland, CO 80537 - Bison Room and 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 – 7:25 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.