



Date: January 4, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Location: Zoom Webinar

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Bill Prater	x	Daylan Figgs	x	Tara Piper (USBOR)
Deborah Shulman	x	Chris Fleming	x	Jeff Stahla (Northern Water)
Jill Wuertz		Dan Rieves	x	
Kathy Maher	x	Jordan Williams (minutes)	x	
Kristina Kachur	x	*John Kefalas	x	
Mandy Peters	x	Sidney Michl (minutes)	x	
Pete Blume	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	
Robert Harris	x	Jen Murray	x	
Ruthie Rollins	x			
Scott Murray	x			
Spencer Clark	x			

x = present

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:33 p.m.

Public Comment – none

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Ruthie moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Bill seconded, motion pass unanimously.

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

Update and Reports

Carter Lake Visitor Service Manager update – Chris

- Cindy Claggett will be the new Visitor Services Manager in the Carter Lake District. Cindy worked as the Senior Ranger at Carter Lake for several years and worked with Larimer County since 2007.

Park District updates – Dan/Cindy

- Cindy noted that there have been some break-ins at the boats stored over winter and staff are working with the marina and Sheriff's office to prevent future break-ins.
 - Dan noted the Department will be adding to the existing Volunteer Ranger Assistants (VRAs) program, the opportunity for them to also assist with education via paddleboards. Scott asked if there has been any public feedback or if people are surprised about the fee increase. Jordan noted that they have received some feedback, mostly positive about the fee increase at the front desk and added that people are coming in to buy annual passes because of the Devil's Backbone new south trailhead fee.
 - Tara asked if there is schedule of fee increases in master plan. Dan noted there is an internal process that requires approval from BOCC. Daylan added that the feedback DNR received after the last fee increase was to not wait so long between changes.
 - Deborah requested a future presentation from Jordan about special events at Larimer County Natural Resources parks and open spaces.

Chimney Hollow Open Space update – Meegan

- Meegan introduced herself to the board as the Land Acquisition, Planning & Resource Division Manager with oversight of staff functions including trails management, land stewardship, education and volunteers, land acquisitions and planning teams.
 - The Blue Mountain Conservation area is a high priority conservation area west of Carter Lake and south of the Big Thompson River as identified in the Open Lands Master Plan. Many fee simple and conservation easements have been completed by the Department in this area.
 - Initially owned by Hewlett-Packard, the property was purchased in 2004 by Larimer County (1800 acres as Open Space) and Northern Water (1600-acre reservoir site)
 - Several documents outline future management sideboards including an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and recreation lease and a conservation easement. The recreation lease with Northern Water is a 35-year term at no cost to the county to manage recreation on the future reservoir. The IGA identifies facilities to be built by each party, allows the county to charge and retain all user fees, stipulates no-wake boating and day-use only.
 - Reservoir construction schedule is currently planned for Aug 2021-2025; reservoir filled in 2027
 - Larimer County will develop an open space management plan in 2024, construct facilities 2025-2026, and open in 2027.
 - The future public parking is anticipated to accommodate 3 parking lots for both reservoir water and open space trail.
 - The Parks Master Plan outlines the parking area at the south end of Carter Lake's South Shore campground to be the secondary trail access point for Chimney Hollow.
- Scott asked about a comparative number for parking at Horsetooth Reservoir. Meegan said there is quite a bit more parking at Horsetooth, and Chimney Hollow is significantly smaller than the combined size of Horsetooth Reservoir and Horsetooth Mountain Open Space. Horsetooth Reservoir has 243 trailer spots and 740 single car spots.
- Ruthie said great presentation and asked how someone would know if parking filled up at Chimney Hollow. Meegan noted that several of the county's more heavily used parking areas have webcams such as Horsetooth and Devil's Backbone. The county also manages parking with roadway signs. Daylan mentioned that the department is looking at technology which allows for more real-time parking information. Chris noted the CO Trail Explorer app which can show capacity and closures in real-time.
- Deborah asked for more information about CEs. Meegan explained that CEs are a tool that the Department frequently uses to conserve private lands; they are perpetual agreements that run with the property. In case of many county fee-title owned properties, another entity/partner holds the CE, such as the City of Loveland at Chimney Hollow.

- Kathy asked how the land is revegetated after construction projects. Meegan noted the Department land stewardship group performs the work or coordinates all weed management and restoration work associated with construction projects.,
- Jeff affirmed the schedule as presented by Meegan. Commissioner Kefalas added that Northern Water distributes a Chimney Hollow newsletter. Jeff said the newsletter is at chimneyhollow.org and that Northern Water sends out updates on Twitter also.

ANS update – Jen

- Jen introduced herself as the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Boat Coordinator for DNR and noted that there are 6 boat ramps at Larimer County reservoir parks and 40 total employees within the ANS Program,
 - In 2021 there were 45,491 total boat inspections at Horsetooth and 23,188 at Carter Lake.
 - Jen explained the inspection and receipt process for boats throughout the state. Seals are placed on boats when boats leave a “clean” lake, so they have easy access during their next trip.
 - There was a huge spike in inspections in 2020 for both reservoirs.
 - Boat decontaminations for 2021 include 1,425 at Horsetooth and 1,088 at Carter Lake.
 - There were a record number of mussel boat interceptions (zebra and quagga) for Larimer County and the State of Colorado in 2021.
 - Compared statewide, Horsetooth is the third busiest reservoir and Carter Lake is the sixth busiest for ANS inspections and both are in the top 5 for the number of decons performed. Horsetooth is third for mussel interceptions and Carter Lake is tied for seventh.
 - ANS shelters have been built at 5 of the 6 boat ramps.
 - The HB21-1226 roadside pilot project will take place over 3 days in 2022 at Colorado's Loma port of entry to target boats leaving Lake Powell that may have invasive mussels on-board.
 - Rob asked if they expand inspection station at the border, does that mean boats will be accepted by Larimer County without a decon? Jen said her understanding is yes if they have a green seal/white receipt.
 - Jen noted staff shortages led to long lines and traffic on weekends. Mifi at the Horsetooth ramp made logging inspections faster and more real-time, but it does not work at Carter unfortunately.
 - Jen hopes to improve the existing decon units so that the water heats up on demand, runs more quietly, maintains the correct temperature, and cuts down on overall decon time.
- Bill asked if there are any conclusions on where the contaminated boats originate to determine the real value of inspecting all the in-state boats. Jen said that there has not been an infestation of mussels in Colorado, but the inspectors must check for other pests as well.
- Deborah asked if boat owners bear cost of the decon/inspections. Dan said they do.
- Kristina asked about out of state inspections for non-motorized vessels, and if there is a movement in Colorado to inspect more than just registered boats. Jen said the state has an exemption list that includes small watercraft with a low risk of carrying ANS, such as kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes.
- Kathy asked where the contaminated water goes after the decon procedure. Jen said on demand units can hook up to sewer lines, or drainage areas to filter. Kristina asked where it goes now, and Dan said most of it is ground percolated.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Update

- Tara mentioned the new management agreement between Larimer County and the Bureau of Reclamation. They are on a path to move forward and wrap up public comments.

Board Member Reports

- Deborah asked Scott to comment on the climate action meeting. Scott said he came away impressed by community awareness and how people are engaging but noted differing opinions on how to proceed.
- Kristina said she'd like to do another volunteer event for 2022, specifically she thought an ANS volunteer day and water cleanup could be a good idea.

Director's Report – Daylan Figgs

- Daylan noted that the department is at year five of the ten-year plan, so they are in the process of comparing it to the Capital Improvement Projects listing to see where Natural Resources is headed.
- Daylan wants to put together a 12-month calendar outlining key topics to bring to the board and share over the year.
- Daylan noted that the new fee structure went into place and the department has not received negative comments or surprises.
- There will be another community touchpoint at end of the month for the Horsetooth Reservoir Forum, which will allow staff to talk about changes that will be implemented this year at Satanka Bay.

Commissioner Report – John Kefalas

- Kristin Stephens was appointed as the new Board of County Commissioners Chair.
- Bill Wilson was given the Brendan Unitt Service Award.

Next Meeting Scheduled

February 1, 2022 via Zoom Webinar

Adjournment – 7:30 p.m.

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 williajo@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.