



Date: February 6, 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	V	Chris Fleming	I	Danielle Reimas
Jill Wuertz	A	Daylan Figgs	I	Lesli Ellis (V)
Kathy Maher	A	Steve Gibson	I	
Kristina Kachur	V	Cindy Claggett	I	
Adam Crossan	A	*John Kefalas	V	
Pete Blume	A	Andrea Weber (minutes)	I	
Robert Harris	V			
Ruthie Rollins	I			
Scott Murray	V			
Phil Stout	I			
Geoff Townsend	I			

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = Absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:31 pm

Public Comment

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Phil moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Rob seconded, motion passed 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.

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November 2023 Open Space Sales Tax Distribution Letter

- Daylan announced the application window has opened for Larimer County boards.
- Commissioner Kefalas added, the application opened February 5th and will close March 8th. Information can be found on the website [here](#).

Commissioner Update

- Commissioner Kefalas said On February 1st, the Thornton 1041 application for a proposed pipeline project was completed. Hearings will be scheduled for April and May.
 - Lesli noted it is a quasi-judicial matter and defined by statute on how the county responds to 1041 applications. She encouraged the board to provide comments on this application as individual residents (not as board members). She continued, the county has standard procedures to follow, and the process is public. More information can be found on the website [here](#).
- Commissioner Kefalas said the Treasurer is working to send out property tax statements soon.
- The BOCC is building their preliminary 2024 annual work plan. They will review and approve board and commissions work plans once the BOCC work plan has been finalized.
- Larimer County (LC) has announced support regarding a proposed bill by Keep It Colorado to increase conservation easement tax credits from \$45 million to \$75 million dollars.
- The LC Community survey is out. It remains open until February 18th and can be found [here](#).

Updates and Reports

Park District Updates - Steve/Cindy

- Steve noted with intermittent snow, areas are muddy and being closed as needed.
- Trailheads have continued to reach capacity. Campgrounds have a few visitors, mainly transients.
- The Satanka ANS shelter concrete has been installed. The project continues to move forward.
- Working with staff to remove the shoreline trees. Rangers are receiving chainsaw training.
- Staff responded to two suicide incidents, one at Rotary, one at Lyons. Both individuals were placed on mental health holds.
- Installing an automatic gate at Hawk Canyon (Red Mountain Open Space) for a handicapped neighbor. This will be a cost share project.
- Staff are cleaning up the upper road. The direction of the road will change, making it safer/manageable.
- This year South Bay has remained open (boat ramps chained off), to provide more winter access.
- Shared images of Rangers herding cattle in Redstone Canyon, the Polar Plunge (Emergency Services fundraiser) followed by a 5k, event had 600 participants, and the LC Sheriff's Office awards ceremony in which 3 DNR Rangers received lifesaving awards.
- Cindy said a joint newsletter with BOR, Northern Water and DNR was released regarding the Pinewood Power Plant repair project. The project is expected to be completed by April. Carter Lake will drop 9 feet and Horsetooth 2 feet while water movement is halted.
- Shared a video of the Carter maintenance crew plowing the parking lot and spoke to the time it takes for staff to do snow management during the winter.
- Staff are working on a North Pines erosion project with the Army Corp of Engineers and BOR. Paving will occur with the FLAP project, and thus a temporary fix will be used.
- DNR will host two Eastside Carter Lake Public neighborhood meetings on February 7th and 8th.
 - Ruthie asked who these meetings are targeting. Cindy said mainly the neighbors. There will be stations with pictures and maps, and it is an opportunity for neighbors to share concerns and ask questions.
 - Daylan noted there is an online platform with more information found [here](#).
- Conferences for staff: Park Law Enforcement Association, Park Ranger Institute.

LC Water Master Plan Overview

- Danielle is the Water Master Plan project coordinator and manager. The project is sponsored by CPIR Director Lesli Ellis. The plan resides within the 2019-2023 LC Strategic Plan.
- Larimer County is taking foundational steps on strategic goals to:
 - Improve long-term planning for water supply in unincorporated areas, promote water-sharing strategies to preserve agriculture and sustain water supplies, address risks and sustainability and prepare responsive land use policies and standards.

- Previous Work (Phase 1) 2021-2022:
 - Findings: Water supply is 57% from local sources (Big Thompson and/or Poudre River Watershed), 43% Colorado River. A 47% decline in irrigated lands
 - Water Providers: 124 centralized public water systems within LC, 385,600 people served by centralized water system, 25-90% projected growth in water demand at buildout.
- Current Work (Phase 2)
 - Tasks: public engagement, inventory review and gap analysis, vision and goals, baseline mapping, risk and vulnerabilities analysis, identify implementation and mitigation strategies, draft and finalize Water Master Plan, Land Use Code.
 - Firms: SWCA Environmental Consultants and AE2S Engineering
 - Timeline: Through the end of 2024
 - Funding: FEMA and Larimer County
 - Stakeholder Engagement: Water Advisory Group (WAG) and Technical Advisory Group (TAG), interested parties, county core team.
 - Data-Driven Approach: spatial datasets, relevant plans
 - Mapping and Analysis: identify high-risk watersheds based on defined criteria.
 - Mitigation Strategies: to lessen the risks and vulnerabilities to these watersheds.
 - Draft Water Master Plan: to be voted on by BOCC and ratified by Planning Commission (PC)
- Vision and Goals Creation Process:
 - Oct. 2023: Create TAG, WAG and County Core Team
 - Nov. 2023: Vision and Goals Workshop, BOCC/PC Work Session
 - Dec. 2023: County Core Team review
 - Jan. & Feb. 2024: TAG & WAG, LC Advisory Boards
- Draft Vision: “Larimer County, guided by a commitment to stewardship, is dedicated to safeguarding local and regional water systems, aligning future land use with available water resources, and helping to build resilient communities and ecosystems equipped to address future water challenges.”
- Draft Goals: (Highest level): minimize the threat of natural hazards (i.e., floods, wildfire), communicate and collaborate to support water sustainability, promote water literacy in our community, address water supply and demand dynamics, enhance water efficiency and conservation measures.
- Risk Categories
 - Can be modeled using spatial data: reduced water supply and increased water demand, watershed/natural hazards, water rights, infrastructure risks or limitations.
 - Will be incorporated following mapping: lack of water conservation policies or measures, lack of water education.
 - Risk Category detail:
 - Reduced water supply and increased demand - Changes in land use, increasing demand from pop growth, uncertain water future as it relates to climate.
 - Watershed/natural hazards - Flooding, wildfire, drought, source water protection (water quality).
 - Water rights – “Buy out, dry out” (Farmer sells water rights and keeps dry land), agriculture, water rights owned by non-county entities, abandoned/underutilized water rights, water rental market limitations.
 - Infrastructure risks or limitations - Aging or damaged infrastructure, inadequate storage, delivery limitations.
- Upcoming Events: WAG and TAG, Boards and Commissions, BOCC and PC work sessions, Public Open House (Information and data) March/April.
- Feedback:
 - Ruthie asked how LC will respond to high risk watersheds that are outside of LC jurisdiction. Danielle noted many of the water providers and entities are engaged in the working group and LC is/will collaborate and communicate with other entities.
 - Kristina inquired about water from the western slope. Danielle said the Colorado River is not included in the map; however, LC receives ~43% of its water from it.

- Board members inquired about risk factors (i.e. housing developments), risk criteria and availability of water resources for recreation.

Discussion Items

Action Items

Carter Lake Marina Contract

- Chris noted the contract is for 10 years with two 5-year renewal options (can be up to 20 years).
- Ruthie said the role of the PAB is to make a recommendation to the BOCC. The board cannot change the contract content but can provide comments on it.
- Cindy shared the main issues and concerns that are covered in the contract:
 - Gross Revenue: "The License Fee shall be 5.5% of the quarterly gross revenues for 2024, 6% for 2025, 6.5% for 2026 and 7% and through the length of the License." There will be no rent option. DNR owns the buildings and had offered a rent option in the previous marina contract.
 - Short term rentals:
 - The contract requires the marina, who will run any short-term rentals, to provide information and communication regarding them.
 - Daylan said if a boat is pulled out of a slip for an amount of time (ex. goes to the boat mechanic), that slip may be put into a short-term rental system. DNR may also request 2 additional moorings for short-term rentals if necessary.
 - Cindy clarified; Carter Lake Marina already has a system for short term rentals. The Marina will open slips when they are expecting people to be gone. There will not be a reservation system for short-term rentals and no guarantee there will be a slip available.
 - Lottery System - Rental of Slips & Moorings:
 - Cindy said the Carter Lake Marina will take all existing/returning customers, place them in a slip or mooring, and any remaining slips/moorings will enter the lottery system. Individuals interested in a slip/mooring will apply for one and be entered into the lottery.
 - There will be preference points for LC residents and long-good standing customers. Slips throughout the year will not be transferable. If a customer leaves, the marina can adjust and move existing customers into that spot as they see fit, then the open slip/mooring will enter the lottery. Cindy noted a limit of 200 slips and moorings.
 - There is no time limit set on how long a slip/mooring customer can reside in the slip/mooring. Chris said there will be no mechanism for forced turnover however, there is no longer transfer of slips/moorings, i.e., from family member to family member. Daylan added, once a customer is in a slip/mooring, they can stay as long as they desire. Turning over slips annually is not good for the marina as a business. Open slips/moorings will enter the lottery slowly as customers leave.
 - If someone wins the lottery and they need a specific size slip (big boat) and one is not available, they will not be successful at the lottery. The boat owned must fit into the slip available.
- Board Votes
 - Ruthie stated she would not be supporting the contract. The lottery system should not be indefinite and needs a time frame/limit. In addition, she would like to see language added, that if there was not turnover as anticipated, in a set year (202X) there would be forced turnover to hit a certain number for the lottery. She does not think the presented contract provides enough equity and opportunity for enough people.
 - Bill noted he will vote in favor of the contract; however, he has reservations and would like to see the lottery system be more equitable.
 - Phil would like to see more equity in the lottery. With current information, it is difficult to define a time limit. He noted a need to commission a study to understand how long people typically own a boat and be able to base the lottery time limit on that study.

- Rob noted a reservation system for short-term rentals would provide more access and give people a guaranteed place to stay like a camping reservation. In the presented contract, making temporary vacant slips available is not enough and is difficult to plan a trip/boat rental around.
- Ruthie asked for a motion to recommend to the BOCC the approval of the Carter Lake Marina Contract.
 - Rob made a motion that the PAB recommends to the BOCC the approval of the Carter Lake Marina Contract, Scott seconded. All board in favor, except Ruthie Rollins. Motion passed.

Annual Work Plan

- Chris provided some example topics from the work plan, updating board by-laws, special events, Our Lands Our Future, etc.
- Scott inquired about an environmental stewardship presentation/update. Chris noted this is integrated in DNR staff work every day. Daylan noted the Open Lands Advisory Board receives an ecological and restoration update. Chris said restoration updates are provided during the CIP presentation and CIP staff can focus more on both open spaces and reservoir restoration projects for PAB.
- Ruthie asked for a motion to recommend to the BOCC to approve the DNR work plan as presented.
 - Phil moved to make a motion, Kristina seconded, motion passed unanimously.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Update

Northern Water Conservancy District Update

Board Members Reports

Director's Report - Daylan Figgs

Next Meeting Scheduled

March 5th, 2024 - at Horsetooth Area Information Center: 4200 W. County Rd. 38 E. 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 – 8:30 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.