



Date: November 5, 2024
Time: 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Location: Horsetooth Area Information Center (HAIC) at 4200 W. County Rd. 38E, Fort Collins CO 80526 - Mountain Lion Room & Zoom Webinar

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Bill Prater	A	Chris Fleming	I	Jeff Stahla
Jill Wuertz	A	Daylan Figgs	I	Tara Piper
Kathy Maher	V	Steve Gibson	I	Lesli Ellis
Kristina Kachur	I	Cindy Claggett	I	
Adam Crossan	I	*John Kefalas	A	
Pete Blume	V	Andrea Weber (minutes)	A	
Robert Harris	I	Noel Rodriguez	I	
Ruthie Rollins	A	Lily Higgins	I	
Joe Bakel	I	Zac Wiebe	I	
Phil Stout	A	Aubrey Hilde	I	
Jeannie Mounts	A			

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = Absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:32 pm

Public Comment

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

****Rob moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Adam 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.

July 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

August 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

Update and Reports

Visitor Service Staff Updates – Steve/Cindy

- Steve

- Horsetooth District is closing areas down for the winter. South Bay ramp will close around Thanksgiving.
- The volunteer shoreline cleanup event went well.
- Shoreline erosion mitigation work at the HAIC
 - Higher water levels over the years have advanced erosion of the shoreline. Riprap has been added as a temporary fix.
- Rangers have been involved in rescue, bilingual, and ice rescue training
- Wind caused a few boat docks to be put out of commission.
- Horsetooth will install two new boat ramps at South Bay in 2025.
- Cindy
 - Closing Carter areas for the season.
 - Visitation has kept up due to nicer weather, full campgrounds on weekends, but starting to drop, especially during the week to winter numbers.
 - Working with CPW to address a racoon dumper. The individual has been releasing racoons in the Carter area at a rate of 1 racoon per every 2 months, totaling to 18 racoons thus far.
 - Poached deer beyond Pinewood Reservoir
 - Rangers participated in the Boyd Lake Trunk-or-Treat event for Halloween
 - The maintenance crew cleared up some culverts to create better drainage.
- Chris
 - Rick Goltz is retiring from DNR after 27 years.
 - Launched pilot Text-to-Pay project in the Horsetooth District. The feedback from visitors has been good and positive overall. Daylan added, this program is important when the Iron Rangers go down. It allows the department to continue to bring in revenue.

Quarter 3 Board Report

- Daylan noted DNR has provided 3 public tours of the Canyon Edge property. The tours allow the public to learn about the process from purchasing to opening an open space. More tours offered in 2025.
- Pay-to-dump stations are working well and collecting some revenue.
- DNR is spending 1% less in the Reservoir Parks compared to 2023.

Chimney Hollow Open Space Management Plan – Zac

- Chimney Hollow Reservoir is two-thirds the size of Cater Lake and the Chimney Hollow Open Space (CHOS) is 1,847 acres.
- Plan Objectives
 - Assemble ecological data to clarify conservation values
 - Identify appropriate land and water-based recreation experiences
 - Develop associated management zones
 - Identify appropriate recreation infrastructure to access trail system and reservoir
 - Identify opportunities for environmental education
- Regulatory Context
 - Northern Water IGA and Recreation Lease (2020)
 - No overnight use, wakeless boating only restricted areas, no public access till reservoir filled, footprint
 - Conservation Easement – City of Loveland and GOCO
 - Approval of any infrastructure, 15-acre footprint, non-motorized recreation
- Public Feedback
 - March – August
 - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting #1
 - Public Open House (in person and virtual) ~50 attendees
 - Open Lands Advisory Board
 - Parks Advisory Board
 - Website: 1,398 unique users, 500+ surveys, ~600 comments

- Trailhead tables
- Public Input Summary
 - Provide a high-quality trail system. Specific preferences for the trail system varied widely, themes include connecting to Carter Lake, minimizing user conflict, providing a nature-based experience, and making trail sustainable.
 - Include meaningful access to the reservoir, including access for fishing, swimming, and hand-launched and trailered boats.
 - Design parking to minimize crowding and include day-use amenities, particularly restrooms.
 - Identify potential to improve ecological function and reduce fragmentation.
 - Protect wildlife habitat, avoid impact to sensitive species.
 - Include opportunities for additional education, inclusion, and outreach.
- Proposed Management Actions
 - Ecological Resources and Topography
 - Management Zones
 - Parking Area Amenities
 - 90 trail access parking spaces: 50 at South Shore at Carter (includes horse trailer spaces) and 40 at CHOS, 125 reservoir access, ~20 boat trailer spaces
 - Reservoir access: boat ramp, hand launch area, ANS inspections
 - Fishing access/amenities, swimming areas, picnic shelters, vault toilets, educational kiosks
 - ADA/accessibility amenities (reservoir access, fishing, trails)
- Trail System
 - Sustainably built
 - Experience driven: scenic views, exercise, wildlife watching, recreation, well-being, nature immersion, 10-12 miles of primarily multi-use trails, including shoreline and loop options, evaluate limited use and/or one-way directional during final design, evaluate adjacent alternative segments where natural features exist, consider useability in design
 - Exist within appropriate zones: developed, front country, back country
 - Connects to other areas: connection to Carter, consider future connections to other public lands
- Ecological Management
 - Protect sensitive habitats/species, forest/vegetation management, control invasive species, improve habitat/restoration, ongoing monitoring
- Next Steps
 - Publish draft plan – October 22nd
 - Public virtual open house – October 22nd
 - Advisory Boards – November 2024
 - Board of County Commissioners – November 2024
 - Finalize Plan – December 2024
- Questions/Feedback
 - Rob shared concerns with having no recreation before the reservoir is filled. Zac said the reservoir is anticipated to start filling in summer 2025 and it could take 2-3 years to fill. The delay works well for DNR, allowing staff to start phase one of building the trail system (2025) and more infrastructure in 2026, etc.
 - Adam inquired about exclusions on the trails. Zac said 10-12 miles of trail is not a lot for single use options. Having a trail that is directional should help with visitors and multi-use conflicts. Possible alternative lines/trails parallel for bikes (if need arises).
 - Kristina asked about the sizes of the parking lots and if they were flat spaced based or recreation capacity based. Zac confirmed flat space based.
 - Kristina asked about increased staffing to meet the level of service. Daylan said an additional maintenance staff person will be added to the South District in 2025. DNR is currently working through the 25-year projections and is looking for this to inform possible staffing need/projected revenue with Chimney Hollow coming online.

- 6 ramps in operation, 39 employees managing inspections and decontaminations, 2 partnerships supporting the program.
- The state introduced hybrid virtual classes for inspector training. Larimer County is assisting in training inspectors from other reservoirs.
- Inspection Volume (as of November 1):
 - Horsetooth: 36,499 inspections Carter: 18,060 inspections. Averages – HT 675 during week, 942 during weekends – Carter 309 during week, 524 on weekends. Numbers are comparable to 2018 pre-COVID levels.
- Decontamination numbers are increasing (HT 989, Carter 557).
- North Pines and South Bay are the two busiest ramps at the reservoirs.
- Mussel boat cases (boats with actual shells): 10 total interceptions this year (statewide: 108). Majority of intercepted boats originate from out of state.
- South Shore inspections decreased due to frequent closures of the ANS station this year.
- New infestations:
 - Highline Lake (Grand Junction, CO): Zebra Mussels.
 - Highline Canal and Colorado River: Zebra Mussels.
 - Antero Reservoir: New Zealand Mudsnaills.
 - Redtail Lake (South Platte Fork): New Zealand Mudsnaills.
 - Golden Mussels in California: Posing potential future threats.
- Roadside programs operational in Loma and Trinidad Port of Entry. Traveling Port of Entry crew operates out of Denver.
 - Staffing challenges led to shifts in personnel from ports to rivers for outreach after mussels were found in the Colorado River.
 - Mitigation gaps at ports: Ballasted boats are not being decontaminated and shrink-wrapped boats are not being unwrapped for inspections.
 - Statewide decontamination rate: 6% of inspected boats. Loma Port of Entry had many contacts with motor craft.
 - Total inspections, decontaminations, and mussel boat findings align with Larimer County trends.
 - CPW is increasing educational efforts targeting paddleboarders, fishermen, and other nonmotorized water users.
 - Emphasis on “Clean, Drain, Dry” kits and boot brushes to minimize the spread of ANS.
 - Fishermen identified as a significant vector for ANS spread.
- Why are inspection numbers down?
 - Shortened Hours at Carter and HT, Port of Entry Locations (two-pronged approach), Policy Change (Hitting “Capacity”)
- What’s Next: On demand decon units, receipt printing, Satanka Shed. Challenges: staffing, scheduling

Hunting Presentation – Aubrey

- Each year, approximately 1.4 million hunters and anglers contribute nearly \$3.2 billion of combined economic benefit to the State and support over 25,000 jobs (CPW).
- Red Mountain Open Space Limited Access Hunt
 - 14th Year
 - 10,980 total applications since 2010
 - Lottery process to award permits
 - Success rates: Bull Elk (58% - 27), Cow Elk (7% - 3), Buck (82% - 58)
 - Details: Must draw a tag, mandatory pre-hunt meeting, weekdays only, hunting boundary marked, restrictions to access and shooting near trails
- Eagles Nest Open Space Limited Take Hunt
 - Agreement with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and National Forest Service for access
 - Permitted archery and muzzleloader
 - Conducted county in 2020, 75 hunters, 15% success, no elk harvested, weekdays only, access with unloaded rifle to National Forest

- Hermit Park Open Space Educational/hunters Experiencing Disability
 - Access to National Forest Homestead Meadows, property identified for special access groups, no activity in recent years
- The hunting program is not widely advertised to keep numbers of applicants manageable and try to keep it local. There is enough interest and participation, advertising is not necessarily needed.

Discussion Items

Action Items

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Update

- Hired Emergency Management Specialist (internal transfer). There are things that DNR reaches out to the BOR about that happen on the reservoirs (series bodily injuries, cars, etc.)

Northern Water Conservancy District Update

- CHOS, saddle dam on the South end will be completed in 2 weeks
 - Change of schedule:
 - 280 feet tall currently, narrowing top means machines must take shifts in duties
 - Dam completion is expected at the end of the 1st quarter in 2025. Begin filling in June 2025.
 - Completed roadside clean up event
- Safety tour with DNR staff and rangers to discuss both parties' operations and possible safety concerns.

Board Member Reports

Director's Report – Daylan Figgs

- Larimer County Water Master Plan nearing completion
- FLAP grant went out to bid and will receive quotes
 - Carter in 2025, Horsetooth in 2026 and 2027

Next Meeting Scheduled

December 3rd 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 – 7:26 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.