



Date: February 4, 2025
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	I	Chris Fleming	I	Jeff Stahla
Kathy Maher	I	Daylan Figgs	I	
Kristina Kachur	I	Steve Gibson	A	
Adam Crossan	I	Cindy Claggett	I	
Pete Blume	A	*John Kefalas	V	
Robert Harris	V	Andrea Weber (minutes)	I	
Ruthie Rollins	V	Travis Bernstein	I	
Joe Bakel	V	Jon Plybon	I	
Phil Stout	I	Laura Bailey	I	
Jeannie Mounts	V			

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

Adam moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting, Kathy 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.

September 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

October 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

November 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

Larimer County’s Marina Lottery begins second year for reservoir marina slips – News Release

Updates and Reports

Agenda and Meeting Notice for PAB

- The public place for posting the notices of public meetings of the Parks Advisory Board is designated as <https://www.larimer.gov/boards#/board/parks-advisory-board/> which is the Larimer County website and is accessible at no charge to the public.
- In the event notice of a public meeting cannot be posted online at www.larimer.gov/naturalresources/plans-reports-advisory-boards (example: website is down or due to exigent or emergency circumstances), notice shall be physically posted no less than twenty-four hours prior to holding of the public meeting at the bulletin boards located at the north and south entrances of the Larimer County Administrative Offices, 200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Rate Your Day – Laura Bailey

- The survey closed in November. This was year 2 of 3 conducting this survey to acquire information about visitor satisfaction.
- Goals and Background:
 - Collect feedback from across the entire DNR system.
 - Ran June - October 2024
 - Based on a 5-star rating system
 - 1 - 2.5 minutes to take
 - Identify barriers to access and improvement
 - A request for a quantifiable metric of visitor satisfaction per BOCC and Division leader, as well as a Compass goal activated this program.
- Same form as 2023: star rating, where did you visit, did you feel welcome? Tell us more (optional), and zip code.
- Marketing tactics: fliers, QR code-driven, in-house built campaign, trailhead posters, business cards, social media, and website. Emails went out to campers who had reservations from June – October.
- Lessons learned, direct monthly email to campers is still the most effective tool for getting responses.
- Results:
 - Responses - 2023: **671** 2024: **1112**
 - Comments - **789** (78%)
 - **8 of 10** from Colorado (83%)
 - States represented – 2023: **32 of 50** 2024: **36 of 50**
 - Average star rating - 2023: **4.5-star** 2024: **4-star**
 - **78.8%** were satisfied or very satisfied
 - Did you feel welcome and safe - 2023: **94% yes** 2024: **87% yes**
 - Comment trends:
 - Positive comments: customer service, rangers, restrooms, well maintained/clean, beauty of place, favorite place.
 - Negative: roads/maintenance, price, restrooms, campsite issues (noise/crowds), reservations, customer service, regulations enforcement
 - Notable 2024 comments:
 - Alexander Mountain Fire – refund issues, 41 comments
 - Reservation issues – empty camp spots, trouble with reservation system, 29 comments
 - Prices – comments about unaffordable prices in general. Comments about new pay as you go RV dump stations, 57 comments.
 - Customer service, 100 comments
 - Where did you visit: Horsetooth Mountain – 25, Carter – 275, Horsetooth Reservoir – 331, Hermit Park – 260, Flatiron – 140, Pinewood – 70, Devils Backbone – 1
 - Struggle to get people off the trail to take the survey after a hike.
 - What's Next: Release results to the public in January 2025, core staff team identifying trending areas of service improvement, sharing qualitative feedback to staff and volunteers, repeat in 2025 (same questions), and revisit for 2026.
 - Survey results: [BIT.LY/RATEYOURDAY24](https://bit.ly/rateyourday24)

Park District Updates - Travis/Cindy

- Cindy
 - Preparations for summer seasonal hiring and recruitment are underway, with career fairs and hiring initiatives in progress. Hiring has improved due to adjustments in the process, making positions more competitive.
 - Fluctuating weather conditions have resulted in muddy and icy trails.
 - Work continues finalizing the Sail Club contract.
 - Two full-time maintenance positions are open and in the process of being filled. Additionally, maintenance staff have been actively working on deconstructing the old and constructing the new boat docks.
 - Lily Higgins has been hired as the full-time Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Coordinator.
 - The second Carter Neighbor meeting was held at the Admin Office and went well.
 - Ranger staff received awards at the recent Larimer County Sheriff's Office Awards Ceremony. Recognition was given for the Stone Mountain Fire Response, and Chris Fleming received the Distinguished Service Award for defensive tactics and leadership. Life-saving awards were also presented to full-time employee Trevor and seasonal employee Molly.
 - Ongoing efforts to refine the special events process, ensuring smoother operations for incoming events.
 - Reported a poaching case at Red Mountain, explaining that a statewide issue with Title 33 statute language has made it difficult to charge individuals with trespassing if they meet all legal hunting requirements. Chris confirmed this issue is occurring across the state due to the interpretation of "public land" within the statute.
 - The marina lottery opened in January and will run through the end of February. There are 86 applications at Carter and 222 at Horsetooth so far. The final availability of slips and mooring balls will be determined in March. Cindy noted that last year's process went well, and only minimal changes were made. The system continues to function efficiently, with a Google form streamlining the entry process. Only one entry is permitted per boat.
- Travis (filling in for Steve)
 - The 2025 Surface Ice Rescue Training was conducted, with initial and refresher certifications offered. Approximately half of the attendees were from Fort Collins Natural Areas. Rangers also completed Blue Card Incident Command training with the Poudre Fire Authority, which provided them with a structured decision-making model to enhance emergency response capabilities.
 - Horsetooth Reservoir rangers assisted the fire department with an evacuation effort, ensuring no loss of life, though a home was destroyed. In another incident, rangers helped Poudre Fire Authority carry an injured female hiker to an ambulance after she sustained an ankle injury below Rotary Park.
 - Rangers aided the Larimer County Sheriff's Office and co-responders in multiple situations, including a female under the influence at Sunrise Day Use, a young man experiencing a mental health crisis, and a physical disturbance in the South Bay neighborhood.
 - Several community events, including the Polar Plunge at Horsetooth Reservoir, which drew approximately 500 participants. Maintenance crews worked early to plow the area before the event.
 - A steel picket fence was fabricated and installed around the solar panels at the new ANS station in Satanka. The South Bay ANS decontamination station is currently in progress, though it is awaiting final electrical work. In preparation for spring, two new floating docks have been assembled and will be installed at South Bay.

2024 Quarter 4 Board Report – Tabled for March

CIP Updates – Jon Plybon

- 2024 CIP Summary and Projects

- 7 projects: Total Budget \$2.6M, Total actual \$1.7M, Under budget \$900k
- For every department dollar spent, DNR received \$2 in grant funds – DNR Funds \$575k, Grant Funds \$1.1M
- 2024 Project Review
 - Horsetooth Reservoir – Satanka Bay ANS Shelter \$155k budget, \$145k actual (BOR Grant)
 - Horsetooth Reservoir – South Bay Flush Restroom \$150k budget, \$146k actual (ARPA Funds)
 - Horsetooth Reservoir – South Bay ANS Decon Station \$300k budget, \$230k actual (BOR funds)
 - Horsetooth Reservoir – Horsetooth Area Information Center Shoreline Stabilization \$380k budget, \$200k actual (BOR Grant)
 - Hermit Park – Maintenance Shop \$540k budget, \$540k actual (HPOS Sales Tax funds)
 - Hermit Park – Wastewater System \$400k budget, \$350k actual (ARPA Funds)
 - South Bay, Inlet Bay, Carter Lake Hermit Park - RV Dump Stations \$660k budget, \$80k actual (ARPA Funds)
- 2025 Projects
 - Poudre River Trail – trail construction including road crossing and canal bridge
 - Chimney Hollow Open Space – construction documents out to bid
 - Carter Lake – Federal Asphalt Paving Project (FLAP), Eastside day-use improvements
 - Hermit Park Open Space – complete/finish power improvements
 - Restoration – River Bluffs Open Space wetland and prairie, Red Mountain Open Space Boxelder Creek
- 2025 Capital Asset Maintenance Projects
 - Asset Maintenance: Inlet Bay stabilization and boat ramp repair
 - ADA Improvements: LCDNR Admin Office entry door accessibility
 - Asphalt Maintenance: Pleasant Valley Trail patching, striping South Bay parking lot
- General Paving Schedule BOR Lands ('25 - '27)
 - 2025: Big Thompson parking lot, CR 31 auxiliary lanes, quarry parking lot, Eagle Campground
 - 2026: North Pines, CR 38E auxiliary lane, South Bay
 - 2027: South Bay, Inlet Bay

Board of County Commissioners Update

- Commissioner Kefalas, noted, nominations for the Environmental Science Stewardship Award are now open and being accepted.

Discussion Items

Annual Board Work Plan

- Phil made a motion to approve the Annual PAB Workplan. Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Update

Northern Water Conservancy District Update

- Jeff noted work on Chimney Hollow was paused during most of December, January, and February due to temperature conditions. There are currently only 68 days remaining for paving. Significant progress has been made on the valve house and plumbing.
 - Projections estimate that by December 31st, the reservoir will be 44% full based on current observations. It was noted that when filling a new dam, specific hold points must be met, requiring a slow start to the process. The official commissioning of the dam is scheduled for October 3rd, with a larger ribbon-cutting event planned for 2027.
- The Colorado River Conference is scheduled for December.

- Oral arguments concerning Glade Reservoir and the federal lawsuit, are expected to be heard in the third or fourth quarter of this year, with a decision anticipated in 2026. If successful, construction is planned to begin in 2027.

Board Member Reports

Director's Report – Daylan Figgs

- Currently, federal grants are on hold and the outcome remains uncertain. Operational dollars are not funded by federal sources, ensuring financial stability in that regard. However, the hold on federal and state grants impacts several projects, including the Poudre River Trail.
- ARPA dollars have now been allocated to the county and are no longer tied directly to the federal government. This provides greater financial flexibility and accessibility, making the funding more secure.
- DNR is hosting an upcoming volunteer dinner and a party to celebrate the retirement of Lori Smith.

Next Meeting Scheduled

March 4th 2025 – 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 – 7:18 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.