



Date: March 4, 2025
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	I	Chris Fleming	I	Jeff Stahla
Joe Bakel	A	Daylan Figgs	I	Tara Piper
Kathy Maher	A	Steve Gibson	I	Sheriff Feyen
Kristina Kachur-Webb	I	Cindy Claggett	I	Deputy Tyler Allen
Adam Crossan	A	*John Kefalas	V	Lieutenant Josh Fast
Pete Blume	I	Andrea Weber (minutes)	I	Lieutenant Jamie Smith
Robert Harris	A	Lesli Ellis	V	Zach Cook
Ruthie Rollins	A			Hannah Beam
Jeannie Mounts	A			Travis Bernstein
Phil Stout	I			Caden Oliver

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = Absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:32 pm.

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

A quorum was not met. Approval of the minutes for February 2025 was tabled.

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.

December 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

- In the coming months, PAB will receive a review of the Help Preserve Open Space sales tax funding from previous years to today and into the future.

Updates and Reports

Board of County Commissioners Update

- Uncertainty with federal funding, many projects are on hold.
- Boards and Commissions applications are now open.

Park District Updates – Steve/Cindy

- Steve
 - Ice, thaw, and wind are causing rapid changes in the reservoir levels, which are currently near full.
 - Temporary hiring is underway for maintenance, rangers, and Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) staff.
 - Red Mountain Open Space has reopened to the public after its three-month seasonal closure.

- Horsetooth Mountain Open Space has been hitting capacity on the weekends.
- Special Events applications are being processed through the new system.
- New docks are completed and ready to be installed by April 1st.
- Increased law enforcement activity including, DUIs, suicides, and underage drinking.
- Horsetooth Marina lottery closed with a total of 288 applications.
- Cindy
 - The Carter Lake Marina lottery closed with a total of 87 applications. The marina operators will provide the number of available openings soon.
 - Hiring for maintenance positions has been awarded, but seasonal hiring acceptance rates are low.
 - Short-term concession applications are coming in.
 - Working on the Sail Club contract.
 - The lake and campgrounds will open on April 1st.

Q4 Board Report

- The Chimney Hollow OS management plan is complete but not yet posted. Work is scheduled to begin this year, with construction in 2026 and an opening in 2027.
- Plans to integrate Starlink to improve connectivity in areas with limited service for the new Text-2-Park system.
- A new QR code system has been implemented at campsites for same-day reservations.

Annual Compliance Training

- Larimer County (LC) has 93 boards, commissions, and improvement districts.
- Board(s) Purpose: To advise and adhere to state statutes.
- Types of Boards: Advisory, quasi-judicial, and decision-making.
- Board Responsibilities: Attendance, preparation, engagement, decision-making, representation, conduct, etc.
- Staff Responsibilities: Administer the board (non-voting members), review and understand board authority, train members, schedule meetings, keep records, assist BOCC with board member recruitment, orientation, etc.
- County government is a constitutional subdivision of state government. Responsible for: law enforcement, social services, health services, road and bridge construction and maintenance, weed control, etc.
 - BOCC performs legislative, executive, and quasi-judicial functions.
 - Other elected offices receive an approved budget from the BOCC but make decisions and operate independently.
- Policies and Laws Boards and Commissions are subject to: board bylaws, LC Policy 100.1, Colorado Open Meetings Law (Sunshine Law), Colorado Open Records Act, LC Code of Ethics, LC Code of Conduct, and Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Open meetings: if two members discuss board matters and/or business outside of the public board meeting, including phone calls, emails, or in-person, it needs to be noticed and open to the public. Minutes are to be taken and posted.
 - Conflict of interest: If there is a potential personal gain by any board member, the members should recuse themselves from the discussion and decisions.

Discussion Items

Update on Federal Funding

- DNR has approximately \$13 - 14 million in frozen federal funding, primarily impacting capital projects.
- Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funding for Carter and Horsetooth has been frozen, though RFP and contractor have been completed and selected. The BOCC is actively engaged in federal delegations for funds to be released.
- Title 28 infrastructure project funds are also affected.
- BOR Aquatic Nuisance Species operational funds were awarded but are pending a congressional spending bill.
- Contingency plans may be necessary if funding is not released.

- The Colorado Department of Transportation grant for the Poudre River Trail was released/received.
- Future of PAB and OLAB joint meetings
- DNR oversees 3 advisory boards, Parks (PAB), Land Stewardship (LSAB), and Open Lands (OLAB).
 - Discussions with BOCC have considered merging PAB and OLAB due to overlapping topics, operations, and resources.
 - A test phase will begin with joint meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month, starting in June or July. Locations are under consideration but will begin at the Longview Behavioral Health Center.
 - An update on the status will be provided in April.
 - LSAB will remain a separate board in the foreseeable future.

Action Items

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Update

Ranger and LSCO Staff Recognition – Ramsey-Shockey Fire during Alexander Mtn. Fire - Tara

- Tara, on behalf of BOR, formally thanked LC rangers and deputies for their response to the lightning-caused fire at Ramsey-Shockey during the Alexander Mountain Fire on August 2nd, 2024.
- Ranger Derek Hammond first identified the fire, and Tyler and Hannah initiated suppression efforts. Smith and Fast assumed Incident Command effectively preventing further damage.
- Sheriff Feyen commended the staff for their exemplary efforts.

Tara noted she has not received news on pending grants. Special Use permits are on hold for 60 days and should be released on March 30th.

Northern Water Conservancy District Update

Jeff

- Chimney Hollow
 - Construction has resumed, with the asphalt core work continuing and valve house electricity complete. The south dam is complete.
 - Filling/wet testing will commence in July. The reservoir will be filled following dam safety protocols, reaching 40,000 acre-feet by the end of the year.
 - A small ceremony will take place on October 3rd, but no public events will be held.
- Horsetooth Reservoir is currently 90% full and Carter is 85% full, reaching capacity expected in late April.
- Water Users Meeting at the Embassy Suites in Loveland on April 8th.
- Glade Reservoir settlement with Save the Poudre lawsuit completed, with construction planned for 2026.

Board Member Reports

- Bill noted the Forest Service has stopped taking camping reservations in some areas, which could drastically impact visitation to LCDNR properties.

Director's Report – Daylan Figgs

Next Meeting Scheduled April 1st, 2025 - 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 – 7:18 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.