



Date: June 7, 2022
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	Jeff Stahla (Northern) - I
Jill Wuertz	I	Daylan Figgs	I	
Kathy Maher	V	Dan Rieves	I	
Kristina Kachur	I	Cindy Claggett	I	
Mandy Peters		*John Kefalas	V	
Pete Blume	I	Jordan Williams (minutes)	I	
Robert Harris	V	Jon Plybon	I	
Ruthie Rollins	I			
Scott Murray	I			
Spencer Clark				

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:30pm

Public Comment

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Pete moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Scott 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

March 2022 Sales Tax Distribution

- Daylan said revenues are doing well and staff is going through the budget process for 2023, which will be shared with the boards in the next couple months.

Loveland Reporter Herald: Larimer County’s First Group Campground Opens May 20

Update and Reports

Board of County Commissioner update

- Commissioner Kefalas apologized for missing the last couple meetings and having to leave early this month due to the County Manager hiring process. The Commissioner discussed the Parks Advisory Board vacancies, applications, and upcoming interview process. Regarding the Climate Smart program, there are upcoming work sessions, a task force meeting, implementation planning, internal staff efforts, and grant opportunities. Commissioner Kefalas also commented on the NoCo PLACES 2050 video series, the success of the Sky View Campground grand opening event, and the CAST for Kids event at Horsetooth Reservoir.

Park District updates - Dan/Cindy

- Chris said that the Bureau of Reclamation Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by both the BOR and the County. Also, both Commissioner Shadduck-McNally and PAB Chair Ruthie did a ranger ride-along at Horsetooth Reservoir. Ruthie said it was very informative and she learned a lot.
 - Dan added that the marina contract extensions have been completed through the next recreation season (2023). Chris added staff will put together a committee to look at contract modifications prior to the contract renewal going out to bid.
- Cindy said that reservations at Sky View Campground are going well, and new staff are still getting trained. The Carter Lake Sail Club Regatta hosted a five-day event with attendees from around the U.S. Mid-July is the Carter Lake Crossing, a swim event going on its fifth year that will start from North Pines and go to South Shore with about 200 swimmers.
- Dan said Memorial Day weekend at Horsetooth Reservoir was busy and they are still working on training rangers for the summer. The 26th annual CAST for Kids event took place this past weekend and it was the biggest one in the nation. It went smoothly with 33 participants and 40 boats including media/safety. Staff will debrief and look for improvements next year.
- Jordan shared his screen with the Reservoir Alerts information. Dan explained how people will be able to sign up for alerts at the Reservoir Parks and Open Spaces separately. Capacity information and recommendations will be shared online with how to sign up. The messaging revolves around arriving before 10am or after 3pm: South Bay boat parking fills up first, then Inlet Bay next, and Satanka is usually at capacity as well by 10am during the summer.
- Dan mentioned the Horsetooth Forum 2021 and how DNR staff has committed to a better understanding of use patterns at Satanka Bay. Staff will be conducting studies this summer that look at demographic percentages of user groups, with 13 sample times and qualitative observations of fishermen, hikers, boaters, paddleboarders, etc. Based on the quantitative dataset from 2018, this user activity study will help with future management decisions.
- Dan noted that the Horsetooth cabins are booked seven days per week and feedback has been positive. Staff tried out the cabins in the spring and noted some safety and comfort improvements to things like fire grates and loft railings.
- Daylan mentioned the SMS notifications that DNR will be implementing and how the NoCo PLACES group is excited about the process as well. The text alerts are opt-in and only trained staff will be able to send out notifications utilizing standard messaging templates. DNR want the messages to be timely and appropriate to the audience so people do not choose to opt out. Also, Daylan said that NoCo PLACES wrote a grant to buy some mobile phone data to help understand how people move through the area parks.
 - Scott said the notification system sounds promising. Staff added that there will be roadside messaging boards and a marketing push with easy to access QR codes so visitors can opt-in for text messages/emails.
 - Kristina mentioned some recent "Know Before You Go" articles that have been including safety messages. Dan said that that the notification system will be advertised as a know-before-you-go

initiative and noted that due to enforcement and education last year, compliance with PFDs/life jackets has improved.

- Jordan shared the new [NoCo PLACES video](#). Daylan said that news coverage has been positive, and the next video will be about fire awareness and public health. They plan to utilize smaller segments of the videos on other social media platforms.

Ranger Excellence School Debrief

- Cindy said RES took place in mid-May for a week. The Ridgeline Hotel in Estes Park was very accommodating, especially after the snow came on Friday and they had to change where to host the skills/scenario stations. It was a lot of work, but DNR received very positive feedback. More students than ever before attended (85 total) from 20 different agencies.
 - Scott asked about marketing of program, and Cindy noted there is an RES Instagram/Facebook page, which is mostly used by people who attend. They have gotten some international attention from other rangers who have found RES/LCDNR online. Dan mentioned that the Parks Law Enforcement Association (PLEA) is a platinum sponsor of RES, but at their current location they only have a capacity of around 130 people who could attend.
 - Jordan shared [the video of this year's RES highlights](#).

Discussion Items

Capital Project Updates - Jon Plybon, DNR Capital Projects Manager

- Daylan highlighted the Help Preserve Open Space (HPOS) sales tax allocation targets: 12.7% Capital Improvements on Open Spaces; 48.9% Management of Open Spaces; 35% Land Acquisition/Habitat restoration; 3.1% capital improvements at Reservoir Parks. Daylan noted that it is possible to buy more land than DNR can manage given both the costs of long-term management and new/replacement costs of capital infrastructure. Funds that are generated at the Reservoir Parks stay in that budget with the net positive difference going to fund capital projects.
- Jon reviewed the Capital Project goals such as increasing the pace of project completion, improving scheduling, improving cost estimating/budgeting, addressing asset maintenance/replacement, considering staff capacity, and denoting grant contingent projects
 - The Capital Projects Program is department wide and across numerous funding sources, including parks, open spaces, and land stewardship. Trade-offs can be made in budgeting between capital projects and operating expenses.
 - Jon wants to improve cost estimating and efficiencies by understanding market forces, utilizing real-time cost estimating, dialing in budgets early in the project life cycle, and limiting emergency scenarios and costs.
 - Ruthie asked about bringing on extra staff to help with implementation of capital projects. Staff explained that most of the capital project work is contracted or coordinated with the engineering department at the County.
- Updates to the Capital Projects Program for the next 6-year cycle include an emphasis on capital replacement over new capital given aging infrastructure, prioritizing time-critical projects, updated cost estimates, the addition of an asset management plan & asphalt maintenance plan, and new ARPA-funded projects.
 - The 6-year plan (2022-2027) includes \$52 million total: The Acquisitions Fund = \$21.7M, capital replacement = \$5M, new capital infrastructure = \$21.5M (which is focused on relatively few, but high-cost projects including the Poudre River Trail, Chimney Hollow Open Space, the new Land Stewardship building and the paving of reservoir park roads and parking lots per the Federal Lands Access Program—FLAP), and Habitat Restoration = \$1.2M
 - Only \$50,000 or greater projects show up in the Capital Projects budget.
 - Inclusion of multi-year asset maintenance projects: ADA improvements \$100k (over ten years), Asphalt Maintenance \$351k (over 5 years), Asset Maintenance \$500k (over 5 years - 70% Park

Fees, 30% HPOS sales tax), Horsetooth Boat Dock Replacement \$147k (over 5 years), Hermit Park OS Cabins \$130k (over 5 years)

- Kristina asked about concessionaire equipment. Dan said that the CIP boat dock funding only goes to support County managed docks. Jill asked about ADA dock options for launching kayaks/paddleboards, and Dan said that DNR plans to keep boat and paddlecraft launches separate. Jon added that there will be new options for launching paddlecraft at the Carter Lake Swim Beach, and Daylan said that they are also looking at new accessible docks at Satanka Bay. Dan noted that the existing boat docks follow concrete slabs, so they are still usable as the water levels change, and there are BOR permitting processes to follow when making changes to the shorelines of the Reservoirs.
- 2022 CIP projects:
 - Horsetooth Mountain Open Space Mgmt. Plan Implementation: \$450k (HPOS)
 - Poudre River Trail: \$2.4M (HPOS, GOCO/CPW/CDOT grants)
 - Red Mountain OS Fencing, Demo & Restoration: \$135k (HPOS)
 - HT Reservoir ANS Decon Station: \$94k (Park fees)
 - Red Mountain OS Stream Restoration \$104k (HPOS)
 - Historic Structures Project: \$50k (HPOS, Partnership)
 - Hermit Park OS Maintenance Shop: \$540k (HPOS)
- 2023 CIP Projects:
 - Land Stewardship Building: \$2M (Park Fees, HPOS, Mill Levy, Weed Enterprise)
 - Eagle's Nest & Devil's Backbone OS Habitat Restoration: \$213k (HPOS, RESTORE Grant)
 - River Bluffs Open Space Wetland Restoration: \$223k (HPOS)
 - Administration Office Connectivity: \$426k (Parks fees, HPOS, Partnership)
 - Our Lands, Our Future Study: \$50k (HPOS, Partnership)
 - This statistically valid survey will help inform DNR management decisions based on public feedback. (The previous study is from 2013.)
 - Hermit Park OS Wastewater and Well Upgrades: \$560k (ARPA Grant)
 - HT Reservoir Inlet Bay Marina Restroom Upgrade: \$150k (ARPA Grant)
 - Carter Lake East Side Day Use Improvements: \$610k (ARPA Grant)
 - Carter Lake Wastewater Treatment at Eagle Campground: \$660k (ARPA Grant)
 - Jon noted that ARPA projects are completely funded through federal grants and do not include county funding sources. They are all listed in 2023, but they must be contracted by 2024 and completed by 2026.
 - Cindy explained how the Big Thompson campground on the east side of Carter Lake is in constant conflict with day users and campers. There are many pull off areas on the east side as well with no designated spaces for parking. Additionally, the Carter Lake swim beach is very small, especially during high water, so if it gets expanded the user experience will improve and become safer due to additional parking options through FLAP. DNR is not trying to attract new use in the area but rather trying to manage existing demands.
- 2024 CIP projects:
 - HT Reservoir Rotary Parking Lot Rebuild: \$367k (Lottery)
 - HT Reservoir Inlet Bay to South Bay Trail: \$87k (Lottery)
 - Carter Lake Parking/Road Improvements: \$5.9M (Lottery, Park fees, FLAP)
 - HT Reservoir Parking/Road Improvements: \$5.1M (Lottery, Park fees, FLAP)
 - \$8 million from FLAP in total will be utilized over several years.
- 2025 CIP projects:
 - HTMOS Soderberg Parking Lot: \$174k (HPOS)
 - Staff noted drainage problems underneath the asphalt that make maintenance challenging.
 - Red Mountain Boxelder Creek Restoration: \$500k (HPOS)
- 2026 CIP projects:
 - Chimney Hollow OS Construction: \$4.2M (HPOS)

- Reservoir Parks Environmental Impact Statement: \$120k (Park Fees)
 - DNR Master Plan: \$120k (HPOS)
- 2027 CIP projects:
 - Historic Structures Project: \$60k (HPOS)
 - Devil's Backbone OS Grazing Infrastructure: \$75k (HPOS)
 - Jon noted there are also future projects identified for future years that can be brought forward if additional funding sources are identified prior.
- Capital Expenses and Funding
 - \$27.7M in expenses, with \$16M from DNR and \$11.7M from grants in hand.
 - Based on current secured grants/partnerships, for every dollar DNR will spend per the CIP, the County is receiving 75 cents in grants/partnerships. Daylan said that the match percentage will go up as additional funding sources are identified for projects such as Chimney Hollow, habitat restoration, etc.
- Questions/Comments
 - Jill mentioned that some of the facilities and signage at Hermit Park are a little outdated, especially considering the increase in usage. Chris noted that Hermit Park was a former retreat space for Hewlett Packard, so most of the infrastructure needed to be upgraded. The road is maintained and regraded annually, and the cabin road was recently redone. Daylan noted a lot of projects fall under the \$50K mark and therefore are not reflected in the CIP. Chris said there are no plans to upgrade Hermit Park to include paved road access and electricity, and Dan noted that Hermit Park provides a different value for Larimer County residents than other DNR parks. Jon added that there are upcoming investments at Hermit Park with wastewater treatment and cabin upgrades.
 - Rob asked about where the \$10 million in paving/parking lots will be utilized. Dan said that North Pines, the entrance to Eagle, the North boat ramp marina parking lot, part of South Shore, and a new area on East side of Carter Lake will receive upgrades, plus South Bay and Inlet Bay at Horsetooth.

Action Items

None

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Update

- Jeff said that Carter Lake is over 90 percent full and Horsetooth is in the mid-90s. On the west slope, Northern Water has begun a messaging campaign regarding algae blooms, but there should not be any water coming to the east slope that will be impacted. There will be an outage scheduled for mid-September when Northern turns off the penstocks to connect Chimney Hollow to the Windy Gap system.
- Kristina asked about concerns with water supply availability. Jeff said that the Colorado Big-Thompson system is in good shape since water is delivered in the winter to the east slope, which leaves room in Lake Granby and the west slope system to collect water in the spring. The farther southwest region of the state is drier, but the top of the Colorado River basin is at average for this year. When the CBT system is full like now, that means there is enough water for a couple years into the future. Regarding the larger picture with issues in the Colorado River basin, the state of Colorado has been fully compliant with their compact requirements over a 10-year average. Meanwhile the lower basin is having trouble meeting their demand side obligations, and therefore California, Arizona, and Nevada have been drawing down Lake Mead and Powell. This is also why Northern Water is building Chimney Hollow, to help with potential lean years in the future. Jeff noted that the contractor for Chimney Hollow is on-schedule to complete work by 2025, and then recreation can start as the infrastructure is installed.
- Jeff talked about the tour of Chimney Hollow scheduled for July 28th where board members will be taken to an east side overlook of the property, and he noted that there are [time lapse videos](#) posted

online of the project. Jeff added that Northern did a tour in May of the east slope projects, including Chimney Hollow and Glade Reservoir, with just water professional and water users. There will be another one in June.

Board Member Reports

- Jill mentioned the water report that Larimer County distributed, which included a great summary of water that is available for the area through existing distribution systems based on future development. Daylan noted that Community Development led the reporting effort, and how it helped identify some deficiencies in the system, particularly with the smaller water districts.

Director's Report – Daylan Figgs

- Dan talked about the Allosaurus bones that were found at Horsetooth Reservoir. DNR Staff is going to visit the site again with BOR, but since it is near a busier location, they want to avoid user interruptions. Staff noted that it is not uncommon to find these types of things at natural sites due to erosion and changing water levels.
- Daylan mentioned enhanced broadband connectivity at the Administrative Office coming soon with Northern Water building fiber up to Chimney Hollow. Staff met with IT about bringing additional technology into the department such as online/paperless permit systems. They also talked about timed entry systems for boat parking so that DNR can be ready for implementation in the future. With the budget, DNR is going to add six new full-time staff in 2023 which will cost the department about \$300,000.
- Jill asked about small changes to fees in the future. Daylan said that after the 30% increase in 2018-19, then 10% from 2021-2022, Larimer County is at the top of the market. Staff hopes to strategically look at more permanent funding sources to replace some of those fees in the future. 2023 does include a potential non-resident fee increase to \$15 for daily permits.

Next Meeting Scheduled

July 5, 2022 – CANCELLED

July 28, 2022 (Thursday) – Chimney Hollow Reservoir and Open Space Tour at 6-7:30pm (meet at LCDNR Admin Office: 1800 South County Road 31, Loveland, CO 80537)

August 2, 2022 – Larimer County Natural Resources Administrative Offices: 1800 South County Road 31, Loveland, CO 80537, Bison 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 – 7:43pm

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.