



Date: Wednesday, November 13th, 2024
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: Hybrid - In-Person: Extension Conference Room #165
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://larimer-org.zoom.us/j/93476912139?pwd=THIVVUJXN0JJUFJKTkt2cGkrd0lJQT09>

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Advisory Board members attending: Audrey Welsh, Carmen Farmer, Dylan Alsbach, Ryan Peterson, [Dennis Lacerte](#), Kristin Ramey, Maureen McDonough, Amber Graves, Zach Thode, Frank Garry

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner John Kefalas

County staff attending: Cary Weiner, Andy Weakland, Jessica Callen, Matthew Lafferty, Alea Rodriguez, Daylan Figgs

Other Members of the Community: Rebecca Hill, Forrest Carlson

12:30-12:50

Call to Order and Roll Call

- Call to order at 12:37pm

Amendments to the Agenda

- Suggestion for brief discussion of the open meetings laws. This was noted already in the agenda under working group update.
- Commissioner Kefala's suggestion for Daylan Figgs to give updates (added to agenda after minutes approval).

Approval of the Minutes

- September 11th, 2024
- Minutes approved with no amendments

Addition to Agenda Update

- Update from Daylan Figgs about projects that need funding around the South Platte Water Basin.

Commissioner Kefalas Updates

- Joint planning work session tonight at 6:00pm. Will preview a film "Mira el Sol" and have a discussion around the movie.
- There are four 1041 applications for Q1 of 2025 (these are bigger project applications).
 - Proposed Halligan Reservoir Expansion
 - Plant River Power Authority: Rawhide New Generation Project
 - Johnstown Raw Water Pipeline
 - Berthoud Sewer Interceptor Water Transmission Line.
 - Public hearings on these will be in February and March of 2025
- Ag Advisory Board membership and applications. Zach Thode and Kristin Ramey were not approved to be on longer than their two terms. Two other applications are in review.
- Colorado Department of Ag and their director, Kate Greenberg, is hosting periodic check-ins in January, February and March. It will be listed on Commissioner Kefalas's calendar.
- 2025 Legislative session is fast upon us. The county is currently in the process of updating its legislative agenda.
 - The bill we are looking at would tax increment financing districts and Ag lands. The idea would be that this would make it more difficult to include prime Ag lands as urban blight.
- Ag Biomass strategy update. Website available for information on woody biomass (larimer.gov/emergency/woodybiomass).
- Solid Waste dept. able and willing to get input with us and engage in updates.

- An e-mail that Commissioner Kefalas received from Lori Kadrich, Assistant County Manager, stated that there is some interest in getting a speaker in front of the Ag board for discussion.
- The transportation ballot measure was not successful. Currently assessing why this happened and how to move forward.
- County Budget will be approved for 2025 and revised 2024 budget on December 11th, 2024

Staff Updates

- Jess Callen
 - Updates from within Larimer County Extension
 - Farm to Local Biz Event update.
 - Focus on the success that was seen with connecting local vendors with local farmers.
 - Grant and Grow Event being planned for this year

12:50-2:50

Discussion Items and Action Items

12:50 - 1:00 Subcommittee / Working group update (Commissioner Kefalas)

- Discussion Highlights:
 - Three or more committee members joining in on a discussion must follow open rules laws.
 - Please refer to the document that was sent out that was approved by the county attorneys.
 - Questions around whether the document that was sent out follows the most recent legislation. Commissioner Kefalas will follow up with the county attorney
 - Cary and Andy will review a process in regards to posting meetings that occur outside of the bi-monthly board meeting to be in line with open meeting law..

1:00 - 1:10 Bylaws Review and Vote (Cary Weiner)

- Discussion Highlights:
 - Question around language around open meeting law requirements being written into the bylaws.
 - Commissioner Kefalas suggested getting the bylaws passed and then leaving it open for future review.
 - Motion to approve, Motion passed.

1:10 - 1:20 2025 Officer Elections (Amber Graves)

- Discussion Highlights:
 - Nomination of Amber and Brad to continue as Chair and Vice Chair.

(1:20 - 2:50)

1:20 - 2:50 2025 Work Plan and Staff Resources to Support

- Support the scoping and execution of an agricultural economic impact study (Rebecca Hill)
- Assess climate-ag alignment for competitiveness (Brad Justice)
- Summarize and/or quantify ag biomass utilization (Dylan Alsbach)
- Review land use code, building code, and zoning for issues that impact agriculture in order to recommend revisions (Matt Lafferty)
- Explore agricultural housing solutions (Alea Rodriguez)
- Discussion Highlights
 - Presentation from Rebecca Hill: Estimating the Economic Contributions of Agriculture to Larimer County
 - Discussion around an Extension internship to address some of the topics presented.

- Starting the next meeting Matt suggested presenting a section of the land use code for the board to give their recommendations in order to educate as well as receive input from the Ag board.

Vote on 2025 Work Plan

- Discussion Highlights:
 - Cary collected the main points of the work plan discussion in order to create a draft for the board to vote on.
 - Motion to approve work plan focusing on the ag economic impact study, climate competitiveness, and land use code; Motion was approved.

2:50-3:00

Future Communication Items

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm
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