



Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: Virtual Hearing

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD, JANUARY 13, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Present: Sam Adams (liaison), Lynnet Bannion, Jennifer Bornhoft, Timothy Clouse, Beth Conrey, Jenn Cram (Staff liaison), Karen Crumbaker (liaison), Franklyn Garry, Amber Graves, Travis Horton, John Kefalas (Commissioner liaison), Matt Lafferty, Maureen McDonough, Kristin Ramey, Travis Rollins, Greg Schreiner, Jon Slutsky, Zach Thode, and George Wallace

Absent: no one

Guests: Don Threewitt and Lesli Ellis

I. Chairman Zach Thode called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. New board members were welcomed, and all did a quick introduction and noted their background/interest in Agriculture.

II. Consideration of minutes from November 18, 2020. Zach had questions and requested clarification on Items III and IV. Jenn will make corrections and provide clarification. The minutes will be reviewed and approved at the March 10, 2021 meeting.

III. Interaction with Commissioner Kefalas on Ag and Community related issues. Commissioner Kefalas shared the following:

- The two new Commissioners are continuing to get up to speed.
- There was a comprehensive presentation on the plans for recovery regarding both COVID and the Cameron Peak Fire. A copy of the presentation and report will be available. There will be a follow up worksession to discuss next steps.
- Have had discussions with Daylan Figgs, Director of the Department of Natural Resources. Discussed the sales tax that was extended to fund Open Space. Language was removed regarding communication between OLAB and AAB. Discussed the idea of updating AAB Bylaws to allow for executive sessions. Further discussion is needed to understand the role of each board. Daylan open to making a presentation to AAB on how the Open Space funds are being used to preserve working farms and ranches. Water sharing is a part of how they are accomplishing this. Commissioner Kefalas asked that the AAB frame their questions for Daylan so that he can prepare a response. Daylan is also open to attending AAB meetings as his schedule allows. An invitation should be extended for AAB meetings. Travis Rollins clarified his role as staff liaison from DNR - he manages the agricultural operations for agricultural land acquisitions.

- Zach asked what the schedule was for Land Use Code updates. Matt noted that Phase I adopted December 2020 and will be effective March 31, 2021. Phase I was a reorganization of the code to be more user friendly with some standard and process modifications. Phase II is underway. Currently looking at objectives. Oil & Gas will be updated to be consistent with State regulations. A transitional plan is being developed to modify current zoning with new zoning. There will be refinements to development standards including parking requirements, landscaping, etc. We will be looking at urban level Ag livestock. Housing will be looked at to make sure it aligns with affordable housing goals. As part of this we will be looking at RV Parks and Campgrounds. There will be ongoing conversations beginning in February through September. There is a worksession with the Planning Commission and BCC on February 10 to discuss objectives and next steps. Zach noted that he is eager to have the AAB involved.
- Zach noted that he would like to add an agenda item to discuss a request from Lori Hodges on recovery efforts for the Cameron Peak Fire. Zach, George, Karen, and Sam have been assisting her thus far. They have been meeting bimonthly on the 2nd and 4th Monday from 3-4:30 pm. What is the role of AAB? Karen noted that there is representation in 1 of 9 recovery groups. Concerns include water recovery and impacts to irrigation, overall economic health and grazing allotments that burned, etc. George noted that water sharing from irrigation ditches is critical to protect water supplies from carbon loading, he added that with water quality concerns there will likely be discussions about swapping water supplies. The big picture is that keeping irrigated farmland intact can save money. Sam noted that recovery efforts have been focused on reducing erosion. Weeds will be an issue, especially at lower elevations. The County has hired NWPA to look at risks. Zach concluded with wanting to put a task group together.

IV. Officer Elections:

- Jon nominated Zach to remain as Chair for another year, second by Frank, all in favor.
- George will remain as Vice Chair for another year.
- Kristin volunteered to be Secretary. Whether or not Kristin will be responsible for taking minutes is up for discussion.
- The roles will be looked at further in the Bylaws.

V. Motion: *I move the Larimer County Agricultural Advisory Board designate www.Larimer.org as the place for posting notice of public meetings, and if exigent or emergency circumstances prevent the online posting at such location, public notice shall be physically posted at the bulletin boards located at the north and south entrances to the Larimer County Courthouse Offices Building at 200 West Oak, Fort Collins, Colorado, in accordance with Colorado's open meetings laws.*

Motion by Frank. Second by George. All were in favor.

VI. Updates to Bylaws 2020/2021 and Role of AAB:

- A copy of the Bylaws was shared with everyone for review and discussion.
- Further clarification on what "Advise" means. Can this include recommendations? All agreed it does. Two-way communication is important. The work plan approved by the Commissioner Liaison and then taken to entire BCC for review and approval. The BCC may also ask for specific input on Ag related matters.
- Matt thought that clarifying what production agricultures means might be helpful.

- George noted that we have lost the mission, for example, what about minimizing the loss of Ag in the County? Matt noted he would look for it.
- Greg suggested adding educate and advise. Beth agreed that this would be helpful.
- Under II – Zach noted that this is where we would add the ability to hold executive sessions if there are projects that OLAB would like input from AAB regarding potential Agricultural Land purchases after F.
- Under III. F. – add apiary, silviculture under the represented areas.
- Under III. G. – add appointed before board members.
- Under IV. E. – Secretary responsibilities, remove #2-5. Recording? Who should be responsible for taking the minutes? Jon noted that a voting board member should not be responsible, as it makes it hard to participate in the meeting as well. Beth noted she would prefer to get minutes sooner than later. Matt volunteered to have staff continue to take the minutes. Perhaps we can get help from the Community Development Admin team? He will see what the OLAB Bylaws say about minutes.
- Under V. - Zach noted that an update had been proposed to change the number of allowed absences in 12 months from 3 to 2.
- Matt tracked changes in the document as well.
- They had also discussed adding an Ex Officio membership, but that it was no longer needed since Bill Spencer was no longer participating.

VII. Work Groups:

Topics discussed so far:

- How to increase intermediary sales?
- Water sharing – Zach noted this is intended to be a bigger picture context. Will talk to Daylan in March. Will also continue with Recovery Task Group.
- Voluntary Ag District – How to incentivize? There is currently a placeholder in the updated Land Use Code.
- Zach will send an email to follow up and make sure that the Work Plan moves forward.

VIII. Announcements:

A 1600-unit development by 2022 approved – water allocated. Matt noted he was aware of the Fisher property within the City of Fort Collins. The Donaldson property to the east is in the County.

Zach to Matt – keep engaged with the Agricultural Enterprise for East Mulberry businesses.

IX. The next AAB meeting will be held on March 10, 2021 at 12:30 pm. The location and format will be determined soon, likely all virtual.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm.

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