



Date: Wednesday, September 11th, 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: Kristin Ramey, Martha Sullins, Amber Graves, Ryan Peterson, Brad Justice, Zach Thode, Audrey Welsh, Dylan Alsbach, Carmen Farmer

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner John Kefalas

Extension/County staff attending: Cary Weiner, Andy Weakland, Jessica Callen, Matthew Lafferty

Other Members of the Community: none

12:30-1:00

Call to Order and Roll Call

- Call to order at 12:33

Amendments to the Agenda

- No Amendments to the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

- July 10th, 2024
 - o Misplaced capital letter in "Director" at the bottom of page 1. (amended)
- Minutes approved with amendments
 - o Ryan Peterson moved to approve, Zach Thode seconded the motion

Commissioner Kefalas Updates

- 2023 Annual Report for the Ranch complex available (hardcopy)
- Commissioners approved putting a .15% sales tax initiative on the November ballot for dedicated revenue around transportation. This would generate about \$15 million a year and would expire after 15 years. It cannot be used for general fund purposes. Ballots will start getting mailed out the week of October 16th.
- Commissioner Kefalas recently attended the Economic Workforce Development board meeting. At this meeting an Executive summary of the NoCo Works report was provided. This report identifies barriers for our community members for being meaningfully employed in Larimer County. It identified three key challenges: Transportation, housing, child care.
- A few events around mental health awareness are coming up. One is a movie called Legacy being shown at the Lyric on September 20th from 5pm to 9pm. This is an impactful film around mental health in the agriculture community. Another film called Join or Die which focuses on the importance of social connection and community collaboration.
- This past Monday the Commissioners attended a workshop in Estes Park called Growing Water Smart. Focus was integrating water and land use. A 90 page guide is available that talks specifically about land use tools and how we are growing.

Staff Updates

- NoCo Farm Hop Event. 4 farms participated (2 in Larimer County, 2 in Weld County). Goal was to connect with the community in order to create awareness around the local agricultural community.

- Upcoming Farm 2 Local Biz networking event on Tuesday, November 12th. Purpose is to connect sellers to small scale commercial markets and schools.
- Producer survey report is almost finished, will be done by end of September. Presented at the most recent Commissioners working session and received some good feedback. During this session Commissioner Kefalas mentioned he would like more information on the economic benefits of Ag in Larimer County and its economic impact. CSU is interested in leading the study but would require funds that are currently not available.
- AAB member recruitment is currently open through October 20th. Currently we have 13 members with a few (three)expiring in November.

1:00-2:50

Discussion Items and Action Items

1:00 - 1:15 Final status of 2024 state agricultural legislation (Brad Justice)

- Discussion Highlights
 - HB 24-1178: Pesticide regulations bill; Did not pass.
 - SB 24-55: Agriculture and Rural Behavioral Healthcare bill; Did pass, now law.
 - This bill created an interdepartmental liaison within the state government that would communicate between ag and a behavioral health group.
 - SB 57: Suicide Prevention Hotline bill; Did not pass
 - SB 24-126: Conservation Easement Income Tax Credit bill; Did pass, now law.
 - SB 24-152: Produce Buyer Tax credit bill; Did not pass..
 - Commissioner Kefalas touched on the recent property tax legislation at the state level that is moving forward. This will reduce the Larimer County Budget by \$4 million.

1:15 - 2:00 Bylaws revisions (Cary Weiner)

- Discussion Highlights
 - Had a first attempt at revisions during the last meeting in July.
 - Highlighted changes of the current bylaws.
 - Continued to updating bylaws and recording feedback of possible edits.
 - Question around if board members can work on subject matters related to the board together rather than as an individual through email or face to face meetings. Commissioner Kefalas will look into this question to try and find an answer for the board.
 - Discussion of the board's role and how the board is supposed to communicate with the Commissioners and create a qualified work plan.
 - The revised bylaws will not be voted on until AAB receives more clarity around subcommittees/working groups.

2:00 - 2:55 2025 Work Plan and Resourcing, including review of 2024 work plan items

- Discussion Highlights
 - 2025 work plan draft document started (refer to draft Word document)
 - Commissioner Kefalas: Request board opinion on the exemption of sales tax on tiny/modular/small homes. This is being revisited on the impact to the County revenues currently, but the question to the board is whether that would help in terms of the price of a tiny/modular/small homes.
 - Discussion on the impact of workforce housing and workforce transportation issues that are being addressed.
 - AAB plans to vote on a work plan at its next meeting after learning more about what staff may be able to contribute to certain items.

2:55 - 2:58

Future Communication Items

- Annual Ag Board Officer Elections

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm
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