

Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Hybrid - In-Person: Lake Estes 3rd Floor, 200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins or Virtual, Zoom Link:
https://larimer-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IEG8tuz8Qam_KxVjtVP-gA

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

The Larimer County Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) met in a hybrid setting in person and via Zoom. The meeting started at 12:35pm.

The following Board members were present: Zach Thode (Chairperson), George Wallace (Vice Chairperson), Kristin Ramey (Secretary), Timothy Clouse, John Cravens, Amber Graves, Travis Horton, Maureen McDonough, Beth Conrey, Travis Rollins, Andy Pineda, Greg Schreiner, Martha Sullins, and Franklyn Garry and Brad Justice.

The following officials and staff were present: John Kefalas, County Commissioner; Matt Lafferty, Principal Planner; and Lesli Ellis, Community Development Director.

Guests presents: Justin Core, Senior Land Agent, Engineering Department; Karen Crumbaker, CSU Extension

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 11, 2022 minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Introduction of two new board members: Martha Sullins and Brad Justice

Updates from County Commissioner John Kefalas

Commissioner Kefalas gave an update on the county manager appointment, CSU extension and farmer's market, upper Colorado River Basin Tour, and farmstead flexibility resolution.

Guest Topic Discussions

Justin Core, Engineering

Discussion on Conservation Easements:

- Point to conserve open space and ag land while the property owner can obtain financial benefits
- Up to 90% tax credit to owners with a conservation easement based on appraised value
- Owners may sell their tax credits with a broker

- Working to be more proactive in engaging with property owners in priority areas in the county
- County coordinates external partners to create conservation easements
- Easements held by the county itself, or Colorado Open Lands primarily
- A barrier is a limited amount of available appraisers
- Request to extend the press releases to the AAB during the same time as the newspapers for new easements
- Zach - Is there interest in doing term easements? Justin noted there is only one in the county currently.

STAFF UPDATES

Right-to-Farm Signs

- 10 signs scattered throughout the county placed by Road and Bridge
- So far good feedback
- No more actions at this point

Engagement with Solid Waste

- Duane will reengage with AAB as things arise
- Around fall will be reengaging with the composting topic

Building Permits with the Ag Community

- Eric Fried is trying to get something accomplished by October on the website around permits for clearer communication to the public
- Handouts and legislative rezoning upcoming

Volunteers for Climate Action Plan

- Heidi Pruess would like to have two volunteers from the board to help with the 18-month project
- Monthly meetings starter later this fall
- **Volunteers: Zach Thode, Amber Graves, Brad Justice**

AAB Webpage

- IT said agendas can be posted on the AAB webpage
- George – Can information on farmsteads be added to the webpage?
- Brad - Can a more extensive ag tab on the webpage be built?
- Lesli Question for the group – What items would be most useful to be found on the webpage?
- Have a listing of the various reports on the bottom of the page

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Pollinator Policy/Resolution

Beth Conrey

- Two example pollinator resolutions provided from Town of Berthoud and Boulder County
- Additional example provided from Bee City USA 1:35
- Estimated insect loss worldwide is around 40%
- Goal is to enhance business practices to create opportunities for insects to be successful, will not be a mandate, more of a symbolic policy

- Had a discussion on various pesticides, but made clear that is more than just pesticides and would affect more than just honeybees
- Desire to increase pollinator habitat on Larimer County lands, roadsides
- County Commissioner have interest in this and would like to move forward
- *For next meeting – review Berthoud resolution and discuss any points that are not agreeable, provide comments by next meeting*

Local Food Task Force

Kristin Ramey

- Slides are reorganized and categorized
- Need to figure out which items can actually be solved by the county and priorities
- *John, Mo, Kristin, Zach, Martha get together before next meeting*

Intern Update, Caesar Garduno

Zach Thode

- Working on statistical analysis of similar counties and how they manage their ag lands, have 10 currently and working to pare down to 5
- Internship ends August 17
- Poster presentation in October with CSU Extension

CSU Liaison

- No updates at this time, still working on obtaining someone

Voluntary Agricultural District

- Originally tabled
- County Commissioner's Inc Conference there was interest from CCI policy staff and other commissioners from other counties
- George, Frank, Zach, and Greg drafted a request for policy regarding voluntary ag districts
- Will be moving forward in January with legislature
- Would like a motion to add this back into the work plan
- *Motion to amend the work plan to add voluntary ag districts back in: 2nd by Greg, no objections, motion passed*

Meeting adjourned at 3:08pm.