



Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Hybrid - In-Person: Hearing Room 1st Floor, 200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins or Virtual, Zoom Link: https://larimer-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RHIlh0CrSf22IBZrLQw1cQ

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Advisory Board members attending: Brad Justice, Dylan Alsbach, Zach Thode, Franklyn Garry, Audrey Welsh, Martha Sullins, Amber Graves, Kristin Ramey, Maureen McDonough

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner John Kefalas (Not Present)

Extension/County staff attending: Cary Weiner, Andy Weakland, Jessica Callen, Matthew Lafferty, Lesli Ellis, Daylan Figgs

Other Members of the Community: [Carli Donoghue](#)

Call to Order and Roll Call

- Call to order at: 12:34pm

Amendments to the Agenda

- Jessica Callen: Share a registration for an event that was recently put online (Climate Smart Event):: add to staff updates
- Approval of Amendments

Approval of the Minutes

- January 10, 2024 and March 13, 2024
- Approval of January Minutes: Approved
- Approval of March Minutes at: Approved with Amendments
 - o Page 4, second paragraph spelling error VILSACK
 - o Page 4, Spelling POUDRE VALLEY COMMUNITY FARMS
 - o Updated, Spelling DAYLAN

Board Member Introductions

Staff Updates

- Transition to Extension
 - o Cary Weiner
 - Introductions of Extension Staff
 - Andy Weakland, Jessica Callen
 - Location change: Moving future AAB meetings to Extension Office at Blue Spruce
 - Bylaws need to updated for the Ag Advisory Board
 - New Policy for all boards and commissions that commissioners have adopted.

- *New policy will be sent out to all board members*
- *Bylaws will be sent out to all board members*

- Larimer County Ag Census

o Jessica Callen

- Please refer to the powerpoint presentation in the agenda packet.
- *DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS*
 - There will be more information to come on Ag Census (Brad/Jess)
 - Climate Smart Future Ready Event
 - o Soil Health Demonstration Day 6/22/24

Commissioner Kefalas Updates (1:00pm)

- Not Present

Discussion Items and Action Items (1:02pm)

1. Voluntary Ag District Research (Lesli Ellis and others) (1:02pm)

- Please refer to the attached research documentation
- Matt Lafferty
 - o County Right to Farm Policy
 - o 2021 Land Use Code
- Jessica Callen
 - o Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Research
- Daylan Figgs
 - o Our Lands, Our Future (OLOF): 2023 Regional Survey
- *DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS*
 - o *Discussion about the existing use of the open lands sales tax and in which ways it can and cannot be used as well as types of incentive.*
 - o *Board Member Zach Thode brings up points of challenges in communication between Board members and staff regarding Ag district work.*
 - o *Lesli Ellis initiates discussion of process and procedures for future VAD work, keeping in mind staff capacity.*
 - *Reiterating that county staff is not tasked with implementing a program or a project beyond basic research resulting from a work plan.*
 - *Any research that is more involved or wanting implementation of a program or project needs to go to the full board of County Commissioners in order to seek approval and direction.*

2. LESA (2:07pm)

- Discussion of the value of LESA (Land Inventory and Stewardship Application) and its potential applications in various areas, such as conservation, zoning, and land valuation.
- Suggestions were made to enhance LESA's usability and integration into GIS systems for easier access and understanding.
 - o Zach Thode mentioned that LESA was updated 5 years ago by board members.
 - o Potential value in LESA being used by other parties (ie. Assessor's Office, Voluntary Ag Districts, Bankers Association) to give better assessed value on Ag properties.
 - o Overall consensus is that LESA is not being utilized to its full potential and can and should be used to help better inform.
 - o Some investment may be needed into making LESA a more usable document.
 - o Discussion of LESA being more likely to be more widely used if it was embedded into a GIS system.

3. NoCo Community Action Plan – key findings (Carli Donaghue/Audrey Welsh) (2:21pm)

- Please refer to the attached powerpoint presentation.
- Poudre Food Partnership: 2023 Northern Colorado Community Action Priorities

- **DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS**

- *There is still a need for a Food Policy Council and Carli is looking for an organizational home for this.*

4. Legislative Update (Brad Justice) (2:43pm)

- Summary of Agriculture Related Bills In Colorado
- Please refer to attachment for more detailed information
 - Status of 5 key bills
 - HB-1178 (Local Government Authority to Regulate Pesticides), <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb24-1178>
 - SB-055 (Agriculture & Rural Behavioral Health Care), <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb24-055>
 - SB-057 (Agricultural Workforce & Suicide Prevention), <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb24-057>
 - SB-126 (Conservation Easement Income Tax Credit), <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb24-126>
 - SB-152 (Regenerative Agriculture Tax Credit), <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb24-152>
 - **DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS**
 - Slides will be shared upon request
 - Discussion of each bill and what they are actually calling for.
- *Administrative details:*
 - *Discussion on establishing a work plan for 2025 and the need to figure out when to start this process.*
 - *Plan to share relevant documents via Google Drive for easy access.*

Future Communication Items

- Our Lands Our Future survey preview (Daylan Figgs)
- Ag producer survey (Jess Callen)
- Larimer County Ag Census (Jess Callen)
- Bylaws update (Cary Weiner)

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 2:57pm

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