

LARIMER COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of November 9, 2022 Meeting

The Larimer County Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) met in a hybrid setting in person and via Zoom. The meeting started at 12:37pm.

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

The following officials and staff were present: John Kefalas, County Commissioner; Matt Lafferty, Principal Planner; and Alyssa Martin, Planner II

Guests present: Kerri Rollins, CSU Extension; Cesar Gardundo, CSU Intern; Daylan Figs/Travis Rollins, Department of Natural Resources; Eric Fried, Building Division; Jacob Castillo, Department of Economic Workforce and Development; Abby Stapleton, Sustainability Fellow with CivicSpark

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 14, 2022 minutes were approved.

Updates from County Commissioner John Kefalas

Commissioner Kefalas noted there was a recent meeting regarding the budget, and it will be adopted December 14th, with a Budget Retreat planned for November.

STAFF UPDATES

Pollinator Resolution

- Matt Lafferty noted the Pollinator Resolution was adopted in September. Implementation and potential policy changes will begin discussion in 2023 with the various stakeholders.

Occupancy/Building Code

- Eric Fried passed around a draft handout on applicable building codes for agricultural buildings and requested any input before it is published on the website. A general discussion on building code items followed. Public outreach on the agricultural building code, possibly a press release, was suggested.

Water Plan Update

- FEMA grant was awarded as additional funds for the initial study. Selection of the consultants will happen in the near future. An AAB member is requested to be on the selection committee. *Amber Graves and Kristin Ramey volunteered.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Little Thompson Farm

Daylan Figgs

- Daylan provided a presentation on the Little Thompson Farm Conservation Buyer effort
- Originally bought the land at \$8.4M in 2016
- Land value is now \$2M, Water Value is \$6.4M, Larimer County would own the conservation easement
- Requirements for a potential buyer: willing to pay appraised value for land/water, no conflicts of interest, will meet terms of sale, concurrence with CE terms and existing ATM agreement
- Buyer criteria: intends to practice types of agriculture of interest to Larimer County, intends to practice conservation objectives of interest of the county, experience in relevant land management activities, willingness to place CE on other lands the buyer owns
- CE Restrictions: will perpetually protect all existing conservation values, will permanently tie ATM and Handy Ditch water to conservation purposes within Larimer County
- CE Rights: will allow ongoing agricultural practices, will allow flexibility with up to two total building envelopes and allow for one potential subdivision
- Review of the terms of sale will begin in 2023 and closing will happen sometime in 2023
- *Kristin Ramey, Martha Sullins, and Beth Conrey volunteered to be a liaison on this process, names will selected.*

Intern Update

Kerri Rollins and Caesar Gardundo

- Presentation on Caesar's research project
- Process involved finding similar counties to Larimer based on various data, 11 counties were chosen and interviewed
- Question topics included: preliminary, land use/planning, parks and open space, climate and sustainability, emergency management, workforce and economic development, community work/extension, ag specific
- Common themes included: water, goal setting, county constraints, local food access, engagement, public opinions/attitude, collaboration, urban/rural divide
- Types of potential staffing roles: Sustainable Agriculture Liaison, Farm Tour Manager/Planner, or a position in soil health, food systems, water, or a grant writer

Economic Development and Local Foods

Jacob Castillo, Director of Economic Workforce and Development

- Majority of the department's efforts involve areas within jurisdictional boundaries with a large amount of shared responsibility and coordination
- Collaborate with Weld County on migrant and seasonal workers
- Discussion regarding lack of skilled farming labor to help increase locally grown foods in Larimer County
- Larimer County as a whole is struggling to find enough workers due to the current workforce climate
- Sector partnerships, such as for construction, currently exist, and an agriculture sector partnership should be something to consider
- There tends to be a stigma against agriculture jobs regarding wages and growth that isn't necessarily true. Jacob's department may be available to help with that education piece for individual's looking for career changes.

Vertical Ag

CSU Liaison

- Will not be having a liaison at this time

Voluntary Agricultural District Update

- Told CCI we are not quite ready so will prepare for 2024

2023 Work Plan

- Local Food Systems**
- Food waste and coordination with County Projects**
 - Water Plan*
 - Climate Plan*
 - Pollinators*
- Voluntary AG District**
- Vertical AG**

Meeting adjourned at 3:18pm.