

Date: Wednesday, September 10th, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Advisory Committee Members Attending: Sam Parsaye, Martha Sullins, Eric Umbreit, Audrey Welsh, John Forrest, Dennis Lacerte, Ryan Peterson, Amber Graves, Forrest Carlson, [Dylan Alsbach](#), Carmen Farmer

Commissioners' Office: Commissioner John Kefalas

Staff attending: Cary Weiner, Andy Weakland, Jessica Callen, Matt Lafferty, [Heidi Pruess](#)

Other Members of the Community: Carlita Landers, Rebecca Hill, Michelle Hindman, Sydney St. Rose-Finear,

1:00-1:20

Call to Order and Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at 1:02pm

Amendments to the Agenda

- No Amendments to agenda requested

Approval of the Minutes

- July 9th, 2025
 - Minutes approved as is

Staff Updates

- Jess Callen
 - Soil Health Demo Day occurred in June.
 - We had seventy five Ag producers that came out to Todd Olander's Farm. Full day of activities where we talked to Ag producers and specialists about soil health.
 - This was our second annual demo day, we will try to make this an annual event.
 - Agrivoltaics Demo Day
 - This event took place at Jack's Solar Garden. Around 40 people attended including Commissioner Kefalas.
 - Discussed the different challenges around agrivoltaics, success and what it will look like in the future.
 - Taste the Difference Event at the Larimer County Farmers Market
 - The event occurred at the end of July. Taste test between six different local and non local food products. Very popular event to showcase the difference between local vs non local foods. Overall the majority of the respondents preferred the local foods. Good discussion with the community on why local tasted better and reasons behind it.
 - Farm Hop Event.
 - Went to Well Fed Farms, Hazel Dell Mushrooms, and Hungenberg Carrot Farm. This really highlighted and showcased everything from a small vegetable farm to a large production farm and facility. This is the second time we have held this event and we look forward to hosting it again in the future.

- Cary Weiner

- Recent vacancy in the Extension office for our Family and Consumer Sciences program. We were able to reassign the responsibilities amongst our current team and use the vacancy to hire a Natural Resources Coordinator. This new position will allow Jess to focus fully on Agriculture. The new Natural Resources Coordinator will be able to take on some of the current responsibilities that Jess has been doing such as small acreage site visits and the coordination of our Native Plant Masters program as well as being able to implement parts of our Larimer County Water Master Plan. This will likely include a strategy related to Ag water management, which will be in coordination with Jess.
- Currently organizing an educational program at the Roberts Ranch in Livermore. We will have CSU experts to talk about all different pieces of the history and current day uses of the land. This includes Pioneer history, Native American history as well as current ranch management practices.
- Larimer County has a fairly new housing program/office and has contracted with a group called Root Policy. They have reached out and are looking for input on rural/agricultural housing to inform the housing needs assessment they are currently conducting. Wanted to present this to the board to see if there was an interest in this as a topic of discussion for the next meeting in November.
 - Question (Audrey Welsh) - Is this the same assessment that occurred last year on the North College Corridor?
 - (Commissioner Kefalas) No this is a different assessment.
- [Dylan Alsbach](#) will be resigning from the board because he will be moving. Thank you for all your work and time given to the board.
- Melissa Town has resigned as well.
- Recruitment of Larimer County Boards and Commissions will be open in nine days. Open from September 19th to October 13th. We have two members (Forrest & Martha) that need to reapply and will have three vacancies that will need to be filled.
- Officer Elections will be held during the November meeting.

1:20-1:30

Commissioner Kefalas Updates

- Suicide prevention training that will have a focus for farmers and veterans is coming up. Two in person trainings:
 - Safe Talk Training on Friday 9/19 from 8:30am to 12:30pm
 - QPR Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Gatekeeper Training. Training will take place on Friday, 9/19 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.
 - Both trainings are sponsored by the USDA.
- Joint work session with the planning commission tonight, 9/10 at 6:00pm.
 - Topic of discussion will be around the Transfer Development Program.
 - Developing a TDR program to help with conserving Ag land and open space.
- Poudre High School had a ribbon cutting for the Advanced Manufacturing Lab. This was the product of multiple streams of donations and grants from Larimer County (ARPA Funds) and Bohemian Foundation.
- Commissioners have referred two ballot measures that will be on the November ballot.
 - 1A for transportation funding: .15% sales and use tax that will help us implement our Transportation Master Plan.
 - 1B for the cost of child care: .25% sales and use tax that will generate revenue for child care and early childhood education.
- Climate Smart Future Ready update. Plan integration for resilient scorecards (PIRS) for multiple hazards. This is a process that looks at over 50 local plans that have to do with hazard mitigation and evaluates them to better reduce hazard vulnerability and protect economic, social and environmental well-being for our community.
- At the next Community Conversation at Red Feather Lakes, one of our presenters will be Sally Clark, USDA Director of Rural Development.

1:30-3:25

Discussion Items and Action Items

1:30-3:25

Discussion Items and Action Items

1:30-2:00

- Larimer County Ag Economic Impact Study Findings (Rebecca Hill)
 - Please refer to presentation
 - The Changing Economic Contributions of Agriculture and Food in Larimer County
 - Question asked that if this study involves only production Ag and the answer was this, this is just for production Ag
 - Question: The 1,763 jobs, is that people directly working in the business of agriculture?
 - These are jobs where people are directly working in the listed positions in agriculture (slide that lists those areas).
 - Commissioner Kefalas: Is there a way to break out Jobs and economic activity based on the types of jobs and type of acreage (size of acreage)
 - The Ag census data has some of those details but Rebecca Hill will follow up with Rebecca Wasserman to see if she can look into that data.
 - Discussion around the percentage of local ag production consumers in Larimer County. There are different percentages from different systems (2022).
 - USDA: 5%
 - IMPLAN: 39%
 - Discussion around why the numbers differ so much from the last reported numbers in 2017.
 - i.e. COVID, uncertainty that product will be in stock, new farmers starting up since 2017, start of local food purchasing programs, self purchasing.
 - Discussion around the food bank local purchasing dollars, how those dollars are used locally, and how we track the use of those dollars for this study.

2:00-2:30

- AAB Engagement on County Water Initiatives (Heidi Pruess)
 - Please refer to handout
 - Discussion around the drought plan for Larimer County, what gaps there are, and who should be at the table to discuss this issue.
 - Could this be a topic for the 2026 work plan? That is something for the board to consider.

2:30-2:50

- Farm Stand/Store Code Document Feedback (Jess Callen)
 - Please refer to handout
 - Open air vs indoor farmstand discussion and policies around the different types.
 - Further discussion around what needs to be further added to the document in order to make it more usable and educational.

2:50-3:25

- 2026 Work Plan Brainstorming (All)
 - Discussion around what was in the 2025 workplan, what to continue forward with, and what to add to the 2026 work plan.
 - A few topics that were discussed:
 - Some feedback: thoughts around the work with our CSU intern Rebecca and how great it was and it also allowed for work to be compiled outside of the board meetings.
 - Office of Emergency Management, area of topics around forestry and woody biomass usage.

- Suggestion for continuing work on land use code around farm stands and other Ag related issues in the land use code.
- Using the Economic Impact Study to work with CSU on being more ecologically friendly.
- Working with Larimer County and CSU to promote local food consumption. There are already programs going on that we may be able to support.
- More work around agrivoltaics.

3:25-3:30

Future Agenda Items

Adjourn - Adjourned at 3:42pm

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Larimer County will provide a reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with a disability who need assistance. Services can be arranged with at least seven (7) business days' notice. Please email us at accessibility@larimer.org, or call (970) 498-5967 or Relay Colorado 711. "Walk-in" requests for auxiliary aids and services will be honored to the extent possible but may be unavailable if advance notice is not provided.