

LARIMER COUNTY | ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 1190, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522-1190, 970.498.5700, Larimer.gov

The role of the Advisory Board is to advise the Board of County Commissioners and appropriate departments on environmental and science-related issues that affect Larimer County.

Environmental and Science Advisory Board.

MINUTES

Date: May 13, 2025

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Rm 150 Carter Lake, 200 West Oak St., Fort Collins, Colorado and Virtual by Zoom.

Contact: Shelley Bayard de Volo, sbayard@larimer.org or 970.498.5738.

MEMBERS	-	STAFF	-	GUESTS
Rodger Ames – Vice-Chair	-	John Kefalas *	X	-
Tasha Carr	X	Shelley Bayard de Volo [¥]	X	-
Anna Cloud - Chair	X	Shane Atkinson [‡]	X	-
Jim Gerek	X	-	-	-
Leo Grassens	X	-	-	-
Matthew Haag	X	-	-	-
Michael Lee Jones	X	-	-	-
Jared McGlothlin	X	-	-	-
Barry Noon	-	-	-	-
Nicole Poncelet-Johnson	X	-	-	-
Timothy Skolds ^Y	X	-	-	-
Natalie Walsh	X	-	-	-
Chris Wood	X	-	-	-

X = present; * = Commissioner Liaison; [‡] = Legislative Affairs; [¥] = ESAB Liaison; [§] = Climate and Sustainability Program; ^α = Larimer County Health and Environment; [£] = Engineering; ^Y=Youth.

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.





1. **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – None.
2. **Introduction of members, staff and guests** – Guests and Environmental and Science Advisory Board (ESAB) members introduced themselves.
3. **Commissioner's Update** – The ballot measure for funding transportation needs will likely be reintroduced this year. The consultant working on the Transportation master plan will engage the community through educational awareness, social media, and conduct polling. The Commissioner handed out some flyers and encouraged members to get the word out. The initiative will request approval for 0.15% sales tax to generate 15 million annually, however, that amount does not meet the County's entire need for maintenance and improvements. Proclamations for national clean air month. The county has a number of programs through the Health department that support improving air quality. April 21st, at the land use hearing they approved the PRPA 1041 permit application. Regarding water education, the BOCC is considering showing a film on conserving water resources produced by Northern Water. Last Tuesday, Heidi sent a matrix to the BOCC that focused on what topics the commissioners would like the ESAB to address and work on. That will help to focus the ESAB workplan. The Commissioner will have ESAB interviews for new members May 22. There are seven applicants.
4. **Discussion Items**
 - 2025 State Legislation update, bills that passed that are what relevant to Larimer County, what might be relevant for the 2026 session – Shane introduced himself and his role as the legislative coordinator for the County. He also showed members the Legislative Affairs [website](#). Shane showed the 2025-2026 Legislative Agenda document and highlighted the topic areas that overlap with the ESAB's areas of interest. This Agenda is provided to the County's State legislators. He then showed the Bill Tracker spreadsheet that shows all the bills from the 2025 session that the BOCC took a position.

He then discussed the legislative session and showed some slides. He noted that the Session was contentious at times because of the State's budget shortfall (\$1.2 billion) and trying to identify priorities. There was extended discussion on water quality bills and actions. The slides are included with these minutes.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes were amended with minor edits. Jim motioned to approve the minutes as amended, Jared seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Updates and Round Table**
 - Environmental Stewardship Awards – Shelley updated members on the status of the awards. All awardees have RSVP'd that they will attend the ceremony.
 - Summer vacations? – Anna noted that she will not be able to attend the June meeting. Unless Rodger can chair the meeting, she suggests canceling. The topics that were to be discussed would also be better discussed when new members are seated in July.
7. **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – The ESAB workplan review with Issue Index - Anna and Heidi, Air Quality/Water quality programs inventory - Heidi

8. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

DRAFT

LARIMER COUNTY: BOCC OFFICE/PUBLIC AFFAIRS



2025 Legislative Session Wrap-up

May 13th, 2025



2025 Session Wrap-up

General tone?

- ❖ **Budget and fiscal uncertainty= Angry Legislators**
- ❖ **Tension among Dems- TABOR/Fees/UPTF**
- ❖ **Hot button social bills (federal pushback?)**
 - **Trans rights; Immigration Omnibus**

2025 Session Wrap-up

By the Numbers:

- ❖ **Total bills introduced this session- 657**
 - **Passed- 486 (230 awaiting Governor action)**
 - **PI'd/Killed- 171**
- ❖ **Bills identified with LC Nexus= 108 (w/o Human Services)**
- ❖ **Official Positions Registered= 38 (meaning 70 were “monitor”)**
 - **BCC “Support”= 20**
 - **13 passed- 65%**
 - **BCC “Amend”= 13**
 - **8 bills successfully amended (moved to monitor or support)**
 - **BCC “Oppose”= 5**
 - **4 killed- 80%**

2025 Climate Nexus Legislation

By the Numbers:

- ❖ **Total climate related bills this session- 49 (according to CC4CA)**
 - **Support- 28**
 - **Passed- 19 (68%)**
 - **Oppose- 10**
 - **Failed- 8 (80%)**

Nutshell- Most impactful bills didn't cross the finish line; But some important victories

2025 Climate Nexus Legislation

Highlights-

- ❖ **HB25-1247**- County Lodging Tax- **Passed**
- ❖ **SB25-280**- Data Centers- **Killed**
 - This would have had devastating impacts on Larimer County and the state
- ❖ **SB25-163**- Battery Stewardship- **Passed**
- ❖ **HB25-1051**- Repeal Recycled Bag Fee- **Killed**
- ❖ **HB25-1096**- Automated Permits for Solar- **Successful Amend efforts**
- ❖ **SB25-030**- Increase Transportation Mode Choice- **Passed**

2025 Climate Nexus Legislation

Lowlights-

- ❖ **HB25-1268**- On-Bill Repayment for Energy Efficiency Upgrades– **Killed**
 - Quite possibly the most impactful climate bill in YEARS
- ❖ **HB25-1099**- Water Quality Data Standards– **Killed**
- ❖ **HB25-1302**- Increase Access Homeowners Insurance- **Killed**
- ❖ **HB25-1044 and 1303**- Vulnerable Road Users- Both Killed
- ❖ **HB25-1078**- Forestry and Firefighter Workforce and Education- **Killed**

Questions and Concerns

Please contact Shane Atkinson with any feedback, questions or concerns.

atkinsrs@co.larimer.co.us

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