

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 14th, 2024

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 – Chair	X	John Kefalas *	X	Leo Grassens
Tasha Carr		Shelley Bayard de Volo ‡	X	Zachary Maffeo
Anna Cloud		Heidi Pruess §	X	
Jim Gerek	X	Joshua Fudge [£]	X	
Matthew Haag	X			
Ted Hendrickx	X			
Allyson Little				
Lark Murphy				
Andrew Newman	X			
Barry Noon				
Nicole Poncelet-Johnson				
George Rinker	X			
Shelby Sommer - Vice-Chair				
Natalie Walsh	X			
Katrina Winborn-Miller				
Chris Wood	X			

X = present; * = Commissioner Liaison; ‡ = Engineering; ‡ = ESAB Liaison; § = Climate and Sustainability Program; £ = Performance, Budget, and Strategy

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

1. **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – None.
2. **Introduction of members, staff and guests** – Members and guest introduced themselves.





3. **Public Comment** – None
4. **Commissioner's Update** – After several public meetings where the public had opportunity to comment, the BCC and the Planning Commission Thorton Pipeline 1041 permit was approved. Next will be the findings and resolution approval process, and then a technical approval process. The commissioner reminded board members that the City of Fort Collins will be submitting their 1041 application for their Halligan Reservoir expansion. Once that application is submitted, Boards and Commissions are not allowed to comment as a board on the project or the application. Board members can comment as individuals. In a May 13th work session, the BCC heard the results of the Transportation Survey. Members can view the [recorded presentation](#) from the BCC past meetings webpage. The commissioners are supportive of the ESAB providing a memo that provides points to consider regarding the PRPA IRP. The ESAB's 2024 workplan has items that were added as compared to the initial draft that was submitted in February. The commissioners asked that the ESAB add details for the additional items. Rodger said they can do that at the roundtable portion of the meeting.

Discussion Items

- Overview of the LC 2024-2028 Strategic Plan – Joshua Fudge presented on the County's strategic plan, going through [FlippingBook](#) hosted on the County's webpage. He explained the four goals areas, noting how some of the goals' objectives overlap with other ongoing programs within County Departments.
 - Environmental Stewardship Awards Sub-Committee Recommendations – Ted presented slides covering the sub-committee recommendations. He went through each nomination and explained their activity, how they met the selection criteria and the sub-committees' scores. Rodger thanks the sub-committee for their work and asked for a motion to approve the sub-committee recommendations. Jim motioned and Ted seconded. The motion passed by acclamation. Shelley will pass the recommendations onto the Assistant County Manager who will seek BCC approval.
 - Approval of the ESAB Bylaws – Jim provided a brief background of the Bylaws sub-committee update. The bylaws were sent to all members one week prior to tonight's meeting, so all members had the opportunity to review. Natalie motioned and Matthew seconded. The motion passed by acclamation.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – The Board approved the April minutes. Jim noted the need for some additional detail in the commissioner's update regarding the new member's appointments. The clarification is that their appointments are effective July 1st, 2024. Shelly made that change. Jim motioned to approve the April minutes, as amended, and Natalie seconded. The April minutes were approved by acclamation.
 6. **Updates and Round Table**
 - Adding details to the 2024 Work Plan – Rodger discussed the update to the 2024 workplan. Members went through the items and added details where needed. Shelley will re-submit the updated draft to the Assistant County Manager for approval.
 7. **Issue Index** – will be updated.
 8. **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – Platte River Power Authority, Integrative Resource Plan. Building Energy Requirements, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project.
 9. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

2024 Environmental Stewardship Awards

ESAB Subcommittee members: Chris Wood, Natalie Walsh, Lark Murphy, Ted Hendrickx

April, 2024



Award Criteria

- Educational Value
 - Actual Environmental Benefit
 - Degree of commitment
 - Impact to Larimer County
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Matthew Rogers

- Activity: Participated as a volunteer on various reforestation and riparian repair efforts across the Cameron Peak and High Park Fire burn scars in projects completed by the Coalition for the Poudre Watershed and Wilderness Restoration Volunteers.
 - Time: 2021 - 2023
 - Effectiveness: unknown
 - Innovation/Creativity: minimal
 - Leadership: minimal in the application but committed to future training to be a restoration team leader with the Wilderness Restoration Volunteers.
 - Sustainability: unknown
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Matthew Rogers - No

Criteria ¹	Rank 1-5; 5 being the best	Comments
Educational value of a project	1	Educational value could not be determined as no active education efforts have been conducted by the nominee.
Actual environmental benefit	1	Unknown based on application material, which just described that procedures provided by the organizations were followed while working on projects.
Degree of commitment	3	Voluntarily committed to spending time on these projects. The nominee has also signed up for training to be a restoration team leader with the Wilderness Restoration Volunteers.
Impact to Larimer County	4	Important restoration efforts tied into remediating the effects of the High Park and Cameron Peak Fires on watersheds within Larimer County.

Seth Pickett

- Activity: Removed bagged dog poop left on trails in Northern Colorado during his mountain bike rides. Put a bag carrier on the front of bikes to remove more at a time.
- Time: Started on rides in winter 2022. This is open ended with no end date.
- Effectiveness: Highly effective as surprisingly few dog owners actually return and pick up the poop they bag. It was removed from the trails and put into the trash where it should be. Ranger and other staff time was freed up for other things.
- Innovation/Creativity: People said that they started doing this on hikes after seeing his posts about it and also that they had never seen anyone else doing it using a bike.
- Leadership: Helps remind people that they should not leave dog poop on the trail even if bagged. Helps spread awareness that there is no poop fairy. People told him first hand that his efforts inspired them to pick up trash or find their own things to help with on trails.
- Sustainability: With increasing population and pressure on trails, this helps make popular trail use more sustainable. Encourages others to help take care of trails.

Seth Pickett – Yes

Criteria ¹	Rank 1-5; 5 being the best	Comments
Educational value of a project	3	First-hand comments that the nominee inspired them to pick up trash or find their own things to help with on trails. Social media posts encouraged others to do the same.
Actual environmental benefit	4	Pet waste washed into waterways can decay and use up oxygen and release ammonia. This combined with warm water temperatures could kill fish and other aquatic life. Pet waste also contains nutrients and pathogenetic organisms that can be added to surface waters rendering them unsafe for swimming and fishing.
Degree of commitment	3	Voluntarily taking action during bike rides, even if it means stopping frequently.
Impact to Larimer County	3	More than 60% of water pollution comes from everyday behaviors around homes and businesses. Things like pet waste contribute to water pollution. All these sources can add up to a large pollution problem.

Estes Recycles Day

- Activity: Volunteer-run annual event for residents to properly dispose of their hard to recycle items without leaving the Estes Valley.
- Time: Held since 2014, when it started as the “Freecycle” event
- Effectiveness: 2023 surpassed attendance and recycling records from all previous years
- Innovation/Creativity: To offset the relatively high cost of large electronics recycling, the 2023 event was partially funded by several grants from community-based organizations. In 2023 coupons allowed recycling of electronics free of charge for households in need.
- Leadership: The event promotes collaboration between local, county, and statewide groups. In 2023 they partnered with the Larimer County Household Hazardous waste Program to accept batteries for the first time.
- Sustainability: Promoted proper disposal for hard-to-recycled materials keeping them out waste streams or being improperly disposed of causing environmental contamination.

Estes Recycling – Yes

Criteria ¹	Rank 1-5; 5 being the best	Comments
Educational value of a project	4	Raised awareness of proper disposal of materials. Grants made a powerful contribution to the event's success and demonstrated the reach and growth of sustainability awareness. Publicity was provided in English and in Spanish.
Actual environmental benefit	5	Provides a local opportunity for proper disposal of hard-to-recycle items. Reduces the need to travel far away to dispose of household items. Reduces stockpiling or dumping of material.
Degree of commitment	5	Event is in its 10th year with expansion to small business waste in 2024.
Impact to Larimer County	4	The convenience of having this service in town, without the need for each household to make a significant two-hour and 80-mile roundtrip to a recycling center has proven extremely helpful to residents. While offering welcome convenience, the event also builds awareness in the community of diversion, recycling possibilities and the importance of environmental sustainability.

Lehi Ranch

- Activity: Resilient agriculture and soil health practices. Enhanced ecosystem service to the local region and improved products and services for the local community and Larimer County.
- Time: Began monitoring soil health in 2020, joined STAR program in 2022
- Effectiveness: Reduced negative impacts to our land and animals and improved watershed by increasing soil health, reducing erosion, sequestering carbon, raising healthy locally supplied grass fed beef and lamb, all while increasing habitat wildlife
- Innovation/Creativity: Little opportunity to be creative – but voluntary adoption of science-based soil health and BMP approaches.
- Leadership: The nominee is a member of Larimer Conservation District and Larimer County ag advisory board, promoting soil health and BMPs, educating other ag operations
- Sustainability: Multiple BMP are being implementing on the farms to help improve water and soil quality. Soil health makes for more resilient agriculture.

Lehi Ranch - Yes, previous applicant in 2023

Criteria ¹	Rank 1-5; 5 being the best	Comments
Educational value of a project	4	Through collaboration with the Citizen Science Soil Health Program, contributed to regional collaboration to better understand the overall impacts of these practices are having on our ag and eco systems. Worked on Nutrient Trading with municipal partners to find innovative ways to reduce utility bills for residents in our neighboring towns. Educational value was more detailed in the 2024 application.
Actual environmental benefit	4	Embracing many areas of sustainable agriculture, measurable results with STAR program. As a competitor in the 2023 TAPS program with CSU, the nominee was able to be the 4th most nutrient and water efficient grower amongst all state wide growers, by using innovative and effective tools.
Degree of commitment	5	Plays leadership role in agricultural community, voluntary adoption of best management practices.
Impact to Larimer County	4	In addition to general environmental benefits, this has direct benefits to water quality which would benefit WWTPs in Larimer County. Leadership role in agricultural community.

Wildlife Center - past award recipient in 2022

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- Activity: General operations to rescue, rehab, and release wildlife. Environmental education.
 - Time: nominations are not tied to specific project or timeframe (founded in 2016)
 - Effectiveness: In 2022, responded to over 1900 calls for service and helped save over 2600 wild animals experiencing an emergency. Over 5 times the 2021 call volume
 - Innovation/Creativity: The only wildlife rehabilitation center in Larimer county to provide field services, emergency triage care, and rehabilitation to almost every species in the state.
 - Leadership: Dedicated board of directors, collaboration with county and state agencies
 - Sustainability: Committed to environmental education and sponsoring cleanup events
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Wildlife Center - No

Criteria ¹	Rank 1-5; 5 being the best	Comments
Educational value of a project	1	Non specific in application as tied to a project
Actual environmental benefit	2	Non specific in application, not enough info or a specific project to make a judgement.
Degree of commitment	4	The organization began in 2016 and has grown considerably increasing in the number of volunteers and staff
Impact to Larimer County	4	The only wildlife rehabilitation center in Larimer county to provide field services, emergency triage care, and rehabilitation to almost every species in the state.

Estes Land and Stewardship Association

- past winner in 2017

- Activity: Address the issues of noxious weeds invading the region by promoting awareness of invasive plants and their impacts, through education and outreach.
 - Time: ELSA was formed in 2007. Ongoing activities.
 - Effectiveness: articles in local newspapers, presentations at public meetings, public weed drop-off days in the summer. and providing site visits for property owners.
 - Innovation/Creativity: provides updated weed booklets annually to public and private entities, and by staffing weed round-ups with experts that provide personal advice.
 - Leadership: Public meetings provide an opportunity for government , weed control providers, and expert volunteers to present information and answer questions.
 - Sustainability: weekly weed-of-the-week articles and photographs to local newspapers, annual updates of the Obnoxious Weed Booklets, and providing personal information to friends and neighbors.
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Estes Land and Stewardship Association

- Yes

Criteria ¹	Rank 1-5; 5 being the best	Comments
Educational value of a project	3	Public meetings, newspaper articles, updated Obnoxious Weed Booklets, staffing weed round ups with experts
Actual environmental benefit	3	Weed drop-off days in the summer and providing site visits for property owners contribute to a reduction in noxious weeds and negative impacts caused by invasive species.
Degree of commitment	4	ELSA was formed in 2007 and has been operating as a 501(c)(3) unincorporated nonprofit association since formation.
Impact to Larimer County	4	Every year, from July through September, Monitored Weed Drop-Off events take place on the third Saturday of the month. These drop-off events are made possible by Estes Land Stewardship Association (ELSA), Town of Estes Park, and donations.

Final Recommendations:

- Matt Rogers – No
- Seth Pickett - Yes
- Estes Recycles Day - Yes
- Lehi Ranch – Yes
- Northern Colorado Wildlife Center – No
- Estes Land Stewardship Association - Yes