

LARIMER COUNTY | ENGINEERING

P.O. Box 1190, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522-1190, 970.498.5738, Larimer.org

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.

MINUTES

Date: November 15th, 2022

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Rm. 150 Carter Lake, 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins, CO and Virtual by Zoom

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

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Rodger Ames	X	John Kefalas*	X	City of Fort Collins Air Quality Board
Daniel Beveridge		Shelley Bayard de Volo [¥]	X	Karen Artell
John Bleem	X	Lea Schneider, LCPHE	X	
Tasha Carr	X			Colorado State University
Jim Gerek - Chair	X			Jeffrey Collette, CSU
Ted Hendrickx	X			
Allyson Little				
Barry Noon				
Kaitlin Rainsberger				
George Rinker	X			
Travis Rounsaville	X			
Shelby Sommer	X			
Catriona Smith	X			
Katrina Winborn-Miller	X			
Chris Wood				

X = present; * = Commissioner Liaison; † = Speaker; ¥ = ESAB Liaison; ° = Facilities;

§ = Environmental and Sustainability Program; ¢ = Fleet

Call to Order: 6:15 p.m.

- 1. Amendments or additions to the agenda** – None
- 2. Introduction of members, staff, and guests** – The members introduced themselves.
- 3. Public Comment** – No public comment.
- 4. Discussion Items**
 - Update on Larimer County's Air Quality Grant – Lea Schneider provided an update on the LC Health Department's EPA Air Toxics Grant application. The grant has been approved for



funding by the EPA, but the dollars have not yet been transferred to the County. There is a meeting with the project's core team (City of Fort Collins, CSU, Larimer County Health Department) next week to hash out details. The title of their project is "Enhancing Monitoring of Air Toxics and Air Quality Education in Underserved Communities in Northern Colorado". Their goal will be to collect air samples where VOCs (e.g., Benzenes and Toluene) are emitted. They are also working with CSU on implementing a Mobile Plume Tracker, and they plan to post results to the County Website. They are also creating an air quality monitoring advisory group that will include community members, along with professionals who can help identify areas of potential exposure risk. They already use mapping tools like EnviroScreen.

The other part of the grant is enhancing air quality awareness and health. They are going to work with CSU's Center for Environmental Justice. They plan to host several events over the next 3-years where the community can come and see the equipment, ask questions, and learn in a friendly fun environment. Lea said that she will continue to coordinate with Rodger as the ESAB representative, and will have more to say following their first meeting

- Proposed Ozone Precursor Monitoring in Larimer County – Dr. Jeffrey Collett Jr presented on an area of air quality monitoring that the LC Health Department had not included in their proposed options to the BOCC (covered in the October 2022 minutes). Dr. Collette explained that when they presented to the ESAB earlier this year they presented several air quality monitoring strategies, one of which included the air toxics monitoring method that the LC Health Department is now beginning with the grant funding just described. Drs Collett and Emily Fischer are both involved in that study. The other piece they presented on was the need to study ozone precursors. He explained the major concerns and the situation that the Front Range is currently in regarding not meeting the EPA's ground level ozone standards. He explained how ozone is created from various sectors (industry, transportation, etc.) and how VOCs and NOx sources vary across the non-attainment area along the front range. The question to answer is how conditions Larimer County compare to those in other areas within the non-attainment zone. Prior work has indicated that VOCs from multiple sources contribute to the formation of ozone, and the VOC mix differs from day to day, where there is often a more variable mix on high ozone days. NOx sensitivity should be diagnosed because it may be changing. He then went through their recommendations for ozone precursor monitoring and analysis – sample at least 3 years using a canister method to analyze >50 VOCs and start in 2023 ahead of the next Ozone SIP process. The monitor should be co-located with a NOx monitor and they recommend the Fort Collins West site because of its known historical exceedances. Analysis would include identifying VOC sources on high ozone days, and the degree of reactivity in the mix on those days, the sensitivities of O3 to NOx and VOCs, to help address the question of whether O3 SIP modeling is correct for Larimer County. The cost would be \$90K in the first year, or \$250K for a total 3 years.

Dr. Collett then presented a table comparing the EPA Community Monitoring Study and the Ozone Precursor Study and how the targets differ. The goals in each study are very different and are not duplicative in any way. Dr. Collett then took questions. There were questions regarding budgeting since the 2023 County budget will be adopted soon. Lea asked about co-locating the sampling with a NOx monitor, and whether it would be acceptable to co-locate it with the new planned NOx monitor in the Fossil Creek area in the southeast area of the County. Dr Collett said that the Fort Collins West monitor would be better because of its historical data, but that the key is that the sampling be co-located with a NOx monitor. The LC Health Department was also concerned about research capacity at CSU, but this meeting has

alleviated those concerns. There were questions about funding, partnership cost-share agreements and the need for a bid process. Lea noted that so little is known about ozone precursors in Larimer County that all inferences are based on modeling. Commissioner Kefalas asked about source attribution and how that is done. The ozone precursor monitoring proposal prepared by Drs Collet and Fischer was previously provided to the County Health Department as well as the Commissioners. The health department responded with a set of questions that that Dr. Collett addressed in a subsequent email. Jim asked the Commissioner to comment on what he thought about the proposal. Commissioner Kefalas noted that he discussed the proposal with the other commissioners at the BoCC budget retreat last week. He expects the County Health Department to make a recommendation to the BoCC regarding funding the proposal. If that does not happen by the time the 2023 budget is approved mid-December, there are other potential paths to funding the project for 2023. He noted that this project appears to complement the EPA study and the other approved projects and agrees that it should be funded. He asked for Lea's perspective. She agreed. There was more discussion regarding funding, data collection methods and processes moving forward.

- Air Quality Monitoring Draft Resolution – Rodger presented his updated resolution along with CSU's study proposal with costs. There were some comments about the value of the discussion tonight that clarified the importance of the resolution. Travis noted that the statement in the resolution that says "we recommend that the BoCC fund the attached proposal" should be changed to something like "we recommend the BoCC consider the attached proposal". There was further discussion for some minor edits in the language. As well more discussion about the need for more staffing at the Health Department. Tasha asked about the sampling design and whether the CSU team was really the best research team to do the work. Rodger went through the pros and cons of the proposed study. Tasha suggested that maybe the first year should be considered a pilot study that in case things don't work out there can be adjustments. There was more discussion on that aspect and the resolution was edited to include that idea. Rodger moved to approve the resolution, as edited, and including the 1-page budget and proposal prepared by Drs Collet and Fischer. Shelby seconded, and there was no further discussion. All approved the revised resolution by acclamation. Jim and Shelley will get the approved resolution with proposal to the Commissioner tomorrow.
- 2023 Draft Work Plan – Jim noted that in late October the ESAB had been asked to provide its 2023 Work Plan to the BoCC. Since this was well ahead of normal schedules, Jim and Shelley agreed to provide an early draft instead of calling a special meeting. To keep the board in the loop, Jim went over the provided draft workplan noting the initial portions of the document do not typically change year to year. Then he asked the group to focus on the Current Topics section, which does get updated every year. Members made a few editorial suggestions. Tasha suggested that the ESAB add the County's Covid Response to their workplan. Jim noted that the ESAB and the Board of Health do not typically coordinate with each other. She suggested that the ESAB could serve as an independent voice to assess the County's Covid response. The group agreed to add language to the effect that the ESAB serves to inform other County Boards. Travis noted that an area of mutual interest with the Board of Health would be air quality monitoring, and Cat noted water quality as well. Shelley made a few more edits and the Board will come back to it at the December or January meeting for final approval. There were questions on whether the board needs to adopt a different "planning year" rather than using the typical calendar year going forward. Jim indicated that this will be explored.

5. Approval of Minutes – John moved to approve the revised draft October minutes, and Rodger seconded. The October minutes were approved by acclamation.

6. Updates and Round Table

- Commissioner's Update – Commissioner Kefalas previously left for the evening so there was no update.
- Climate Smart and Future Ready – Tasha and Ted reported on the October 26th kick-off meeting for Phase 3 of the process. Tasha noted there were ~70 people there with ~25 not attending. The meeting entailed a presentation of the outcome of Phase 2, which is a report outlining goals and actions that the County will take. She explained how they broke out into one of the 4 work group areas. She felt it was a good start, but that maybe the questions being asked were not quite right. She said she thought there needs to be more science-based actions, but maybe that will be part of the process. Ted agreed that the meeting was both vague and specific at the same time. There were story boards that participants put comments on. The comments were sometimes conflicting viewpoints. Next meeting is in January. Ted said that he had asked Heidi whether the plan will be adopted by the BoCC? Is it regulatory in any way? She said that it is not. Ted noted that fact relieved some people, but the flip side is that it may lack teeth. And it might be informative for grant seeking. Shelley noted that it is a guiding document that would support other policies, regulations and codes.
- Xcel Partners in Energy – Shelby provided a brief update on this program. Heidi initiated the scope of work for this project. It's an electric vehicle infrastructure effort. The goal is to bring together stakeholders and experts (CDOT, Colorado Energy Office, Poudre Valley REA, NFRMPO, etc) to get feedback on where charging stations should be located and how would they be funded. Rodger noted the Colorado Energy Office has provided a map of where chargers are planned and asked if this process goes beyond that. Shelby noted that it does. Also, Xcel distributes electricity to only a very small segment of Larimer County. There are many vehicle fleets in Larimer County (i.e., Amazon) that can benefit from the charging infrastructure.
- Requests to ESAB from Students – Jim noted that he had received a request from a CSU student who is doing a project on environmental justice. The interview would have to be completed during a time Jim not available. So Jim pointed the student to the County's newly formed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion advisory board as an alternative. Jim also recently received a request from a high school student who wanted to do a podcast interview on PFAS. Jim pointed this student to Cat since she was the ESAB Issue Coordinator in this field.
- Upcoming Oil and Gas Issues – Jim noted that a friend had informed him about an oil and gas well project planned for the Centerra area in east Loveland. The proposal was submitted to the COGCC. Since it is in the City of Loveland, their city regulations will be controlling. Matt Lafferty was also notified of the application, and he has offered to provide his technical expertise to the City of Loveland as they review the application. It will be one of the larger County developments in a long time.
- Board Elections – Jim reminded everyone that the December meeting will include elections for a Board Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023. He will be available through June 2023 to support the new leaders as they take over. He indicated that he is also available over the next month to meet with anyone who might be interested to learn more about what the role involves.

7. Issue Index – Was updated with tonight's discussion

8. **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting** – Next regular meeting will be December 13th, 2022. Discussion items TBD.
9. **Adjourn** – Tasha moved to adjourn, and George seconded. The meeting ended at 8:50 PM.