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: June 13th, 2023

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*		Nicole Poncelet-Johnson
Daniel Beveridge	X	Shelley Bayard de Volo¥	X	Anna Cloud
John Bleem				Diana O'Neil
Tasha Carr	X			Sarah Connor
Jim Gerek	X			Paul Reimer
Ted Hendrickx	X			Barbara Reemer
Allyson Little	X			
Barry Noon				
George Rinker	X			
Travis Rounsaville	X			
Shelby Sommer – Vice-Chair	X			
Catriona Smith	X			
Katrina Winborn-Miller	X			
Chris Wood				

X = present; * = Commissioner Liaison; ǂ = Speaker; ¥ = ESAB Liaison; § = Larimer County Department of Health and Environment

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

1. **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – Recognition of outgoing members, updates to County Water Plan,
2. **Introduction of members, staff and guests** – Guests making public comment introduced themselves.
3. **Public Comment** – Individuals representing Covid Bat Research Moratorium of Colorado presented their concerns over the new bat research facility on CSU Foothills Campus. Christine Bowman, the group's primary representative emailed Rodger her questions prior to tonight's meeting, and the group tonight asked about some of those questions. Their primary concerns involve the lack of public engagement from CSU. The group is seeking a Q/A session on the lab's safety plans. Their other questions concern whether the County is

aware of the activities at the Lab. One final question regarded what the response would be if there was a contagion leak from the facility. Board members noted that would likely be handled by the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and CDPHE, and recommended the group take their concerns to the Larimer County Board of Health.

4. **Discussion Items**

- **Solid waste Update –** Jim provided background on how solid waste is managed. He discussed how initial efforts separated hazardous waste, tire and electronics from the standard solid waste stream. More recently the solid waste stream is further separated into scrap metal, industrial by-products, paper/plastic/glass recyclables, green waste, food waste, and construction demolition waste. Discussion of how solid waste is transported, and then how it is ultimately disposed. Regionally, landfills in the front range are private and municipal. The Larimer County Landfill opened in the 1960's and is currently set to close in 2025. Private landfills are owned by Waste Management and Republic Services. Recyclables are processed at Waste Management's processing center at the Larimer County Landfill, and then shipped to Denver for final processing.

  The County initiated a Wasteshed stakeholder group in 2016, and the ESAB participated. The final product in 2018 was the Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan (SWIMP). The SWMIP proposed several new facilities including a new landfill north of Wellington. The process then moved into a Policy Advisory Council, PAC, where Larimer County is represented by Commissioners Kefalas and Stephens.

  Recent Issues include an effort by national companies to buy out local haulers, changes in international markets for recyclables, leadership changes with LC Solid Waste, success in the green waster program, creation of a public-private partnership with Republic Services, construction of the new landfill, and construction of transfer station at the old landfill.

  Jim ended with suggesting members think about next steps, if any, for the ESAB. Maybe an update from Duane Penney, current Solid Waste director. Shelley noted that Larimer County Engineering is currently improving the roads associated with the primary hauler routes – LCR 70 and LCR 9. Discussion of other road improvements at Trilby and HWY 287. Discussion of the risk of blowing trash and it's mitigated at the new landfill.

- Pollinator Resolution – Tasha provided an overview of her contributions to the development of the pollinator policy resolution. There were representatives from the Agricultural Advisory Board, the Land Stewardship Board, Open Lands Boards and the ESAB. They began working on the resolution earlier in the year and then submitted their comments on the final draft in May. The person from the Ag Board is a beekeeper, so she had firsthand knowledge. They focused on best practices with pesticide use, developing pollinator habitats, and educating the public. They discussed improving native plant communities using herbicides as part of an integrated weed management strategy to control invasive weeds.

  Tasha's review focused on trying to make sure statements were not overgeneralized, cleaning up some language to make things clearer. She then went through the resolution pointing out some of the highlights. Ally noted that she thought Tasha did a great job with her comments. Her own work involves weed management and she will always choose to manage weeds first and develop pollinator habitat after.

Rodger looked at some studies on pollinators. He highlighted a study completed by USGS and CSU scientists on western bumblebee declines. The study identified neonicotinoid pesticides as the primary threat and their use predicted declines in occupancy within parts of it range. The study noted that conserving open spaces for pollinator is important, but the types of lands is also important for supporting species. Rodger also noted recent legislation (SB-23-266) that directs the CO Dept of Agriculture to categorize neonics as limited-use pesticides that can only be sold through pesticide dealers and no longer available on garden store shelves. The bill recognizes the importance of pollinators to farmers and our food supply.

Rodger reported that Barry agreed he could do a deeper dive into the pollinator issue at a future meeting. Ally noted that she has been working on a pollinator plan for her work involving reclamation. They are integrating species in their seed mixes that will support pollinators.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes had some typos, but rather than go through each one, Shelley will run a spell check and make corrections prior to posting. Tasha moved to approve the April minutes, and Cat seconded. The April minutes were approved.

6. **Updates and Round Table**

- Climate Smart and Future Ready - Tasha started her update with noting how impressed she is with Heidi Pruess's work on the Phase-3 CSFR project. At the last meeting the Public Outreach workgroup reviewed a movie produced to highlight the Phase-3 effort. They were supposed to have it completed at the last meeting and then get feedback from the workgroup, but by the time they showed them the video it was too late to implement any feedback. This kind of thing has happened other times as well. One thing considered was the need to define the term and use of "consensus". Heidi brought that concern to the Executive workgroup, and they agreed on the need for a definition, which they identified as 75% agreement. For those not in the 75% majority, an effort will be made to address people's concerns. The video was 7 min long, which was too long to keep people's attention. The video consisted of people providing their opinions on climate change impacts, and the video had too many presenters. Tasha considered the comments just people's opinions and not grounded in facts. She told Heidi that she was concerned that people watching the video will think the statements are factual and not opinions. Heidi suggested that Tasha bring these concerns back to the ESAB. Tasha requested to have speakers come and talk on topics like extreme weather events and climate change. She suggested Dr. Pielke, CU Boulder, come and present at a future meeting. She also suggested that she can do a short presentation on wildfire and climate change in Colorado.

  Last, Tasha noted that the Public Outreach workgroup is meeting tomorrow, she asked Shelley to show the new website up on the screen. Tasha pointed out that they are looking for feedback, and the website has a map on it that you can drop a pin and leave a comment. Shelby asked if one of the focus areas was dropped as its not on the website – Wellbeing and Resilience. Tasha will mention to Heidi.

- Larimer Water Plan RFP Summary – Travis updated the Board on the RFP for Larimer County's Water Plan. Lesli Ellis had asked for a rep from the ESAB to sit on the RFP review panel. There were three proposals by teams that the review panel considered qualified. Travis was allowed to ask questions during the interview process and provide comments but was not allowed to vote on the candidate selection – only staff can do that. Travis expressed the need to clarify that process with future requests for ESAB participation. Selected group was SWCA. The question Travis asked all groups was "What do you think Larimer County's role should be considering that they are not a water provider?" Most answered that the County should act as a coalition builder. Travis also communicated what he had heard Commissioner Kefalas express previously, which was that Larimer County engage in public outreach and education. The other question he asked involved transfer of water out of the County while also transferring water into the County? How to balance those two activities.
- Water Education Series – Members discussed the Commissioner's Water Education Series. The dates have not been posted to any website, but the Commissioner informed Rodger of the following dates, Session-1, August 21st Topic - Water Storage and Risk, with Brad Udall, CSU Colorado Water Center. Session-2 will be held September 20th and the topic will be Water Sharing.
- Bylaws Update – Shelley provided an update on where the ESAB's Bylaws are in processing. She worked with Commissioner 's Office staff, who are currently updating the Administrative Policy and Procedure 100.1J, on which the ESAB bylaws rely. Initially the ESAB sub-committee was instructed to ensure the ESAB bylaws agree with the 100.1J policy, but when staff read the ESAB's updated bylaws they realized there was a lot of language that was repeated from the 100.1J policy. They realized that the better approach is to just refer to the 100.1J policy and that way when there are updates to 100.1J policy the ESAB bylaws will not need to also be updated. Shelley showed changes that she and Commissioner's office staff made. Once the 100.1J policy is finally updated the ESAB can review the edited bylaws and make any necessary changes.
- Recognition of outgoing members and certificates – Shelby and Rodger handed out the certificates to Daniel, Cat, Travis, and Jim (for his work as Chair).
- Environmental Stewardship Awards update – Tasha asked about the Awards status. Shelley noted that the Awardees have been notified and that the ceremony is scheduled for July 17th, 1:30 PM in the Commissioner's Conference Room. The Plaques have been ordered. Tasha asked if ESAB members can attend Shelley responded that they certainly can, and they are welcome.

7. **Issue Index** – will be updated for tonight's agenda items.
8. **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – July will be the Larimer Conservation District providing an update on their activities, August will be air quality with Lea Schneider and Chris Manly, LCDHE and CSU researchers Jeff Collette and Emily Fischer.
9. **Adjourn** – Daniel moved to adjourn the meeting and Cat seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM