

LARIMER COUNTY | ENGINEERING

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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 9, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual by Zoom

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

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Rodger Ames	X	John Kefalas*	X	Northern Colorado Clean Cities
Daniel Beveridge	X	Shelley Bayard de Volo [¥]	X	Diego Lopez [‡]
John Bleem	X	Heidi Pruess [§]	X	
Jim Gerek - Chair	X	Jose Garcia [♠]		
Ted Hendrickx	X			
David Lehman – Vice-Chair	X			
Allyson Little				
Kirk Longstein				
Kaitlin Rainsberger				
George Rinker	X			
Travis Rounsaville	X			
Shelby Sommer	X			
Catriona Smith				
Katrina Winborn-Miller	X			
Chris Wood	X			

X = present; * = Commissioner Liaison; ‡ = Speaker; ¥ = ESAB Liaison; § = Environmental and Sustainability Program; ♠ Fleet

Call to Order: 6:00 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**
 - **EV Charging Infrastructure Initiatives** – Diego Lopez presented information on Northern Colorado Clean Cities (NCCC) and how the organization assists municipalities and businesses with developing opportunities for clean transportation. The NCCC's mission is to build partnerships to advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels and technologies, including hydrogen,





natural gas and electric. They do research and grant assistance in support of projects and policies within their mission. Diego discussed the air quality issues on the Front Range and the ozone non-attainment issues. Vehicle emissions are a major source of NOx and hydrocarbons contributing to the ozone problem. Electrifying Colorado's transportation options can therefore reduce those emissions.

Projects in place right now include the planning for an Intermountain West EV Corridor. The project is called REV West (Regional Electric Vehicle West) and it is guided by a MOU signed by eight western state governors, including Colorado. Two Colorado initiatives supporting this effort are Executive Order b-2019-002 that supports the transition to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and SB21-260 that directs development of sustainable transportation systems in Colorado. There is also a 2020 Colorado Electric Vehicle Plan that guides the build-out of key charging corridors. Diego discussed the public and private stakeholders (i.e., cities, towns, businesses) who are currently implementing electric-based transportation opportunities (e.g., buses, fleets, Denver light rail). He then discussed funding opportunities. NCCC provides planning assistance to consumers, non-profits, businesses, and municipalities applying for grants from Charge Ahead Colorado and/or the ALT Fuels Colorado Grant Program. These grant programs accept applications three times a year starting in January. The Alt Fuels program is focused on medium to heavy duty (Class 4-8) vehicles that are part of public or private fleets. The Charge Ahead grant focuses on several programs to assist business and local governments with electrification planning and implementation.

Diego noted the importance of considering electricity rates and how rates impact a business' ability to install charging stations. He suggested that demand rates should be adjusted for the electricity used at charging stations and that adjustment might be realized through changes in building codes. Shelby mentioned the EV Readiness Roadmap and how that can assist municipalities in developing an EV readiness plan. Another funding opportunity involves developing EV plazas, which are centralized areas with 4-5 charging stations. The Charge Ahead grant can cover 60-70% of the costs. There was discussion of level 1 home chargers and what it takes to do DIY installations. Also, discussion on the importance of building code updates to require builders to include EV ready plugs in new construction. Shelby brought up group buys for EV vehicles, and Diego noted the upcoming group buy for Kia and Nissan where purchasers get an extra \$6K off EVs purchased through their program, in addition to the \$7K federal tax rebate. Diego also addressed the supply shortages for vehicles and how NCCC is providing financial assistance to dealers to help them increase inventory.

Commissioner Kefalas asked Diego if any Larimer County staff has worked with him to apply for a grant to fund an EV Roadmap? Diego noted that NCCC has not worked with any County governments yet, mostly municipalities, but he would welcome the opportunity to work with the County and assist in any way. Diego noted that he was aware of the strides Larimer County Fleet has made to integrate alternative fuels vehicles to their fleet (e.g., compressed natural gas, hybrids and now a few EVs) and that they have in the past applied to the Alt Fuels program. Commissioner Kefalas asked that he receive tonight's presentation to share with the County Manager and department directors. The BoCC recently worked with the Planning Commission to update aspects of Land Use Code regarding development standards and EV readiness of parking spaces and identifying the number of EV-ready parking spaces per number of parking spaces that should be required. Diego showed the DOE webpage for the EV infrastructure projection tool. The tool allows the user to estimate how much electric charging



might be required for certain conditions (i.e., how many EV's are currently on the road in a certain location).

Jim mentioned the work that Rodger and Kirk had done and the memo they have drafted and will discuss later tonight. He suggested that forwarding the memo along with the NCCC presentation might be appropriate. Diego then went through the survey that the ESAB members completed prior to the meeting. Most members know about EVs and are considering an EV purchase in the future. Most members drive short distances, but a few drive, on average, over 30 miles a day. David asked about the carbon footprint of transitioning to a new EV as opposed to keeping an older vehicle. Considering the carbon footprint of manufacturing a new car? The website Fueleconomy.gov hosts a tool people can use to do side-by-side comparisons on several metrics relating to fuel, energy, and carbon costs for different model cars. There was more discussion on the difference between EVs and gas-powered cars in their tail-pipe emissions and embedded/life cycle emissions (includes the carbon-cost of vehicle manufacture).

John asked Diego to comment on what the benefits to the County might be as they start planning forward. Diego discussed first the importance of air quality to people's health and the severe ozone non-attainment zone that the County is within. Having that status affects federal funding opportunities in that some of the federal funding must be spent on mitigating ozone. So, some of the funds received through CDOT for transportation infrastructure improvements would have to be spent on mitigating ozone. The second point is that if we make EVs more accessible, there will be more funding opportunities and grants. John followed up by noting that the rebate incentives are another important economic consideration, and those incentives won't be around forever.

- Memo on Regional Transportation Planning – Jim presented the memo that Kirk and Rodger drafted, and the other ESAB members had the opportunity to review and edit. The focus of the memo is to recommend that the County develop a task force to identify opportunities for EV infrastructure projects that have the potential to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gases as outlined in the Climate Smart Larimer County framework. The memo also summarizes the funding opportunities that are currently available.

The Board discussed aspects of the memo, and to whom the memo should be directed. Commissioner Kefalas noted that he supports the memo and suggests that the memo be directed to himself, County Manager Linda Hoffman, and Heidi Pruess, Climate Smart and Sustainability Program manager. John moved to approve the memo, as edited and finalized, and Chris seconded. The motion passed by acclamation. Jim noted that he would get it out in the next few days.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – George moved to approve the September minutes, and Travis seconded. The motion passed by acclamation. With corrections, Chris moved to approve the October minutes, and Rodger seconded. The motion passed by acclamation.
6. **Updates and Round Table**
 - Commissioner's Update – Commissioner Kefalas noted the upcoming Planning Commission meeting where they will consider adoption of the updated 1041 regulations. The BoCC had a presentation in worksession on the County's wildfire hazard mitigation program, what is currently part of that program, and additional opportunities presented at the Colorado Wildland Fire Conference, of which Commissioner Kefalas attended in September. Commissioner Kefalas noted he recently toured the Northern Colorado Fire-shed



- Coalition's project at the Shambhala Center's property in Red Feather Lakes. The Coalition is represented by several state and federal partners working together to reduce forest fuels. He learned about the fuels treatment work that was completed there and about the benefits of that fuel treatment considering the Cameron Peak Fire. Commissioner Kefalas noted that he attended the kick-off event for the CSLC community task force.
- Commissioner Kefalas noted the technical assistance grant that the County received from Colorado's Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to support a regional water planning foundational study. The foundational study, being completed by the Brendle Group, will inform the development of a regional water master plan that will supplement the 2019 Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Kefalas also noted the NFRMPO is doing a public survey on transit corridors that closes tonight.
- CSLC Task Force Update - Shelby noted that she attended the first meeting last week. This was an opportunity to meet the consultant and their team. At the meeting they presented their draft engagement plan that includes roles, responsibilities, and tactics to get the word out to increase community engagement. They reviewed the draft webpages that will be hosted on the County's public-facing website, and they tested a draft survey that will go out to the community. They worked to identify community stakeholders and individuals who might serve as amplifiers to help get the word out. They are also identifying locations to place engagement kiosks around the county where people can learn about the process, take the survey and find out how they can get more engaged. Shelby asked members if they had ideas for venues where the kiosks can be placed. Next meeting will be in January. Jim asked if the website would have a listing of all the participating stakeholders? Heidi Pruess spoke about the website and what will be on there, including the list of stakeholders. She gave a brief follow-up to Shelby's comments on how the stakeholder group functioned in their first meeting, and how their input already improved the website, which will launch soon.
 - Air Quality and Monitoring – Rodger reported that he attended (listened in to) the November 1st BoCC worksession on air quality monitoring. Rodger had discussions with Dr. Jeffrey Collett and Dr. Emily Fischer, both from Colorado State University. He spoke with them about various methods for monitoring, and for identifying ozone pre-cursors and their sources to help inform methods for compliance for ozone non-attainment. Rodger asked what the pathway might be to bring this information to the BoCC? Commissioner Kefalas described how during their worksession the BOCC had discussed stationary emission sources from oil and gas wells, but also mobile emission sources from vehicles. Commissioner Kefalas said there would be a follow-up worksession, but it is not yet scheduled. He asked if the CSU researchers were associated with Ajax Analytics, which they are. Commissioner Kefalas asked Rodger to follow-up with the CSU team to find out how they would like to provide input (written, presentation). Commissioner Kefalas believes that the information should eventually be presented to the BoCC, but also eventually provided to Laurie Kadrach and her team in Planning, as well as Environmental Health staff. Jim noted the September ESAB discussions with Lea Schneider and Cassie Archuleta, regarding air quality monitoring and at that time there was agreement to keep the conversations going and to assist where appropriate. This might be an opportunity to bring Lea and Cassie back to the ESAB along with the CSU team. Perhaps at the December meeting.
 - December Meeting Planning – Jim discussed the potential agenda items for the December meeting. The ESAB Annual Report is a typical item, with particular focus on the 2022 Work Plan. He encouraged all members to think about potential new directions for the ESAB in 2022. Jim also explained the need to elect officers at that meeting. He encouraged members to consider this and the proposed leadership transition that involves voting in a new Vice-Chair to



replace David, who is term limited. The new Vice-Chair would mentor under Jim during the next year with the expectation that they move into the Chair position in 2023. Jim and/or David are willing to have private discussions with any potential candidates.

- Federal Infrastructure Funding - Daniel raised the question of whether there might be environmental-related opportunities for the County in the upcoming Federal Infrastructure Funding.
- Fisheries Survey - Ted noted the recent annual CPW Fisheries Survey, which resulted in significant reductions in the trout populations in the Cache la Poudre River. A likely factor is the debris and sediment loads contributed to the river from the Cameron Peak Fire burn scar.

7. **Issue Index** – Was updated with tonight’s discussion

8. **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – Next regular meeting will be December 14th, 2021.
Discussion items TBD

9. **Adjourn** – John moved to adjourn the meeting, and George seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM by acclamation.