

LARIMER COUNTY | BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

Environmental and Science Advisory Board MINUTES

Date: October 14, 2025

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Lake Estes Conference Room, 200 West Oak St., Fort Collins, Colorado and Virtual by Zoom.

Contact: Heidi Pruess, pruesshb@co.larimer.co.us, 970-498-7138

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Rodger Ames – Vice-Chair	X	John Kefalas *	X	
Tasha Carr	X	Heidi Pruess ‡	X	
Anna Cloud - Chair	X	Scott Benton	X	
Jeremy Cooper	X	Rebecca Everette	X	
Leo Grassens	X	Chistine Luckasen	X	
Matthew Haag	X			
Azmal Hossan				
Kathryn Inman	V			
Joe Izaguirre III	V			
Michael Lee Jones				
Jared McGlothlin	X			
Nicole Poncelet-Johnson				
Cathelyne Powers				
Timothy Skolds ^Y				
Nathan Teich				
Chris Wood	X			

X = present; v= present virtually; * = Commissioner Liaison; ‡ = ESAB Liaison; § = Climate and Sustainability Program; ^Y=Youth.

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

- **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – None.
- **Introduction of members, staff and guests** – Guests and Environmental and Science Advisory Board (ESAB) members introduced themselves.





- **Commissioner's Update –**

- The Larimer County proposed 2026 budget is now available for viewing at <https://www.larimer.gov/performance-budget-and-strategy/Budget/2026-Budget> . A public hearing regarding the budget will be held on November 10, 2025 at 6pm and the Board of County Commissioners is anticipated to approve the final budget on December 11, 2025.
- The Board of County Commissioners approved a letter of support to seek grant funding for a Solid Waste construction and demolition diversion policy and implementation project during the October 14, 2025 regular meeting.
- Two ballot measures are offered for your consideration :
 - Referendum 1A, the .15% sale/use tax transportation funding ballot measure, supporting the implementation of the Transportation Master Plan projects identified in this plan has been submitted for consideration by the voters on the November ballot.
 - The BoCC also referred Referendum 1B, on behalf of the Early Childhood Council of LC, to the November ballot to support early childhood education/childcare initiatives (.25% sales/use tax).
- Two water education events, including screenings of the "Mirasol" film are scheduled for this fall. The first was on Monday, 10/13, 4-6 PM at Lincoln Center, and the second is scheduled for Monday, 11/3, 5-7 PM at the Northern Water HQ in Berthoud. In addition to the film, there will be a panel addressing the issues of "The Future of Water and Agriculture in NoCo".
- The final draft of the Colorado Strategic Growth Report has been released and is available for your review at this site <https://dlg.colorado.gov/news-article/final-draft-colorado-strategic-growth-report-released-for-public-review>

- **Discussion Items**

1. Land Use 1041 : Scott Benton, Environmental Planner in the Larimer County Community Development department, provided a review of 1041 regulations and process including:
 - a. The 1974 1041 regulation was initiated to give local governments some jurisdiction to regulate new developments of State or Regional interest. Larimer County adopted the 1041 regulation following a controversial Greeley water line project that impacted local agriculture.
 - b. A list of major facilities covered by 1041 was reviewed. Battery storage is covered under the solar facilities category, but other new topic areas could include: geothermal facilities, data centers, and wastewater facilities.
 - c. 1041 regulations are applicable to private and public entities. County initiated and owned projects must also comply with the 1041 regulation and process.



ESAB members asked :

- d. Are there redundancies of 1041 regulations compared with other permitting processes (federal or municipal)? Redundancies do exist but every attempt is made to seek efficiencies, such as collaborating with municipalities for instances where one permit would accomplish all requirements to eliminate the need for two permits. 1041 permits can also address temporary impacts that are typically not addressed in federal permitting.
 - e. How is implementation, often over many years, tracked by the County? The County has to have inspectors visit the sites and determine if the success criteria have been met. Spreadsheets regarding the success criteria are maintained for year over year evaluation. Once a 1041 permit has been deemed to be successfully implemented and closed, future project compliance issues are managed through the Code Compliance team.
 - f. Who is the authority to approve 1041 permits? Counties have specific authorities delegated to County Commissioners for approval of 1041 permits in State statute. This is different from municipalities which can designate an administrator as the approving authority. County Commissioners have discretion over interpretation of 1041 compliance, such as determining when “significant” impacts have been addressed.
 - g. Is cumulative impact of actions included in 1041 regulations? No, cumulative impacts are not addressed due to the difficulty in identifying unique cumulative impacts of individual projects. This could be something the ESAB could consider making a recommendation for consideration.
- 2. Sub-Committee Rules and Procedures : Clarification regarding open meeting law requirements was provided together with options for sub-committee work going forward. Members present agreed to try working ESAB meetings or keeping sub-committee work to no more than two members as the preferred methods. The battery energy storage sub-committee may request a public meeting for their work prior to the November ESAB working meeting.
- 3. Issue Index : Discussion of moving away from the Issue Index was held as the Board of County Commissioner workplan is now more descriptive than has been in the past. The ESAB requested that the workplan items and Commissioner questions be reformatted to include ESAB role and coordinator, similar to the Issue Index.
- 4. November Working Meeting : A working meeting with concurrent topic discussions will occur for the November ESAB meeting. Options for the concurrent topics were discussed with the members agreeing to the following sessions:
 - a. Carbon capture / food waste management
 - b. Land Use 1041
 - c. Air Quality / Climate Change
- **Approval of Minutes** – September 2025 minutes were amended with minor edits. Leo Grassens motioned to approve the minutes as amended, and Jeremy Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



- **Updates and Round Table**
 - Annual Report Draft - Workplan approval for the ESAB was delayed this year so the ESAB members agreed to adjust the annual report submittal through the second quarter of 2026 when the current workplan is completed. Further discussion was tabled to the first quarter of 2026.
 - Members were reminded that elections of officers for the 2026 year will be conducted in December and were encouraged to consider the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.
- **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – The November meeting will be a working session as described above.
- **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.