

LARIMER COUNTY | ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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

Environmental and Science Advisory Board

MINUTES

Date: January 9th, 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	League of Women Voters
Tasha Carr	X	Shelley Bayard de Volo [¥]	X	Kevin Stearns
Anna Cloud	X	Lesli Ellis [§]	X	
Jim Gerek	X	Danielle Reimanis [§]	X	Karen Artell
Matthew Haag	X			
Ted Hendrickx	X			
Allyson Little	X			
Lark Murphy				
Andrew Newman	X			
Barry Noon	X			
Nicole Poncelet-Johnson	X			
George Rinker	X			
Shelby Sommer - Vice-Chair	X			
Natalie Walsh	X			
Katrina Winborn-Miller	X			
Chris Wood	X			

X = present; * = Commissioner Liaison; † = Engineering; ¥ = ESAB Liaison; § = Community Development Department; £ = Community Infrastructure, Planning and Resources.

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

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





3. **Public Comment – None**

1. **Commissioner's Update** – The Commissioner was appointed chair of the BOCC for 2024. Tomorrow a public meeting to adopt the submitted mill levies and make a decision for the mill levy credit. Following that property tax statements will be mailed out. January 30th the BOCC will have their annual retreat where they will review their 2023 workplan and discuss their 2024 workplan. At that meeting they will look at remaining Federal dollars (ARPA funds) that have gone unallocated and see what they can be repurposed for. The 1041 application for the Thornton Pipeline project is in staff review for completeness. Hearings will be scheduled for March and April. The Planning Commission will be reviewing the 1041 process in light of the updates made last year when review criteria were updated. The BOCC received an update on the CSFR and ICARE programs. The recording of the work session can be viewed from the BOCC past meetings webpage. The county hired a new Legislative Coordinator, Shane Atkinson, whose job is to coordinate legislative priorities, help identify the role of the BOCC in legislative matters, identify the need to coordinate with staff and subject matter experts, and develop the annual legislative agenda. The legislature starts tomorrow and one bill important to Larimer County relates to Conservation Easement tax credits and will increase the total dollar amount available for those credits. The Legislative Agenda can be retrieved from the BOCC webpage.

4. **Discussion Items**

- Larimer County Water Master Plan – Danielle Reimanis updated members of the status of the Water Master Plan. She presented slides (attached with these minutes) and requested feedback from the Board. She ended her presentation by posing two questions for feedback:
 - What general ideas does the ESAB have about the Water Master Plan project?
 - What feedback does the ESAB have towards the proposed risk categories and criteria?

The board members discussed the questions and provided some verbal feedback. Later the ESAB decided they would capture their comments in a formal memo. Jim moved to approve the Water Master Plan subcommittee, Anna and Nicole, to receive the comments from members and draft the memo to be reviewed and approved at the ESAB's February 13th meeting. Andrew seconded and all members were in favor.

- 1041 Permit Process at Larimer County – Lesli briefly explained the Larimer County 1041 process. She noted how a local government 1041 process is directed by that local government's Land Use Code. So, the process varies across different local governments. For Larimer County, advisory boards are not considered referral agencies. Further, if advisory boards were to comment on 1041 applications, they would have to comment on all 1041 applications – they could not pick and choose which ones to review. There was some further Q/A.
- 2023 ESAB Annual Report – Shelley presented the Draft Annual Report on the screen for members to view. She pointed out the edits that Rodger had provided before tonight's meeting. Members did not have any questions or concerns with the report. Jim moved to approve the report and Shelby seconded. All were in favor and the



motion passed. Shelley will submit the Report to the Assistant County Manager, who will pass it onto the BOCC.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – Barry moved to approve the December minutes, and Anna seconded. The December minutes were approved by acclamation.

6. **Updates and Round Table**

- Environmental Stewardship Awards Selection Criteria and CSFR – Ted suggested that the Stewardship Awards incorporate criteria that show how the applicant's project/activity supports the Climate Smart and Future Ready process. The board agreed that perhaps the updated criteria should not limit a nominee to the CSFR process, but it should allow for broader processes like the LC Water Master Plan. The board suggested that the update would be best placed on the nomination form, question-6 on Sustainability. Ally moved to add the language "Sustainability: How does the project or activity promote sustainability? Examples include "....., or furthering the implementation of a county environmental or sustainability strategy (e.g., Climate Smart and Future Ready)". Nicole seconded the motion, and all members agreed. Shelley will work with IT to update the language in the question on the nomination form.
- AQMAC Process – Rodger noted that this process will be kicking off the 3rd Thursday of the Month and that he will represent the ESAB.
- Updating the Process for Ordering Dinners for the ESAB – Shelley showed the members the new form that she will send out prior to the meeting for members to RSVP for dinners. The hope is to get a more accurate head count for ordering food and minimize waste.

7. **Issue Index** – Will be updated for tonight's agenda items.
8. **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – Larimer County Department of Health and Environment update, ESAB 2024 Work Plan, approve comments on LC Water master Plan goals and risk criteria.
9. **Adjourn** – Matthew moved to adjourn the meeting and Andrew seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM



LARIMER COUNTY WATER MASTER PLAN

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

JANUARY 9, 2024



PURPOSE

Larimer County is taking foundational steps on strategic goals to:

- improve **long-term planning** for water supply in unincorporated areas,
- promote water-sharing strategies to preserve **agriculture**, and sustain water supplies,
- address **risks** and **sustainability**, and
- prepare responsive **land use** policies and standards.

FEEDBACK SOUGHT

What general ideas does the Environmental Science Advisory Board have about the Water Master Plan project?

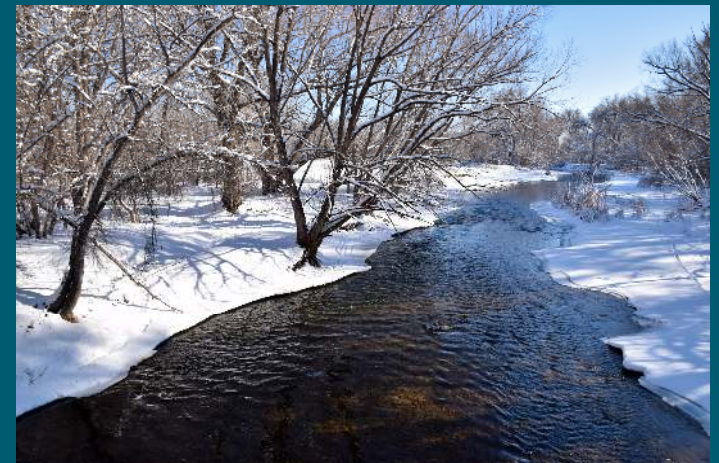
What feedback does the Environmental Science Advisory Board have towards the risk categories and criteria?

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Meeting objectives
3. Project update and next steps
 - a) Vision and goals
 - b) Risk categories and criteria
4. Discussion
5. Meeting wrap-up

DANIELLE REIMANIS
WATER MASTER PLAN
COORDINATOR
Larimer County

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OBJECTIVES

- 1. Provide information on work to date.**
- 2. Vision and goals feedback process.**
- 3. Provide an overview of risk categories and criteria.**
- 4. Understand the next steps and opportunities for input.**
- 5. Discussion on vision and goals, and risk criteria.**



PREVIOUS WORK (PHASE 1)

MAY 2022



LARIMER COUNTY REGIONAL WATER EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT



larimer.gov/planning/water

Findings

- Water Supplies
 - 57% local sources
 - 43% CO River
- Agriculture
 - 47% decline in irrigated lands
- Water Providers
 - 124 centralized public water systems
 - 385,600 people served by centralized water system
 - 25-90% projected growth in water demands at buildout

CURRENT WORK (PHASE 2)

1. Public Engagement Plan, Committee Formation (Oct '23)
2. Inventory Review and Gap Analysis (Feb '24)
3. Refined Vision and Goals (Dec '23)
4. Baseline Mapping and Analysis (Apr/May '24)
5. Risks and Vulnerabilities Analysis (Spring '24)
6. Identify Implementation Measures, Mitigation, and Other Strategies (Summer '24)
7. Compile and Complete Water Master Plan for Adoption (Dec '24–Jan '25)
8. Update Land Use Code (Dec '24)

Firms:

SWCA and AE2S

Timeline:

Through end of 2024

Funding:

FEMA and County



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Stakeholder Engagement

- Water & Technical Advisory Groups, Interested Parties, County Core Team

Data-Driven Approach

- Datasets, documents, and relevant plans to be used

Mapping and Analysis

- Identify high-risk watersheds based on defined criteria

Identify Mitigation Strategies

- To lessen the risks & vulnerabilities to these watersheds

Compile Draft Water Master Plan

Water Master Plan

Implementation

VISION AND GOALS

VISION AND GOALS CREATION PROCESS

Oct 2023

- TAG/WAG
- County Core Team

Nov 2023

- Vision & Goals Workshop
- BOCC/PC Work Session

Dec 2023

- County Core Team review

UPDATED VISION AND GOALS (*draft*)



Jan/Feb 2023

- TAG/WAG
- Boards

TAG = Technical Advisory Group
WAG = Water Advisory Group
BOCC = Board of County Commissioners
PC = Planning Commission

DRAFT VISION

"Larimer County, guided by a commitment to stewardship, is dedicated to safeguarding local and regional water systems, aligning future land use with available water resources, and helping to build resilient communities and ecosystems equipped to address future water challenges."

DRAFT GOALS (HIGHEST LEVEL)



Minimize the Threat of Natural Hazards (i.e., floods, wildfires)



Communicate and Collaborate to Support Water Sustainability



Promote Water Literacy in Our Community



Address Water Supply and Demand Dynamics



Enhance Water Efficiency and Conservation Measures

RISK CATEGORIES

RISK CATEGORIES

- 1. Reduced water supply and increased water demand**
- 2. Watershed/natural hazards**
- 3. Water rights**
- 4. Infrastructure risks or limitations**
- 5. Lack of water conservation policies or measures**
- 6. Lack of water education**



RISK CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

Risk category	Criteria
1. Reduced water supply and increased water demand	Changes in land use
	Increasing demand from population growth
	Uncertain water future as it relates to climate
	Groundwater wells; oil/gas wells (contamination)
2. Watershed/natural hazards	Flooding
	Wildfire
	Drought
	Source water protection (water quality)



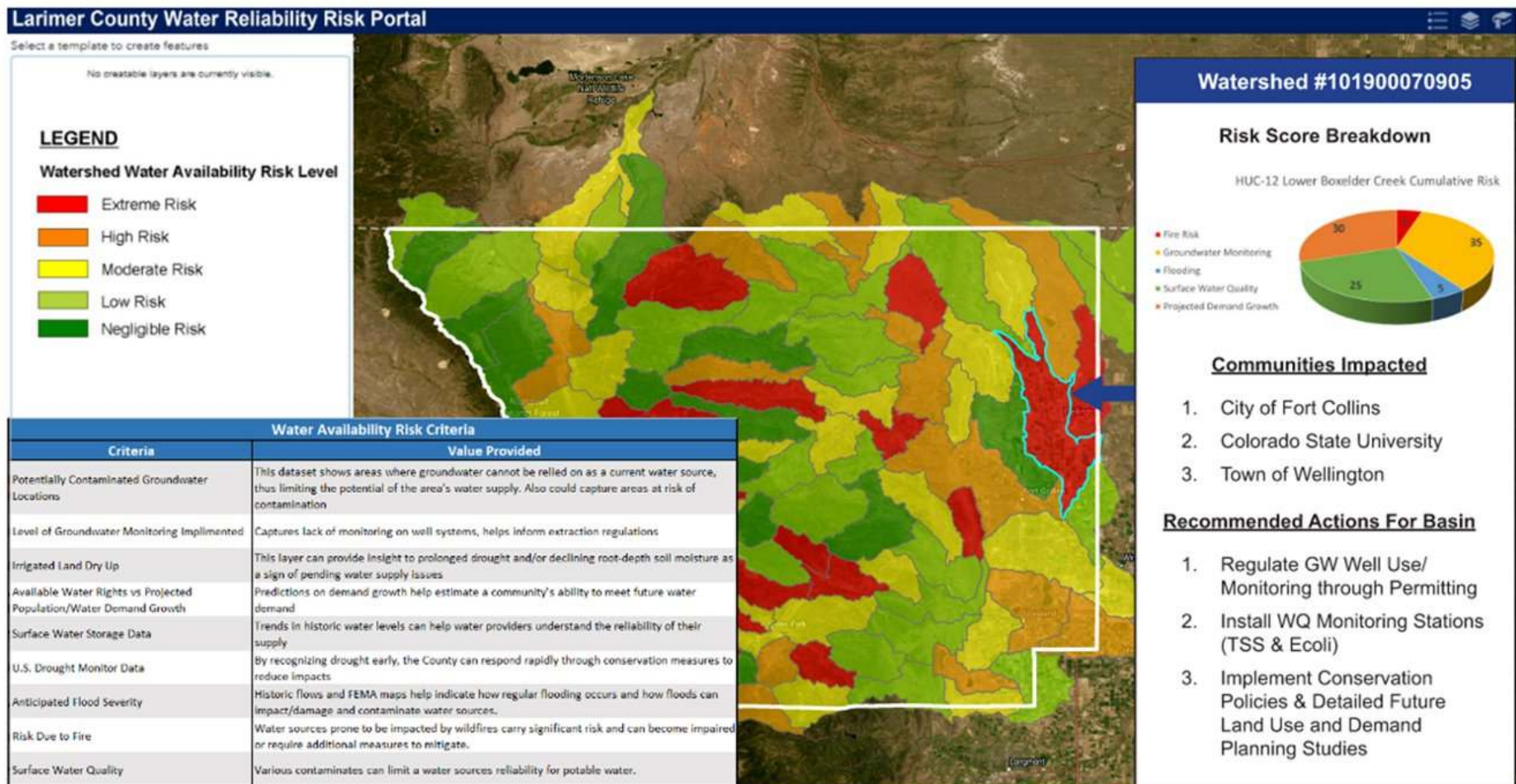
RISK CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

Risk category	Criteria
3. Water rights	Buy out dry out
	Agriculture (loss of water for ag)
	Water rights owned by non-county entities
	Abandoned/underutilized water rights
	Water rental market limitations
4. Infrastructure risks or limitations	Aging or damaged infrastructure
	Inadequate storage
	Delivery limitations

RISK CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

Risk category	Criteria
5. Lack of water conservation policies or measures	Municipal policies or guidelines
	Measures to avoid curtailment
	Cohesive approach: municipalities, HOAs, County
	Water efficiency in agriculture
	Land use policies
6. Lack of water education	Lack of public awareness
	Lack of understanding by policy/decision makers

RISK ANALYSIS



This map uses fake data and is used only as an example of what the final product from the consultants could look like.



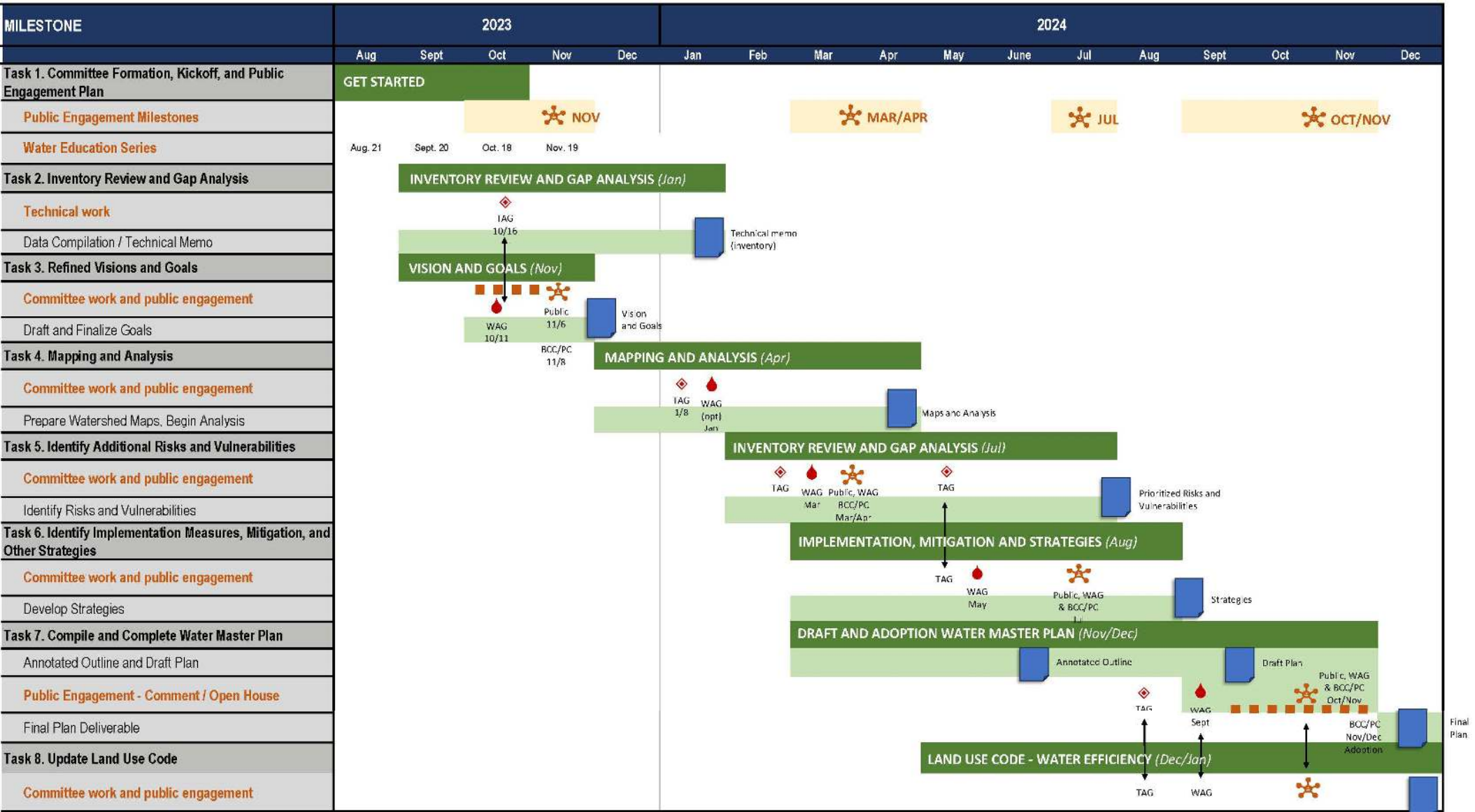
NEXT STEPS

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Water Advisory Group (January and March)**
2. **Technical Advisory Group (January and March)**
3. **Boards and Commissions (January and February)**
 - **ESAB, EDI, OLAB, and PAB scheduled**
4. **BOCC & PC Work Session (March)**
5. **Public Open House – Information and Data (April)**



SCHEDULE (THROUGH DEC. 2024)



FEEDBACK SOUGHT

What general ideas does the Environmental Science Advisory Board have about the Water Master Plan project?

What feedback does the Environmental Science Advisory Board have towards the risk categories and criteria?

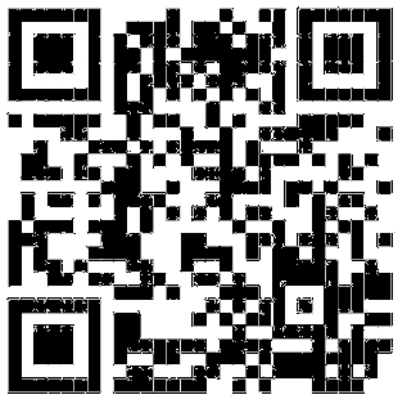
THANK YOU!

DANIELLE REIMANIS

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larimer.gov/planning/water



DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Minimize the Threat of Natural Hazards (i.e., floods, wildfires)

Goal 1: Improve ecological conditions and reduce risk for the high-risk watersheds identified in the Water Master Plan.

- **Objective 1:** Identify grants and funding opportunities to improve the conditions of fire-scarred areas, while providing resources and restoration help to ensure healthy watersheds and resilient forests.
- **Objective 2:** Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including other County departments, local government agencies, and community organizations to incorporate risk mitigation strategies and actions into existing planning processes.
- **Objective 3:** Integrate water-related natural hazard mitigation strategies into ongoing and future planning processes, such as the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Climate Smart Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and Larimer County's Land Use Code.

DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Communicate and Collaborate to Support Water Sustainability

Goal 2: Strengthen communication, coordination, and collaboration among water-related organizations, stakeholders, and departments to improve the sustainability and resilience of our communities for water resources and supply.

- **Objective 1:** Establish partnerships with target organizations to enhance communication channels and foster collaboration on risk reduction and water education efforts.
- **Objective 2:** Create a communication strategy that enables effective collaboration and information sharing between Larimer County, municipalities, and water utility providers.

DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Promote Water Literacy in Our Community

Goal 3: Develop, leverage, and promote already existing community education efforts around water.

- **Objective 1:** Create resources about watershed health, water provider boundaries, water sources and uses that are easily available for community use and understanding.
- **Objective 2:** Implement awareness campaigns through collaboration to promote drought preparedness, efficient water use, and increase understanding of water-related risks.

DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Address Water Supply and Demand Dynamics

Goal 4: Implement programs or policies that support sustainable growth and development while ensuring water supply reliability and adequacy.

- **Objective 1:** Update Larimer County's zoning map to align parcel zoning with the capacity of existing water providers, prioritizing affordability alongside adequate resources considerations.
- **Objective 2:** Ensure the long-term viability of agricultural water resources in Larimer County through the promotion of efficiency and conservation methods, helping to identify alternatives in 'buy and dry' situations, and aiding in the establishment of water-sharing agreements between stakeholders.
- **Objective 3:** Incentivize the preservation and protection of highest producing lands and water through Land Use Code revisions.
- **Objective 4:** Promote local water sustainability by implementing measures that mitigate out-of-basin water transfers to maintain regional water resources.

DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Enhance Water Efficiency and Conservation Measures

Goal 5: Identify and enact opportunities for water conservation and increased water efficiency.

- **Objective 1:** Evaluate and update Land Use Codes and policy that pertain to water use in Larimer County, aiming to improve water efficiency indoors and outdoors while ensuring affordability. Reconcile policies and management approaches between Larimer County and local municipalities for better alignment and consistency.
- **Objective 2:** Establish partnerships with key stakeholders, such as municipalities, water utility providers, and relevant community organizations to broaden the reach of water efficient programs and incentives.