

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: December 14, 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*		
Daniel Beveridge	X	Shelley Bayard de Volo [¥]	X	
John Bleem	X	Lea Schneider [°]	X	
Jim Gerek - Chair	X			
Ted Hendrickx	X			
David Lehman – Vice-Chair	X			
Allyson Little	X			
Kirk Longstein	X			
Kaitlin Rainsberger	X			
George Rinker	X			
Travis Rounsaville	X			
Shelby Sommer	X			
Catriona Smith				
Katrina Winborn-Miller				
Chris Wood	X			

X = present; * = Commissioner Liaison; ‡ = Speaker; ¥ = ESAB Liaison; ° = Department of Health and Environment;

§ = Environmental and Sustainability Program; ° = Fleet

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

1. **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – Update from Lea Schneider, Department of Health and Environment was added to the agenda.
2. **Introduction of members, staff, and guests** – The members introduced themselves
3. **Public Comment** – No public comment.
4. **Discussion Items**
 - **Air Quality Monitoring Program update** – Lea Schneider provided an update on how the County and the City of Fort Collins have moved forward on developing an air quality monitoring program. Lea noted that she and the department give credit to the community members for helping to move this process forward. Without their input and comments, she does not think





that this issue would get the recognition that it needs to move into a priority cause. Lea noted that she and Chris Manly, the Environmental Health Director, attended a November 1 BoCC work session where they discussed the air quality monitoring programs in regional communities like Boulder, Erie, Longmont and Broomfield. The BoCC asked that Environmental Health come up with a menu of options for air quality monitoring, along with budgeting needs. LC Health has met with Boulder County and others to learn more about their programs and how they got them started, as well as lessons learned. They are reaching out to CSU researchers to learn more about what research opportunities there might be and what monitoring goals the County should consider. There is a lot of monitoring happening within the City of Fort Collins, but none is happening in northern and southeastern parts of Larimer County. They are questioning where geographically the County should focus their monitoring program. The City of Fort Collins is currently moving forward and has budgeted \$135K for 2022 for their monitoring program, and they are hoping to use that funding to join with County efforts. Environmental Health is also encouraging the BoCC to discuss opportunities with other municipalities within the County to leverage dollars toward the costs of developing a comprehensive program.

In terms of grant opportunities, Lea and Fort Collins Staff have participated in community listening sessions with the State Health Department that focuses on their environmental justice program. There are grant opportunities through the EPA's American Rescue Act funding that will be channeled through the State. Criteria for those grants are that the projects focus on underserved and disproportionately impacted communities and those heavily impacted by Covid. So, they have reached out to CSU to try to help identify communities that fit with the criteria, perhaps in the northern parts of the County. The City and County of Denver are engaged in the "Love my Air" program. The program funds low-cost sensors for residents in Denver but the program is also reaching beyond that and has contacted the Poudre School District (PSD). They want to have students use an app on their phone to report how they feel healthwise during the day, but the schools are concerned about the workload and management burdens that such a program places on staff and teachers. PSD wants to see some proof-of-process before they implement. Lea also noted that they would like to see the same opportunity offered to the Thompson School District that includes more underrepresented communities. Including schools that border Weld County in the Southeast parts of the County would increase spatial representation across the County.

CSU was awarded an EPA Smoke Ready grant, which is focused on particulate air quality monitoring. LC Health is looking at messaging and how to work with the community, especially work sectors that involve people that work outdoors (i.e., landscapers, parks departments, natural areas and open spaces). These workforces are at risk of exposure to particulate matter when wildfires are burning locally and outside the area.

Lea finished up by saying a lot of things have started happening and are currently in motion. Lea noted that the plan is to reconvene with the BoCC and report back on the monitoring options, and the monitoring goals that the County should consider, along with budgeting options.

Jim noted that the ESAB is planning to invite Dr. Collett and Dr. Fischer, both researchers from CSU, to come speak in January and the timing seems to fit well with Lea's and Cassie's timelines. Jim noted that while Lea's goals include figuring out how to fund monitoring objectives, the ESAB is solely interested in the science, and in data collection and analysis, so that would be their area of interest if they were to assist Lea's team. Lea noted that deciding



on the goals and methods is complex and she and her team need to understand what they want to use the data for and how it would serve the community. Lea then asked how she should proceed with requesting assistance from the Board. She asked if she can request that an ESAB member work with her and her team on a regular basis to provide technical assistance. Jim recalled that when Lea and Cassie met with the Board in August, he had specifically offered that the ESAB was available to assist and that offer still stands. Rodger then described how he has been collaborating with Dr. Collett and Dr. Fischer and explained the brief memo they put together on monitoring opportunities. Rodger said that he would share the memo with Lea, through Shelley. At the January meeting they will go into more detail, but the goal was to put together a brief 1-pager that could be shared with the BoCC.

There was more discussion between Lea and Rodger. Lea asked if Commissioner Kefalas had asked the ESAB to present to the BoCC on air quality monitoring? Rodger noted that the question came up in the previous ESAB meeting in November. At that meeting they discussed coordination with the CSU researchers, and the Commissioner supported them preparing a memo to share with the BoCC. There was more discussion on grant opportunities. Jim noted that the memo prepared by the CSU team could be provided to Lea and Cassie now so they can see what it discusses. Jim also noted that he has been copied on a number of communications to the BoCC from the community on air quality monitoring, so it seems that there is much community interest. The discussions ended with agreement that the ESAB will take up the topic again at their January meeting and that Lea and Cassie should also attend if possible.

- Issue Index Review – Shelley presented, on screen, the current ESAB Issue Index. Jim explained and summarized what the Issue Index is and how it has been used by the Board over the years. He explained the Inactive, Watch and Active status indicators. Many of the items on the Issue Index are in the Inactive or Watch categories, but they are kept on the list because it provides an archive of the issues that the Board has worked on over the years. Jim then suggested that the Board collectively walk through the list of issues and update them in terms of their status, and identify any needed Issue Coordinators. The Board did this in an extended discussion, and in addition they added a few items or re-worded their title to better reflect the subject. This revised Issue Index will be one input to the creation of the 2022 Work Plan for the ESAB.
 - 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Work Plan – Jim went through the sections of the Annual Report and quickly explained the content of each section. Most sections are straightforward and simply report on the monthly activities that the Board was engaged in, the speakers who presented, and the work products that the Board provided to the BoCC and/or County Departments. The draft Work Plan is a starting point, and Jim asked board members to review it prior to the January Board meeting where it will be finalized and approved.
 - 2021 Election of Board Officers – Jim noted that the Bylaws require elections for Board officers for a one-year term, and that there are no presumptive nominations - all must be nominated from the floor. He indicated that because of term limits, David is not eligible for nomination to be a 2022 officer. Rodger nominated Kirk for the position of Vice-Chair in 2022, and Shelby seconded. There were no other nominations for the position. All voted in the affirmative and the motion was passed by acclamation. Kirk nominated Jim for the position of Chair, and Kaitlin seconded. There were no other nominations for the position. All voted in the affirmative and the motion was passed by acclamation. Jim and Kirk thanked the Board for their support.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – Shelley presented a red line version of the minutes that included editorial changes made after the draft minutes were sent out to Board members. The changes included



minor wordsmithing throughout to improve readability, and in one section, corrective language provided by Commissioner Kefalas was incorporated (a correction of the name of the consultant performing the water master plan work). John moved to approve these updated November minutes, and Rodger seconded. The motion passed by acclamation.

6. Updates and Round Table

- Commissioner's Update – Commissioner Kefalas was not in attendance.
- CSLC Task Force Update - Shelby noted that there were no meetings since the last one she attended. There have been several internal task force discussions, and the new CSLC webpage provides a link to a community survey, based on the Series 1 questionnaire. She encouraged ESAB members to take the survey, but also that each member pass on the information to three of their friends and ask those friends to do the same. Shelby provided the link in the Chat (<https://www.larimer.org/climate-smart>) and also asked members to please share with Heidi Pruess any suggestions about community groups that should be included in the process.
- EV Charging Memo – Shelley provided a brief update on the status of the memo following its submission to the County Manager last month. Shelley noted that Heidi Pruess convened a meeting with Shelley, Heidi Vilhauer (Fleet) and Ken Cooper (Facilities) and they discussed the memo and where their departments are at in terms of implementing EVs. Both Ken and Heidi V. agreed that they can provide an update to the ESAB on how their departments are implementing projects to increase EV charging at County facilities and increasing EV and alt fuel vehicles in the County fleet. They can talk about the opportunities, and the challenges. Shelley noted that there was a worksession with the BoCC just last week on the topic of EV infrastructure and the county fleet. Shelley provided a link in the chat to the recording of the worksession. She noted that if the ESAB desires Heidi V. and Ken C. can present the same presentation and comment on any direction they received from the BoCC.
- Roundtable Comments – Jim thanked David for his service as Vice-Chair of the Board. Members also thanked Jim and David for their service and leadership and wished everyone happy holidays. Ted mentioned the note he posted in the chat regarding an upcoming webinar focusing on how to transition heavy vehicles and trucks to electric and the Clean Trucking Rules (<https://westernresourceadvocates.org/webinars/clean-trucking-rules-opportunities-to-transform-transportation-in-colorado-and-beyond/>). John offered to arrange a tour for the ESAB of the CSU Energy Institute (Powerhouse), where there is currently a lot of research going on with climate mitigation and other topics. Rodger asked Shelley to finalize and schedule with the CSU researchers, and Lea and Cassie for the January meeting. Kirk noted the CDOT commissioner's hearing on the rulemaking for SB-260 that requires GHG modelling for infrastructure projects going through the MPO. The North Front Range MPO is one of the few organizations that has come out against the rulemaking and members can see their position here <https://nfrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-10-council-handouts-revised.pdf>.

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

8. **Agenda Topics for Next Meetings** – Next regular meeting will be January 11th, 2022. Tentative discussion items include Air Quality Monitoring, and the ESAB Annual Report and 2022 Workplan.

9. **Adjourn** – George moved to adjourn the meeting, and Shelby seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM by acclamation.