

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: October 11th, 2022

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Rm. 233 Lake Loveland, 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins, CO and 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			
Tasha Carr	X			
Jim Gerek - Chair	X			
Ted Hendrickx	X			
Allyson Little	X			
Barry Noon	X			
Kaitlin Rainsberger				
George Rinker				
Travis Rounsaville	X			
Shelby Sommer				
Catriona Smith	X			
Katrina Winborn-Miller				
Chris Wood	X			

X = present; * = Commissioner Liaison; ‡ = Speaker; † = ESAB Liaison; ° = Facilities;

§ = Environmental and Sustainability Program; ¢ = Fleet

Call to Order: 6:05 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**
 - Larimer County Air Quality Monitoring Strategy – Rodger provided an update on the status of the Front Range's non-attainment designation, which is severe for the 2008 ozone NAAQS, and he explained what it means in terms of increased regulations. Rodger discussed his activities for the Board over the past years, including the speakers he has brought in. Bill Hayes from the



City of Boulder, presented on their Boulder Air quality monitoring system installed at Boulder Reservoir. The Boulder Air system uses an on-site GCMS to analyze air samples for its constituents. Emily Fischer, from Colorado State University, presented a lower cost alternative to the Boulder Air system that uses canisters to collect air samples, which are later analyzed in the laboratory. This canister system can be tailored to different methods for collecting air samples and which constituents to analyze. Rodger explained that there can be several goals with air quality monitoring – one being ozone precursors including NO_x and suspected VOC monitoring for regional ozone violations – this is typically a regional scale monitoring effort. Another is near source monitoring to identify sources and levels of air toxics, like benzene, that pose health risks to people living near emissions sources. Rodger noted that Emily's system could be tailored to address both needs if the placement of the canisters is optimal. The canisters are set up to collect air samples when triggered, with the trigger based on certain chemical parameters in the air (i.e., certain ozone levels for regional ozone monitoring or certain VOC levels for air toxics). This is important because it's not necessary to collect the air samples when levels of these pollutants in the air are lower than a set threshold.

Rodger then explained how the County Health Department provided the BOCC a proposal for options on increased air quality monitoring. Rodger noted Chris's update at the August ESAB meeting that outlined the presentation and recommendations to the BOCC (covered in the August minutes). The Health Department proposed four actions, funding EV Charging, funding the Mow Down Pollution program for lawn maintenance equipment, purchase an infrared camera for volatile air emission detection, and funding for an additional long-term regulatory ozone and NO_x monitor in the area between Loveland and Fort Collins.

Rodger was surprised that there was no discussion of the canister system that Emily Fischer had presented to the ESAB earlier in the year. There was mention of the Boulder Air system, but that was identified as being too expensive to even consider. So, Rodger suggested the ESAB follow-up by drafting a memo to the BOCC explaining the benefits of the canister method. Ally clarified that Rodger is saying that the four actions proposed by the Health Department and adopted by the BOCC are good steps forward, but there is still a need to do more. Rodger concurred. Travis noted that there are now more brand options for the Mow Dow Pollution rebate offer – which is a good thing.

Barry asked about the sampling over space and time, and whether there would be trigger points at which the County would take some-kind of action? Monitoring is fine, but without triggers to initiate action, it's just data collection. Rodger explained how the EPA analyzes regional monitor data for ozone and the triggers for their regulatory actions. The EPA takes 3-year averages of the 4th highest 8-hour average period each year for regional ozone monitoring data and based on this metric the Front Range is now in severe nonattainment status. The consequence of violating the standards set by EPA is increased regulations like developing and implementing a more stringent State Implementation Plan (SIP) to reduce ozone precursors like NO_x and VOCs. For near source emissions, there are health standards for air emissions like benzene that impact human health. These emissions are typically short lived, and that is why a certain monitoring system is needed to detect and track high levels of these emissions. Jim noted that in general there are three major sources of the ozone precursors in our area – oil/gas, transportation, and biogenic sources like evergreen trees. Regulations can impact transportation by requiring cleaner fuels or requiring more EVs on the road. It can also impact oil/gas by requiring more stringent plans and monitoring and leak detection. Jim also explained how most air quality regulations and actions happen through the Department of

Health. In the past the ESAB has worked to improve collaboration with the Department of Health. Last year Rodger was designated to work with the City of Fort Collins and Larimer Dept of Health on a grant application, and he participated in a few meetings. Rodger noted that he needed to follow-up.

Rodger presented a figure (ozone pollution rose) that shows how data from the monitors can be presented. The figure displays the frequency of readings (consisting of observed ozone levels) and the cardinal wind direction. This data is great, but without speciation of precursors, which identifies source types, these data cannot pinpoint the sources of the ozone precursors. There was more discussion about the figure.

Rodger then presented a proposed draft memo and asked members what they thought, and how things should proceed. Shelley showed the members another memo presented to the BOCC in January by the Department of Health Staff. That memo presented four monitoring options, the pros and cons. It also included a table breaking down costs associated with each of the methods. There was more discussion on the costs, and what the goal should be. There was general agreement that it would be good to close the loop with Department of Health Staff, and to enhance the draft ESAB recommendation memo. Rodger said he would coordinate with Shelley to touch base with Lea. No final action was taken tonight, and the Board will revisit this at the next meeting.

- Vice-Chair Position and ESAB Leadership Moving Forward – The Board is acting right now without a Vice-Chair due to Kirk’s resignation. The Board’s bylaws do not say anything about what must happen in the event the vice-chair steps down. At last month’s meeting, Board members asked Jim to touch base with Rodger and see if he would be interested in serving as the Vice-chair. Jim did so and Rodger indicated that yes, he was interested. Travis nominated Rodger as the interim Vice-Chair and Chris seconded. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Issue Index Review and Update – Jim noted that the board uses an Issue Index to track topics of interest and does periodic updates. Shelley presented the ESAB’s Issue Index up on the screen. The Board members went through the index, focusing on the Active topics. Jim explained that Inactive and Watch topics remain on the list to serve as an archive of issues the Board has worked on in the past. He also pointed out the ESAB Coordinator column. The group went through the index and made edits and updates as needed. Several new Issue Coordinators were designated.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – Travis noted a few edits that needed to be made. John moved to approve the revised draft September minutes, and Ted seconded. The September minutes were approved by acclamation.
6. **Updates and Round Table**
- Commissioner’s Update – Commissioner Kefalas was not in attendance tonight.
 - Climate Smart and Future Ready – Tasha noted that the first meeting will be October 26th
 - Colorado Water Plan – Jim noted that the comments on the Colorado Water Plan that were drafted and approved by the Board last meeting were presented by Jim and Ted to the BOCC on September 26. All of the commissioners were appreciative of the review and work completed by the ESAB, and unanimously agreed to pass on the ESAB comments to the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Jim noted that the BOCC drafted a cover letter that

included several additional comments from Commissioner Shadduck-McNally. The cover letter with comments were timely submitted September 29th.

- Fall Team Building Event – There is a DNR Horsetooth Lake Shoreline clean-up day, October 22nd. Shelley showed the website and explained how to sign-up. Travis said he might attend.
- Roundtable – Ally noted that there is a new Eagle Take permit process for power lines, which should help streamline the process for utilities and help increase compliance. Daniel noted that there is increased political pressure for a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code board in the state. The pressure is coming from groups like Colorado Counties Incorporated, and the Municipal League. Daniel has been involved representing his agency with the Colorado Fire Commissions WUI subcommittee and other venues. It's relevant to Larimer County to some extent because as things become enacted, it will affect local codes and standards for new construction. Cat noted that the EPA has a proposal out under extended public comment for greater PFAS regulation, but it will be a while before anything is final.

7. **Issue Index** – Was updated with tonight's discussion
8. **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting** – Next regular meeting will be November 15th, 2022. Discussion items TBD.
9. **Adjourn** – Ally moved to adjourn, and Daniel seconded. The meeting ended at 9:00 PM.