

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: September 14, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Arrowhead Lake Meeting Room, 200 W. Oak Street and Virtual by Zoom

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

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Rodger Ames	X	John Kefalas*	X	City of Fort Collins
Daniel Beveridge	X	Shelley Bayard de Volo [¥]	X	Cassie Archuleta
John Bleem	X	Heidi Pruess [§]	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	X			
Katrina Winborn-Miller	X			
Chris Wood	X			

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

Call to Order: 6:17 p.m.

1. **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – None.
2. **Introduction of members, staff, and guests** – Since this was the first in-person meeting for several members the board members introduced themselves with some extra information.
3. **Public Comment** – No public comment.
4. **Discussion Items**
 - Colorado Air Quality Enterprise Board (AQEB), Larimer County's Role – Lea Schneider, Larimer County Health and Environment (LCHE) led a discussion on how the County is engaging with the State's AQEB. Cassie Archuleta, City of Fort Collins Air Quality Program Man-





ager, was also in attendance, and spoke of the City's collaboration with the County and their shared goals. Lea noted that the County is just starting to get involved with the AQEB and that they are planning to do a presentation to the AQEB this Fall. They are discussing ways to capitalize on the funding opportunities. Lea commented on how H&E already engages with the CDPHE through administering a pollutant inspection program and maintaining the two air quality monitoring stations – a particulate monitoring station and two ozone monitoring stations. Larimer County's goal is to partner with the City on more regional (county-wide) air quality monitoring. They want to expand their efforts to include more community partners including industry. Cassie then spoke of the City's desire to collaborate with the County on enhanced monitoring efforts. There is a lot of potential and funding out there. The desire is to develop a plan, using a process that is community led. Cassie noted the geographical gaps in monitors – Loveland lacks ozone monitors, Fort Collins lacks NOx monitors. In terms of air toxics, such as oil and gas extraction sourced hydrocarbons, Boulder and Broomfield have monitoring programs to track these toxins and where they are originating from.

Cassie and Lea noted that they would like to know more about how the ESAB could get involved. They welcomed any input the ESAB might be able to provide and would like to hear their ideas. They also noted that there is a lack of ability to inform the public when there are poor air quality days. Right now, their mechanism is to notify people who are on a notification list or through social media. The County and the City are also supporting a grant for CSU researchers looking at air quality and wildfire smoke. They are looking into applying for an EPA grant that is focused on environmental justice, but they need population data to prepare the application. Having input from the ESAB would be very helpful and they offered to engage with the Board regularly if that was desired.

Members asked questions about whether goals include addressing indoor air quality, are they working with the NFRMPO, about new building code requirements for radon in new development construction that are laxer than what was in place in 2018. Lea noted that Eric Fried, with the Building Department would know more about the changes in the code. Ally suggested that a productive way to engage the community might be to form a task force, much like the oil and gas task force, where there are representatives from industry, research and development, and other experts who can work collaboratively to inform the process. Kirk asked how increased monitors might inform mitigation strategies. Lea responded by saying the fact that we have only three monitors, but have an immediate neighbor known to contribute ozone precursors to the region, more monitors would help identify the VOCs and other toxic air pollutants coming into the county.

Commissioner Kefalas asked about whether there are opportunities to secure funding from the AQEB to support implementing air quality monitors? Lea noted that any funding would have to support a statewide effort, so if monitors in Larimer County helped fill a gap in the regional Northern Colorado monitoring, then the funding might be approved. There was discussion about monitoring and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and how typically estimates for GHG emissions come from counts of vehicles on the road and not from monitors. That might be different for methane, however, which is sourced from the oil and gas industry. There was more discussion of how AQEB funds can assist local governments in the efforts to improve air quality for the community.

Shelley then read some questions from the attendees on the call, some of who are members of the Fort Collins Air Quality Board. Lea and Cassie's addressed the questions.



Rodger noted that another value of increased monitors is to inform regional air quality modeling studies in terms of the sources for pollutants. Identifying where emissions are coming from is something we do not have a good handle on. Rodger asked Lea and Cassie to touch on the NCAR FRAPPE study and what were some outcomes. Cassie noted that they identified gaps in regulatory monitoring for ozone, NOx, as well as meteorological monitoring to help inform modeling of sources. The FRAPPE study also indicated higher ozone in the eastern part of the City, a result supported by temporary monitors that were subsequently placed as a result of the study. Cat noted her experience while working in the Houston area for leak detection and repair (LDAR) monitoring, but something like that can also be used for monitoring of certain pollutants. Cat could provide some information on costs associated with that kind of monitoring. Jim wrapped the discussion up by noting the expertise represented on the Board and that the Board would be happy to be involved in a more formal way, participating much like they did during the Solid Waste Wasteshed process. Lea noted that the City has an Air Quality Advisory Board, but here at the County the ESAB fills that role. She also noted that the County's Air Quality program is just her, and she simply lacks the capacity to track every regulation, rule and initiative coming out of State programs. So, she would welcome support from the ESAB in terms of something like that. Jim noted that a sub-committee could be formed to work on that task. They could also participate on an air-shed work group.

- Environmental Program Manager and Climate Smart Larimer County – Jim introduced Heidi Pruess. He provided a brief background on the ESAB's participation in spearheading the update of the County's policy on environmental responsibility and the ESAB's participation in the development of the Climate Smart Larimer County framework. Heidi provided some background on her personal experience as an environmental professional for the past 30 years working for local governments. Her work has focused on developing programs where they do not currently exist. In terms of Larimer County, there is already a lot the County does in its internal operations in terms of sustainability, but those efforts are not captured under the umbrella of a sustainability program. She recognizes the CSLC framework as a great first step and wants to take it to the community to see what they think – identify points of agreement and gaps between what the community and the county sees as priorities. Once community feedback is received, an implementation action plan can be developed that will include measures of progress. The goal is to get this completed in a year. Larimer County is diverse in many ways, and the challenge will be to hear from all those diverse voices. Triple bottom line approaches are deep and comprehensive, and to implement them well it will take strategizing priorities that can be accomplished initially. Identifying priorities is an important first step and that needs to be informed by the community. There will be a task force developed that will focus on the community engagement process. That task force's primary responsibility will be to assess and inform the consultant charged with the process on whether they think the community's voice is well represented and being heard. There would be a seat on that task force for a representative of the ESAB. After the community engagement piece, the task force would focus on the implementation piece.

Heidi stressed that her role is to not create a programs and implementation steps, but rather be the convener of ideas, strategies, etc. Kirk asked about the task force and whether there would be a deliverable. Heidi said there would be document laying out the strategic priorities that comes out of the community process. Kirk asked about policies, and whether the BoCC might establish policies that will guide and support the process. Heidi



noted that not other than what has already been developed – i.e., the Strategic Plan's Goal 3, Objective 5. Commissioner Kefalas noted that he was happy that Heidi has joined the team, that the consultant hired to lead the community engagement process is Logan Simpson, and that the community process is expected to take about 6 months. The BoCC is also approving a resolution to form a new advisory board on equity, diversity, and inclusion. The hope is that there will be some cross pollination with the ESAB. Kirk asked if the task force would have a voting role or would it be advisory. The task force would be advisory. There has been discussion on whether it makes sense to combine the CSLC into the Strategic Plan for Goal 3, Objective 5 since there is overlap in the sustainability and climate active goals. Heidi said she looks forward to coming back to the ESAB to provide updates. Jim recommended that Heidi look at the ESAB Issue Index to learn about the kinds of issues the ESAB covers.

- Larimer County 1041 Regulation, Review and Comments – The sub-committee presented their draft memo and spreadsheet of comments on the update of the County's 1041 regulations. Chris led the discussion and noted that they would primarily focus on the memo tonight. The sub-committee members thought that staff generally did a good job updating the regulations. In terms of positive changes, the regulations include more detail, which clarifies for the applicant what they need to do to meet the requirements for their application. The applicability of the regulations is also expanded, considering the rapid pace of development in the County. The proposed regulations are also in line with the recently approved Comprehensive Plan.

Areas of needed improvement included consideration of climate-related planning, in particular identifying climate adaptation as a decision-making point. It's also unclear which activities, within areas of State interest, trigger permitting requirements? Floodplain requirements are described in the 1041 regulations, but it is more prohibitive as compared to the updated floodplain regulations in the County Land-Use Code. This can cause confusion. They recommend that Article 12 Floodplain regulations be referenced, as is the case for the oil and gas regulations. Regarding electric power generation, there are inconsistencies between technologies on how the regulations are applied. Minimum areas for exemptions are different depending on whether it's for solar, coal or natural gas.

The Board then made some updates to the memo to make some of their points clearer. They then looked at the spreadsheet, discussed some points and again made some edits to make their points clearer. George offered a motion to approve the memo and spreadsheet. Kirk seconded. Jim then opened the discussion up and asked about how advisory boards like the ESAB might provide comments on individual 1041 applications, and whether anything regarding that topic was in the new regulations. Under the past regulations, advisory boards were prohibited from providing comments on specific applications. The discussion tonight explored if, and how, advisory boards might have a role on certain aspects of the application review process. The Board decided to explore amending George's motion to include an addition to the memo that seeks clarification on how advisory boards might offer comment during the 1041 permit application public comment period. George so amended his motion and Kirk seconded. The board was in unanimous favor and the motion passed.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – Jim asked for a motion to approve the August minutes. Chris and Ally requested that reference to their employers not be used, as its irrelevant. Shelley removed



those references. Shelby requested her last name be corrected, which was done. Shelby moved to approve the minutes, and Chris seconded, and motion was passed by acclamation.

6. Updates and Round Table

- Commissioner's Update – None
- ESAB Bylaws – Jim noted that the Commissioner's Office has not completed their update of the general Boards and Commissions policies and procedures, so it did not make sense to engage in discussion on the ESAB bylaws until the overarching rules are finalized. He thanked the sub-committee that has worked on the update and asked that they be ready to re-engage once the time is right. He also noted the City of Fort Collins recently updated their rules and procedures for the Boards and committees and suggested that the ESAB sub-committee take a look at those changes.
- Water Recycling Policies and Plans in Colorado Springs – George presented Colorado Spring's plan to recycle water from the Arkansas River. He presented a map and described the elaborate plan to recycle geologic water by conveying it through a 60-mile loop which would deliver the water to users throughout the Colorado Springs area. The price tag of this development is about \$160 million but funding is unclear. The Board informally discussed the cost/benefits of such a project.
- EV Charging and Grant opportunities for the County – Kirk briefly reminded the Board of the work he and Rodger did over the summer to summarize the many grant opportunities for EV charging infrastructure and planning. They would like to bring the topic back to the board, host speakers and learn about or recommend some shovel-ready projects for the County. Hearing from someone from Engineering, Fleet or the MPO. Learning where does the County want to engage, what would their role be, opportunities for the ESAB to provide feedback for MPO planning, and Transportation planning. Rodger suggested having someone from Colorado Clean Cities speak. It would be good to have somewhat of a clearing house of funding opportunities available to staff that they could use.
- Front Range Rail - Daniel noted an upcoming meeting on this subject.
- Water Master Plan - Shelby briefly noted upcoming work on such a plan.

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

8. Agenda Topics for Future Meetings – Next regular meeting will be October 12th, 2021. Discussion items TBD but may include EV Charging options

9. Adjourn –Daniel moved to adjourn the meeting and Ally seconded. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.