

LARIMER COUNTY | ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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

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: April 8, 2025

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 – Vice-Chair	X	John Kefalas *	-	
Tasha Carr	-	Shelley Bayard de Volo ¥	X	
Anna Cloud - Chair	X	Heidi Pruess [§]	X	
Jim Gerek	X	Abbey Stapleton [§]	X	
Leo Grassens	X	-		-
Matthew Haag	-	-	-	-
Michael Lee Jones	-	-	-	-
Zachary Maffeo	-	-	-	-
Jared McGlothlin [¥]	X	-	-	-
Barry Noon	-	-	-	-
Nicole Poncelet-Johnson	X	-	-	-
Timothy Skolds	X	-	-	-
Natalie Walsh	X	-	-	-
Chris Wood	X	-	-	-

X = present; * = Commissioner Liaison; ‡ = Engineering; ¥ = ESAB Liaison; § = Climate and Sustainability Program; α = Larimer County Health and Environment; £ = Engineering; ¥=Youth.

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

1. **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – For the roundtable Anna has an update.





2. **Introduction of members, staff and guests** – Guests and Environmental and Science Advisory Board (ESAB) members introduced themselves.
3. **Commissioner's Update** – Commissioner Kefalas is not in attendance.
4. **Discussion Items**

Environmental Stewardship Awards - A sub-committee met to review all award applications March 31, 2025. Criteria for the awards were reviewed. Some discussion was held regarding recognition for an individual conducting their job vs volunteer positions. Awards are available for volunteers, paid positions, and organizations.

- Scott James, Northern Colorado Sawyers (Individual Award): Sub-Committee recommended yes; Natalie motioned to approve this recommendation award, Rodger seconded. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion to approve recommending an award for this nominee.
- Amy Wolf, YMCA of the Rockies (Individual Award): Sub-Committee recommended yes; Natalie motioned to approve this recommendation, Nicole seconded. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion to approve recommending an award for this nominee.
- Jaime Blanchard-Poling, Compost Queen (Individual Award): Sub-Committee recommended Yes; Anna motioned to approve this recommendation, Jared seconded. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion to approve recommending an award for this nominee.
- City of Fort Collins, Energy Services Department (Organization Award): Sub-Committee recommended "Suggest Yes"; ESAB discussed that the guidance for nominating is vague. Questioned level of work by nominee and worthiness of a pilot program without data. Valued the environmental justice and equity component of this pilot project to set the stage for future programs. Suggestions for a follow-up application when results are attained were offered.
 - Rodger motioned to approve this award, Jared seconded. One vote in favor, 7 votes to deny, Nicole abstained. Motion failed. Due to lack of documented environmental benefit this applicant was not recommend for an award this year. Anna motioned for a follow-up letter to the applicant inviting a re-application when the project has been implemented, Natalie seconded. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.
 - Shelley noted that she always sends follow-up letters to both the awardees and the non-awardees, and in the case of the latter she offers advice on how they can improve their application in the future.
- Shelley Bayard de Volo, Larimer County (Individual Award): Sub-Committee Recommended Yes; Leo motioned to approve this recommendation, Chris seconded. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion to approve recommending an award for this nominee.
- Discussion of adding categories in the future. The 2025 program added an education question, in 2024 a question regarding sustainability was added, so updates are happening annually. The members might re-visit providing clarity for next year's awards.

Bylaws - Updated bylaws in compliance with Administrative Policy 100.1 were provided to the ESAB. The County Attorney has provided the stamp of approval on these updated bylaws. The County

Commissioners will review these bylaws for any final changes and then will vote on accepting the updated bylaws at a future Administrative Matters meeting. Clarification regarding youth members counting as part of the quorum and calling out eligibility of members will be requested from the Board of County Commissioners.

Issue Index Update - Issue Coordinator position description was reviewed by the ESAB. Reviewed the Active, Watch, and Inactive categories and then assigned/updated the Issue Index ESAB Coordinator for each of the Watch and Active items. Workplan items will help to inform the Issue Index in the future.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes were amended with minor edits. Leo motioned to approve the minutes as amended, Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (Tim left the meeting but confirmed still had a quorum).
6. **Updates and Round Table**
 - Larimer On the Move was previously presented in draft form to the ESAB. The final plan will be available between today's meeting and the next ESAB meeting so the ESAB agreed to individually review and provide comments to the County if there is a desire to provide feedback. A sub-committee approach would only allow the sub-committee one-week to turn around to review and provide recommendations to the ESAB before a vote would need to be taken to be included in the public comment period. ESAB determined lack of interest for a sub-committee so will comment as individuals.
 - Site conservation teams (SCTs) are working to develop nomination packages and habitat conservation plans for Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse in the North Fork Poudre River Watershed and in the Big Thompson River Watershed (Buckhorn Creek).
 - The US Fish and Wildlife Service lacks the staff capacity to regularly engage with SCT's but will still support coordination with the Recovery Team and will review nomination packages and habitat conservation plans.
 - Graywater system programs need to be opted out of in accordance with new Colorado Department of Health and Environment rulemaking. A question regarding the County's status in this program was asked. A request for an update from the Health Department will be made.
 - County Board and Commission Liaison training included a new request regarding emails with advisory board members that include the Commissioner Liaison. As Commissioner emails are public and to protect the privacy of volunteer advisory board members, all ESAB members will be blind copied if the Commissioner Liaison is included in the correspondence. The ESAB was reminded that email updates provided to the ESAB should not include debate between members.
7. **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** –In May the ESAB will hear an update on the 2024-2025 Legislative Session and will review any changes to the workplan or bylaws requested by the County Commissioners. Celebration of Shelley's service will follow the official end of May ESAB meeting.

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8. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.