

LARIMER COUNTY | BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

Environmental and Science Advisory Board MINUTES

Date: September 9, 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: Heidi Pruess, pruesshb@co.larimer.co.us, 970-498-7138

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Rodger Ames – Vice-Chair	X	John Kefalas *	X	
Tasha Carr	V	Heidi Pruess ‡	X	
Anna Cloud - Chair	X	Duane Penney	X	
Jeremy Cooper	X	Lesli Ellis	X	
Leo Grassens	X			
Matthew Haag	X			
Azmal Hossan	X			
Kathryn Inman	V			
Joe Izaguirre III	X			
Michael Lee Jones	X			
Jared McGlothlin	X			
Nicole Poncelet-Johnson	X			
Cathelyne Powers	X			
Timothy Skolds [§]	X			
Nathan Teich	X			
Chris Wood	X			

X = present; v= present virtually; * = Commissioner Liaison; ‡ = ESAB Liaison; § = Climate and Sustainability Program; †=Youth.

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

- **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – None.
- **Introduction of members, staff and guests** – Guests and Environmental and Science Advisory Board (ESAB) members introduced themselves.





- **Commissioner's Update –**

- ESAB Annual Report : Commissioner Kefalas gathered feedback from Commissioners Stephens and Shadduck-McNally regarding the format and effort anticipated from the ESAB on the annual report. The Commissioners stated that while the monthly report detail is helpful to have available, that a limited 5-page summary of the year's activities with a focus on priority issues, the ESAB's role, and status of their participation in these issues is the level of effort that would be valuable.
- Climate Smart Future Ready work session was held on September 8, 2025 and was specifically related to next month's ESAB topic of Land Use so ESAB members might be interested in listening to the [work session recording](#).
- The Planning Commission is meeting September 10, 2025 and will accept a briefing on the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) study the County is embarking on over the next year. The Commissioner requested feedback from the ESAB regarding which stakeholders should be included in the process and what questions should be considered as this study is conducted.
 - One question posed to the Commissioner was for the TDR study to identify how this process is different from conservation easements.
- Transportation Master Plan / Larimer On the Move : Final plan will be heard for adoption by the Planning Commission in a couple of weeks. The BoCC approved the amended version at the 9//25 land use hearing. Referendum 1A, the .15% sale/use tax transportation funding ballot measure, supporting the implementation of projects identified in this plan has been submitted for consideration by the voters on the November ballot.
- The BoCC also referred Referendum 1B, on behalf of the Early Childhood Council of LC, to the November ballot to support early childhood education/childcare initiatives (.25% sales/use tax).
- Two water education events, including screenings of the "Mirasol" film are scheduled for this fall. The first is on Monday, 10/13, 4-6 PM at Lincoln Center, and the second is scheduled for Monday, 11/3, 5-7 PM at the Northern Water HQ in Berthoud. In addition to the film, there will be a panel addressing the issues of "The Future of Water and Agriculture in NoCo".

- **Discussion Items**

- Circular Economy - Solid Waste Update : Duane Penney, Larimer County Solid Waste Director provided a presentation. Some highlights of his presentation include:
 - Larimer County is currently at a 15% waste diversion rate but has a goal of 40% waste diversion.
 - State of Colorado legislation and the formation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the Colorado Circular Communities (C3) Enterprise programs will support the County reaching or exceeding these waste diversion goals.
 - The County's Tier I infrastructure projects : Central Transfer Station, New County Landfill, Yard Waste Organics Processing Facility, Construction and Demolition Processing Facility, and



Anaerobic Compositing including Food Waste project, all have costs identified and funds are being sought from grants and municipal partnerships to balance user fee increases as much as possible.

ESAB members asked about :

- considering programs such as partnering with agriculture via a tax incentive program to accept food wastes and Mr. Penney indicated that many programs have been explored and will continue to be explored so appreciated the idea,
 - support for low-income households with waste disposal fees and Mr. Penney indicated that the County does not have such a program but that municipalities do have convenience centers that are low or no-cost,
 - understanding how verification and enforcement will be done for these new programs and Mr. Penney indicated that the State will be tracking and enforcing through their material tracking reporting system for the EPR program.
 - communication with hauler and municipalities and Mr. Penney indicated that open and frequent communications are on-going.
 - household / residential food waste program needs as 45% of food waste nationwide is residential and Mr. Penney indicated that solutions are still being considered but that concentration on establishing policy, process, and infrastructure before rolling out a residential program.
- ESAB Carbon Sequestration Sub-Committee provided their researched questions following last month's carbon sequestration presentation and the Circular Economy discussion today. These questions were provided to the ESAB and Mr. Penney was asked, and agreed, to respond to these questions for further ESAB discussion.
- ESAB Greenhouse Gas Inventory Sub-Committee indicated that review of the county-wide greenhouse gas consumption based inventory was still underway. Additional details about data gaps the consulting team indicated in calculating particularly the food based emissions, is still needed and the sub-committee will work with staff to uncover those additional details.
- **Approval of Minutes** – August 2025 minutes were amended with minor edits. Jeremy Cooper motioned to approve the minutes as amended, and Chris Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Updates and Round Table**
 - Issue Index : Purpose and Updating were discussed by the ESAB. Discussion resulting in adjusting several topic areas from "Watch" status to "Active" status, in particular for those topics on the current workplan. Members indicated their interest in serving as coordinators for the active status topics in the index for approximately half of the topics; the remaining topics will be reviewed at the October meeting. A sub-committee to address battery energy storage was discussed and members agreeing to participate on this sub-committee included: Leo Grassens, Chris Wood, and Matthew Haag.
 - November and December Meetings were discussed. The November meeting was agreed to be rescheduled, a Doodle Poll will be provided to aid in finding the new November meeting date.

The November meeting will be a working meeting in which workplan topics, sub-committee work, the overall issue index, and crafting of the annual report will be concentrated on. The working session will be discussed further at the October meeting. The December meeting is typically dedicated to the Annual Report and Officer Elections.

- An update on Regional Haze was provided by Chris Wood (Issue Index Coordinator for this topic). The State's plan on Regional Haze included retirement of coal plants across the State. The USEPA has struck those retirement plans from the Regional Haze plan and is considering a rule-making change to the haze standards. These changes do not necessarily mean that retirement of coal plants will not be continued but this is something to watch as the future is unknown.
- **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – The October meeting will include a discussion of the Land Use 1041 process and requirements as well as environmental code requirements as presented by the Community Development Director.
- **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

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