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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: April 11th, 2023

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Rm. 150 Carter Lake, 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 - Chair	X	John Kefalas*	X	Nicole Poncelet-Johnson
Daniel Beveridge		Shelley Bayard de Volo¥	X	Anna Cloud
John Bleem				
Tasha Carr	X	**Dept of Natural Resources**		
Jim Gerek	X	Meegan Flenniken		
Ted Hendrickx	X	Casey Cisneros		
Allyson Little				
Barry Noon	X			
George Rinker				
Travis Rounsaville	X			
Shelby Sommer – Vice Chair	X			
Catriona Smith	X			
Katrina Winborn-Miller	X			
Chris Wood	X			

X = present; * = Commissioner Liaison; ǂ = Speaker; ¥ = ESAB Liaison; o = Facilities;
§ = Environmental and Sustainability Program; φ = Fleet

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

1. **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – Move up Commissioners update to during the discussion period.
2. **Introduction of members, staff, and guests** – The members introduced themselves. Several guests were in attendance tonight as observers. Shelby noted that Rodger was not in attendance for the first hour, so she is chairing the meeting. Shelby was also attending another virtual meeting and would need to step-off our meeting at some point. If Rodger and Shelby were not present at the meeting Jim would step-in as a temporary chair
3. **Public Comment** – No public comment.

4. **Discussion Items**

- Restore 22 – Dept of Natural Resources Project to Restore Native Habitats in Devil's Backbone and Eagle's Nest Open Spaces – Meegan and Casey came to provide some information to the board regarding a habitat restoration project they are implementing at several open spaces. These areas are currently impacted by cheatgrass and feral rye, which are both non-native species. DNR applied for a grant with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Restore Colorado 2022 grant and received funding. The goal of the project is to restore habitat within big game critical winter ranges. The issue with cheatgrass is that it becomes a monoculture and displaces other native plant species, which are more nutritious, palatable, and more appropriate for browsers, like deer.

  There has been some opposition to the project because of the aerial herbicide spraying. Casey and Meegan explained that the use of herbicides is part of a larger integrated weed management plan. Indaziflam is a preemergent herbicide meaning it prevents the growth of the first root out of a seed. It has no impact when sprayed on mature plants. The aerial spraying is efficient and provides for a very targeted application. Casey then went through the slides of before and after application on several study areas. The results were significant, where 1-year post-application the plant communities were much more diverse. Meegan noted that in many cases they did not need to re-seed the areas, as the seed bank in the ground re-established once the cheatgrass was gone. This program has been very successful, and they feel the restored habitats will not only support big game, but also many other wildlife and insect communities.

  Barry noted he was very happy to see that the DNR is implementing this project. He has studied the problems of cheatgrass and agreed that it needs to be managed. There was also some discussion on the beneficial impacts for pollinators with diverse plant communities.

- Environmental Stewardship Awards Nominee Recommendation – Travis presented the Stewardship Awards sub-committee recommendations to the rest of the Board. The presentation consisted of a summary of each nominee's project and accomplishments and the sub-committee's rankings on the review criteria. There were nine nominations this year and all were very good applications. The sub-committee recommended five awards. Cat moved to recommend the five recommended projects for the awards, and Travis seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed. It was noted that next year's application should include a question focusing on how the project provides an education benefit, since that is one of the criteria used to evaluate the application.

- PFAS Regulatory Update – Cat presented on the recent regulation regarding PFAS and PFOS's. She went through some background about where the chemicals are found and explained how PFAS is really in everything. She then went through the new regulations for safe drinking water and the new maximum contaminant levels (MCL's), which came out in late March. The MCLs were at 70 ppt, which were adopted in just a handful of states. Those MCL's have been significantly lowered and the standards are now different for the various types of PFAS analyte. This will impact wastewater treatment facilities, who will be required to meet the new standards. They will have to implement expensive retrofits to filter out the chemicals. Cat then went through the various funding sources that are available to wastewater treatment facilities for their retrofits, but there were questions about how easy it was to get the funding and whether it was even enough. Cat then discussed the EPA's NDPES guidelines for discharges, CERCLA and RCRA changes.

- Draft Bylaws - Jim presented the sub-committee's bylaw changes. He noted that they took the suggested changes from the spreadsheet presented last month and incorporated them into the final draft, which was provided to members in the agenda packet – both as a red-line version and a clean version. Jim noted that they had edited just about every section. Jim asked the Commissioner, before he left tonight, if he was happy with the changes, and he noted that he was. Rodger thanked Jim and the committee and said they did a good job of incorporating the County's updated Policies and Procedures for Boards and Commissions. Jim moved to approve the bylaw changes as presented in the agenda packet. Barry seconded. Travis proposed a change to article 5, part 4, where it still read "his/her". The change was made so that it read "their". All were in favor and the motion passed with a vote of the members in the room. The Zoom meeting had cut-out, so the members on the Zoom call did not vote with the other members, but when they came back online, they noted they were in favor of the changes.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – Shelley noted she received an edit from Shelby to include the URL for the YouTube Video that Travis presented on the Poudre River Forum. Jim said he noticed that the guest attendees from last month were not listed in the attendance table. Shelley said that up until now, only invited guests were listed in the table, but that could be changed. It was up to the board how they would like that reflected. Tasha noted that some public may not want their names in the minutes. There was discussion and the decision was made that at the beginning of each meeting attendees will be asked if they do or do not want their names recorded in the minutes. Travis moved to approve the March minutes, and Jim seconded. The March minutes were approved by acclamation.

6. **Updates and Round Table**
   - Commisisoner's Update – ESAB recruitment is moving forward. There are eight vacancies and 10 applications. Chris and Rodger have re-applied and will be appointed. Shelley will send Commissioner Kefalas the list of current members and their skills and expertise so that he can see what skills the board is losing with the vacancies. His office is scheduling the interviews for early May. Rodger, Shelby and Shelley will join the Commisisoner in the interviews. Next, the BOCC will be approving the Commissoners' workplans at the next Admin Matters meeting. The BOCC collective goals include kicking off the next strategic planning period (2024-2029), as the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan has been completed. Continue to support Phase 3 of the Climate Smart Future Ready Planning process, support for developement of a water master plan and land use code update. Planning recieved a FEMA grant to support hiring a consultant for the water plan. The RFP is still out for a second round, as they did not recieve qualified applicants with the first round. Last thing, is to review County policies through and equity, diversity and inclusion lens. On the topic of water, the Commissioner has created a quarterly water education series with CSU's Colorado Water Center. Three to four sessions this year: 1) May, water supply and risk, Brad Udall, 2) August, water conservation, 3) November, in stream flows and watershed health, 4) what is next for Larimer County water. Commissioner Kefalas will send Shelley an electronic copy of the schedule once it is set. Rodger asked about the format of the sessions. Each session would have a why important segment, and cover have several topics, some Q/A time, a panel of four experts. Travis suggested they add flood risk as a topic. The next item regards the County's participation in several statewide legislative lobby groups – Colorado Counties Inc., and Counties and Commissioners Acting Together. They track state legislative issues and reprsent the interests of Counties at the state legislature. Colorado Counties for Climate Action (CC4CA) represents Counties at the State legislature for issues pertaining to climate action. Larimer County recently joined the group, and they recently

updated their policy, which Larimer County voted to approve. The Commissioner wants the ESAB to be aware of these activities as it may come up in the future. The City of Thorton has issued letters to property owners who may be directly impacted by their water pipeline construction. Last, the County issued a notice of violation to Prospect Energy for continued flaring at their Hearthfire Well site. Flaring violates Larimer County's oil and gas regulations, as well as the State's regulations. Discussion of a request by some residents for information on how the County does leak detection. Matt Lafferty sent a memo regarding the process. The Commissioner will make that memo available to ESAB members.

- Climate Smart and Future Ready – There have no meetings with the public outreach group. The 4 topical workgroups met, and Tasha attended those. She said that facilitators spoke and directed attendees to respond to questions by using sticky notes on boards. There was not time for discussion. The format is not conducive for people to learn. They are capturing ideas and synthesizing. Public outreach group is meeting next week, so she will have more to report back at the May meeting. Shelby asked if Tasha had learned whether the website has been updated and is live. Tasha said she is only using the link that Heidi provided and she is not sure if that website is live yet. Tasha needs to dig into the updated website and will report back at the next meeting. Rodger asked if there is a schedule for the meetings and Tasha noted that since they are not public meetings, Heidi just sends the invites to the members of the workgroups.

7. **Issue Index** – Was updated with tonight's discussion.
8. **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting** – Next regular is May 9th
9. **Adjourn –** Barry motioned to adjourn the meeting and Cat seconded. All were in favor and the meeting ended at 9:00 PM.