LARIMER COUNTY | ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

P.O. Box 1190, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522-1190, 970.498.5738, Larimer.org

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: February 8, 2022

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual by Zoom

Fort Collins, Colorado

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

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Rodger Ames	X	John Kefalas*	X	
Daniel Beveridge	X	Shelley Bayard de Volo¥	X	
John Bleem		Heidi Vilhauer ᵠ	X	
Jim Gerek - Chair	X	Ken Cooper ᵒ	X	
Ted Hendrickx	X	Jose Garcia ᵠ	X	
David Lehman	X			
Allyson Little	X			
Kirk Longstein– Vice-Chair	X			
Kaitlin Rainsberger	X			
George Rinker	X			
Travis Rounsaville				
Shelby Sommer	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** - None
2. **Introduction of members, staff, and guests** – The members introduced themselves
3. **Public Comment** – No public comment.
4. **Discussion Items**

- Fleet, Facilities and EV Charging Infrastructure – Shelley introduced Heidi Vilhauer and Ken Cooper, along with Jose Garcia. Heidi started the presentation discussing the County Fleet and Campus sustainability. Heidi noted that the County's fleet equipment replacement program involves Fleet services who work in collaboration with the Customer Advocacy Board (CAB). Together they provide the Catalog of Fleet, which includes the list of units (make, models) and associated rates. The Fleet Dept. uses a cost recovery method to fund future replacements, which are planned and scheduled. The County fleet includes cars, trucks, heavy equipment, trailers, boats, ATVs, road signs, and other equipment. Fleet is trying to grow the number of alternative fuel vehicles. In 2021 there were 13 units, and 7 units are on order for 2022. The combined 20 units will be 5% of the Fleet's light duty vehicles. Facilities has opted for an all-electric Ford F150 truck, and other departments are interested. There has been high customer acceptance for including all electric vehicles, especially the F150's but there is a back log on fulfilling orders, so they are not readily available.

  Fleet is involved in networking forums with other local departments and agencies, including Colorado Clean Cities, City of Loveland and CDOT. They learn from efforts of other forum members. One strategy they learned was to allow the driver checking out a fleet vehicle to include information of where they are travelling to and from, which allows the system to recommend what vehicle type they should use based on the miles they will travel. The user acceptance of the range that the vehicle can travel is not always high. Many county employees travel all over the County, while others are travelling in close ranges where charging is more readily available. As EV charging opportunities grow in more rural areas, then the use of EVs should increase for those travelling to those areas.

  Some barriers they are facing includes that the grants they are looking at typically cover ~50% of the cost for charging stations, and that number is what they are hearing from other end users.

  Fleet is preparing for the transition by training their repair and maintenance technicians to work on hybrid and all electric vehicles. They are finding that part supplies have been reduced for repairs, and they are having a hard time getting some parts.

  Shelley asked about the two new trucks that were added to the Fleet at The Ranch. Heidi noted they are hybrid trucks, but mostly run electric because they never go over 35 mph. Rodger asked about whether they are developing a transition roadmap strategy? Heidi said they are just getting started and that they need to collaborate with others on the roadmap. Kirk asked about the CAB and the make-up of that Board. Heidi said there are 8 members that consist of high, medium, and low use end-users so that the board represents all user types. Kirk asked more questions related to how vehicles are provided to departments, and how purchasing happens. Shelby asked about where fleet vehicles are parked, to think about where charging infrastructure might be located. Jim asked about heavy equipment and whether there are plans to include those types of electric vehicles. Road and Bridge is interested in testing an all-electric D7 Cat Dozer this summer, specifically looking at whether it meets certain specifications.

  Jose then talked about potential grants, starting out with Charge Ahead Colorado. He shared a spreadsheet that included all the details for the grants he has been investigating. He discussed the opportunities that are currently available, including some of the nuances of the grants, like whether the grant covered labor costs, if they fund level 2 or level 3 chargers, if they are limited to charging plazas or corridors, and if they require matching funds and how much. Xcel Energy has a comprehensive grant program, but only for facilities who are serviced by Xcel for electricity. PVREA has a program but requires a 50% match. Two federal grants not covered in the ESAB memo were a charging and fueling infrastructure program, and an energy & conservation block grant. Those funds are distributed through State programs and are not yet announced in terms of funding availability.

Kirk mentioned some resources that Jose might find helpful. Commissioner Kefalas asked about DOLA funds for developing an EV infrastructure road map like Estes Park did. What is the timeline for developing an EV roadmap for the county? Ken noted that he will address that later in his discussion. Ken noted that in terms of the roadmap, they are pressing ahead and that there are pieces actively being pursued. They can currently charge vehicles at the Fort Collins Downtown parking structure. They are currently discussing installations at the Blue Spruce building, but the initial cost is a challenge because it would be a retrofit and not part of a new build. There are DOLA grant opportunities though that would help fund that project. The Loveland campus currently has a charging station that was installed in 2018. That station cost $16K, $9K of which was paid for by a Colorado Energy Office grant. At the planned new Fleet Campus, they are looking to install 4 double charging stations.

Ken then noted that in terms of overall energy performance at County buildings, Facilities in coordination with Heidi Pruess' office is tracking their compliance with HB21-1286 Energy Performance for Buildings. The County previously has been a platinum member of the City of Fort Collins Climate Wise program for over a decade and has Energy Star certification on some buildings and campuses. The City is replacing the Climate Wise program, but Facilities plans to continue to participate in the new program when it is established. Heidi P. is tracking the State of Colorado requirements and has learned that the efforts that the County has already made will be considered in any State requirement for a baseline. As well, the State requirements will be an aggregate across all County facilities. Ken then went through some of the details of the efforts made since 2016. Although, they have not obtained true LEED certification, which can be very expensive to obtain, Facilities has installed many LEED-like features. As well, building and development codes have caught up to ensure strong energy performance without the need and expense to certify. Ken then showed the investment amounts for buildings since 2007, including the Facilities Master Plan.

Kirk asked whether the Facilities Master Plan is updated every few years. Ken noted that the current Master Plan, adopted in 2018, has been updated. The 2019 ballot measure to fund portions of that master plan was not passed by the voters. Therefore, Facilities updated the master plan after that. Kirk asked whether they include standards for energy efficiency into new projects. Ken noted that that they do and it's project specific - they look for opportunities for each project. Kirk encouraged them to look for retrofit opportunities now because HB21-1286 directs minimum performance standards of a 7% savings by 2026. Kirk then asked about the new Land Use Code adoption and whether Facilities is required to follow its EV Ready provisions? Ken noted that yes, they are looking to roll those into their new construction projects, but he will follow-up with Eric Fried, the Buildings Director in Planning and learn about what they are expecting them to require. David then asked about the New Landfill and the Behavioral Health Campus (BHC). Ken indicated the new BHC was not included in the Master Plan because it would have been presumptuous to do so without voter approval. That said, it is now an active project but has been a challenge because of rising construction costs and supply chain issues. Solid Waste is coordinating the transfer station at the current landfill but has run into some issues related to shifts in the markets, especially with the sale of Gallegos to Republic. They have had to put that project on hold for over a year now, while negotiations continue. The new landfill is a Solid Waste project, not Facilities. David then asked how the ESAB can help in the process moving forward. Commissioner Kefalas asked for clarification "on which process?" Jim clarified for EV's specifically. The Commissioner noted that there is a lot of expertise on the ESAB, and he does want to get ahead of his staff on this, but he thinks that assistance with developing an EV road map would be very helpful and a tangible way that the ESAB can contribute. The Commissioner also noted that he would like consensus on this from the entire BoCC, as well as the Fleet and Facilities staff. Kirk clarified that the ESAB's goal is to support staff and not add red tape or barriers to what they need to get done. The Commissioner said he would like the opportunity to debrief with his staff and work out how to move forward. Kirk noted that he is not suggesting that anything be established now and that there is the EV road map, but an alternative pathway could be through the sustainability implementation plan by setting a policy target for alt-fuel vehicles. Heidi V. noted putting together a road map is not her area of expertise so she would welcome assistance. She is open to a workgroup and would welcome figuring out next steps as a group. She has looked at the EV Road Maps that others have put together, some are relevant, and some are not. Shelby suggested that a good pathway may be through the community driven CSLC outreach process that is happening right now. This could include developing a roadmap for the Community and the County Fleet could be sketched out through the CSLC process. Commissioner Kefalas noted that the BoCC had approved Heidi P's request to apply for a $400K FEMA grant with a 25% match that will be submitted and allow for further community engagement on CSLC following Phase 2 of the current effort.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – Shelley presented a red line version of the minutes that included editorial changes made after the draft minutes were sent out to Board members. The changes included a minor change by Rodger to clarify the intent of the Air Quality Monitoring memo. Shelby moved to approve the updated January minutes, and Ally seconded. The motion passed by acclamation.
6. **Updates and Round Table**
   - <u>Commissioner's Update</u> – Commissioner Kefalas noted that he wrote the Commissioner's Column highlighting the Environmental Stewardship Awards that recently went into the North Forty News, The Reporter Herald, and the Estes Park Gazette. CSLC workshops are continuing, and next week he will participate in the "Well Being Workshop". He already mentioned the $400K grant that was applied for to fund the Phase 3 development of the CSLC implementation plan, but also to engage the community further in the process. At a recent BoCC worksession on options for air quality monitoring Lea Schneider and Chris Manley presented an 8-page document that he can share with the Board. They considered four options that were presented as well at the ESAB meetings. Next steps include supporting the efforts of regional partners like CSU and the cities in applying for the EPA enhanced air quality monitoring grant to support community engagement, data collection, education, and convening community groups. A second step will be for County Health Staff to develop a set of proposed air quality monitoring recommendations to present at the County Board of Health, to gain support from another governing Board. The 3rd step is to go back to the BoCC following the meeting with the Board of Health and present the recommendations. On Solid Waste, the Commissioner noted he had a recent meeting with some of the Solid Waste Policy Council. Several members are new and were not part of the original SWIMP development. The current SWIMP is based on a 40% diversion goal, but if the SWIMP were updated to include several new technologies, they could potentially reach an 80% diversion goal. The solid waste landscape has changed substantially in terms of the haulers and waste streams. The current landfill is set to close by 2024, and they want to have the first cell ready to go at the new landfill prior to closing the old landfill. The

BoCC approved the revised 1041 regulations at the Jan 24th Land Use hearing. The BoCC also approved revisions to the County Emergency Management Plan including a complementary resolution. Jim asked that the Commissioner share the Jan 10th memo from County Health staff on air quality monitoring strategies. The Commissioner said he would along with the presentation slides. There was also some clarification of the role that the Board of Health is playing.

- ESAB Representation on County Air Quality Monitoring Work - Jim noted that Rodger has been working with County Health and Environment staff on their efforts to develop an air quality monitoring program but was never formally nominated by the ESAB because until recently there had not been a formal request for support. Jim asked for a motion, and Cat made the motion, Katrina seconded. The motion passed by acclamation. Jim then suggested that a sub-committee be selected to support Rodger's work on this. Katrina asked Rodger to comment on what he would like to see in terms of support. Rodger noted that his charge is to attend the meetings with Lea and bring back progress reports to the ESAB, but while he is an expert in the technical aspects of air quality monitoring, he does not have the perspective of industry, not permitting needs. So having support on those viewpoints would be helpful. Also, he could use help working on the Air Quality Monitoring memo to better develop it as a work product that the ESAB can approve and finalize. Kirk noted the value of redundancy and making sure 1 or 2 people are kept up to speed on the work for continuity's sake. Rodger asked for members to voice if they wanted to help. Chris noted that he would participate, and Katrina did as well. Jim asked for a motion to form an air quality monitoring sub-committee of ESAB, and Kirk moved, and Chris seconded. No further discussion, and the motion passed by acclamation.
- Update on Air Quality Monitoring – Rodger briefly updated the ESAB on the progress on the EPA grant. He attended a meeting last week. The grant deadline was extended into March, so they are planning one more meeting. This grant has a focus on disproportionately affected communities. The last meeting had a lot of community groups who voiced a lot of important viewpoints. The grant process needs a municipal lead, so City of Fort Collins is acting in that role. They are processing the feedback they received from the first round and are assimilating it into a 1-pager. Seems that the focus will be health impacts. They are looking for letters of support from community groups. Not sure if the ESAB has a role there, and it might need to come from the BoCC. Kirk noted that the Board would want to steer away from any advocacy type language, but rather provide technical support.
- Environmental Stewardship Awards - Jim noted that there is a long tradition in the County of giving annual Environmental Stewardship Awards. The ESAB's role is to review nominations and recommend awardees to the BoCC. The BoCC makes the final decisions and hands out the awards. Shelley noted that she sent out a flier with the agenda email that has information on where people can go to the website to fill out the application. Shelley presented the flyer for members to see. Jim noted that while we are in the pandemic phase, posting a flyer doesn't really work when people are working from home, but the flyers can be forwarded through people's networks. The flyer can also be posted to social media, or members can share the Larimer County's FB post to their own social media feeds. Shelley noted that at the next meeting the ESAB will select a sub-committee to evaluate the nominations. The sub-committee will use a scoring sheet as part of their review. Jim explained more on the process, and informed members that just because an organization was nominated in the past doesn't mean they are excluded from being nominated again.
- New County Board Policies and Procedures on Compensation – Shelley noted that the BoCC put in place a new pilot program to provide a stipend to those who might otherwise not be able to participate in an advisory board because it would impose a financial burden. The stipend is

$500 per year, and an applicant needs to show how they face economic barriers to participation and that they have "lived experience" related to the Advisory Board they wish to participate with. Jim explained that the process includes the normal process for selecting board members, but that there is then the opportunity for the newly selected board member to apply for the stipend. Commissioner Kefalas noted that they have since updated the fact sheet on the process, since this seems to only apply to new members. As well, they had some issues with the requirement to provide documentation and certify for their hardship, so the Commissioner's office has removed that requirement. They are still working out the final language for the program, but the pilot program is in place for 6 months. David commended the Commissioner for getting this program in place. There was some discussion of what the term "lived experience" means. The Commissioner noted that it means that people are being directly impacted by the issue, and although they may also have technical expertise, they would also have direct experience as a matter of the lived experience.

- ESAB Team Building Opportunities – Jim brought up the subject of looking at ways that members can get together to be able to meet in person. With Covid it has been difficult to get to know other members, and some members have not met members in person at all yet. So, this would be a good way for members to network and get to know each other in person. Ally and Chris said that they would support that idea. George asked why we can't do ESAB regular meetings in an outdoor venue. Right now, it's too cold to do that, but that could be a possibility when the weather warms if we can work out connectivity and public access. The team building opportunities would be informal gatherings in addition to regular meetings. There was interest from several members to move forward with some team building events, maybe that involved including families. Commissioner Kefalas noted that there is a nice pavilion at Horsetooth Reservoir that could be available, and we could cater it or do a potluck. Kaitlin asked about whether we needed to be concerned about sunshine laws. Shelley noted that if the Board was not discussing Board business, then it would not be considered a regular or special meeting subject to sunshine laws. Jim noted that he would look at some options and bring them back to a later Board meeting.
- Climate Smart Larimer County (CSLC)– In providing an update on this project Shelby shared the link to the second survey. She asked members to answer whether they have signed up for one of the workshops. She then explained what the second survey was about. Kirk asked if there has been any "a'ha" moments from the public outreach meetings thus far. Shelby said that she has not attended a meeting since the last ESAB meeting. At the last task force meeting the members had significant input on the approach for the workshops, which Heidi P and the consultant are incorporating. Kirk then asked for some clarification on the FEMA grant and what it is for if there are no strategies identified. Commissioner Kefalas said it would fund bringing on consultants to help develop strategies and do additional community outreach work. The 3rd CSLC task force meeting will be working on refining the focus areas for the effort and debriefing what they heard from the community. The Commissioner said that Heidi P is also attending the next Community Conversations meeting. Kirk noted that participation seems to be lacking in the mountain communities. Shelby noted that she thought Heidi P is targeting some of those communities specifically.
- Roundtable – Jim noted an upcoming meeting on local air quality hosted by Larimer Alliance for Health Safety and the Environment and Colorado Rising. David noted that it is important to consider whether the maps reporting meeting participation for CSLC are using a per capita value or just a number, because in smaller communities just a number can be misleading. Kirk noted some potentially relevant legislative bills on this year's docket that he can share if anyone is interested. Kirk encouraged members to look at their issues and consider

recommending speakers for ESAB meetings as we have some empty agendas coming up. Commissioner Kefalas noted that it's been a while since Duane Penny, from Solid Waste, has provided an update. It might be of interest to the Board to get an update from him and Laurie Kadrich next month. The Commissioner noted that Duane has a good presentation on the different diversion proposals that they are considering, along with what is happening at the old landfill and the new landfill.

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

8. **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting** – Next regular meeting will be March 8th, 2022. Discussion items are TBD.

9. **Adjourn –** Kirk motioned, and Chris seconded. The meeting ended 8:25 PM.