

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: August 12, 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	Brad Justice
Tasha Carr	-	Abbey Stapleton [§]	V	Alejandra Major - V
Anna Cloud - Chair	X	Heidi Pruess [¥]	X	
Jeremy Cooper	v			
Leo Grassens	X			
Matthew Haag	-			
Azmal Hoosan	X			
Kathryn Inman	X			
Joe Izaguirre III	X			
Michael Lee Jones	X			
Jared McGlothlin	V			
Nicole Poncelet-Johnson	X			
Cathelyne Powers	V			
Timothy Skolds [¥]	X			
Nathan Teich	V			
Chris Wood	X			

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

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

1. **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – None.





2. **Introduction of members, staff and guests** – Guests and Environmental and Science Advisory Board (ESAB) members introduced themselves.
3. **Commissioner's Update** –
 - Transportation Funding Initiative - A 0.15% County-wide Transportation Sales and Use Tax was approved by the Commissioners to be advanced as a measure issue on the November 2025 ballot.
 - Fire Restrictions were approved by the Commissioners at an Emergency Meeting on August 7th as recommended by the County Sheriff's Office. These restrictions will remain in place until Sept 7th unless extended after further evaluation by the Commissioners.
 - Commissioners have approved a technical assistance letter of support for the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Lands to provide survey information to inform the benefit of a potential sales tax to expand open space with consideration for watershed and forest health issues.
 - At the upcoming Sept 8th Commissioner Worksession there will be a Climate Smart Future Ready update that will include progress toward land use plan integration including a Plan Integration and Resilience Scorecard (PIRS) project with Texas A&M University, the Hazard Mitigation Plan update through Office of Emergency Management, and the Transfer Density Unit assessment study underway through Community Planning.
4. **Discussion Items**
 - Carbon Capture and Sequestration Presentation and Discussion - Brad Justice, with Richards Lake Partners, LLC, was invited to share information regarding this topic. Brad provided a handout with information as well as a presentation. Following question and answers regarding the presentation, the ESAB determined through discussion:
 - A sub-committee to look more closely into the food waste handling best practices or policies was agreed to be populated by Joe Izaguirre and Azmal Hossan. This sub-committee will bring comments or questions to the next ESAB meeting when the Solid Waste Director is presenting.
 - Second sub-committee : Nate Teich agreed to investigate GHG inventory specific connections and potential upgrades or suggestions regarding carbon capture and the current Larimer County GHG inventories. Measuring GHG for conservation easements or similar topics might be considered in the future.
 - Coordinating recommendations with the County Agriculture Advisory Board or the Extension led Soil Health Advisory Committee was discussed. An assessment of what nature based solution practices presented by Brad are already taking place was suggested.



- A question of if an investigation of engineering solutions, in addition to Nature Based Solutions should be conducted. This board agreed that selecting 2 or 3 topics to dig deeper on was the best course of action, so these additional topics are delayed for another time.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – July 2025 minutes were amended with minor edits. Leo Grassens motioned to approve the minutes as amended, Roger Ames seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Updates and Round Table**
- ESAB Connection to other Larimer County Advisory Boards - handout was provided with details of other advisory board scopes as information. Discussion of Advisory Board members possibly working together identified an interest of ESAB members to monitor the other boards and bring potential connections to monthly meetings as they occur.
 - Future Meetings Process and Planning discussion - Land Use is the agenda item for the October meeting. If ESAB members have requests for specific speakers, please send those requests as soon as possible. A discussion regarding holding or cancelling the November meeting will be placed on the September agenda.
 - Issue Index - The Issue Index tracks what topics have been discussed and the status of many different topics. Members were asked to review the Issue Index and identify which topics each member would like to track. The Issue Index will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
 - The Chair announced that she will not be seeking another term as Chair due to life changes. Members were asked to begin thinking about officer roles before the next election at the end of the year.
 - The Larimer County Administrative Policy regarding attendance requirements was reviewed.
7. **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – The September meeting agenda will include a presentation and discussion of changes at the landfill, Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan, integration of legislation and the County's path forward.
8. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.