



Date: May 16, 2024
Time: 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Location: Horsetooth Area Info Center - 4200 W. County Rd. 38E Fort Collins, CO 80526 - Mountain Lion Room & Zoom Webinar

LAND STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Patrick Bickley	I	Casey Cisneros	I	
Brenda Engles	I	Daylan Figgs	I	
Ryan Blake	A	Thanh Matthews	I	
Ronald Harris	A	Jody Shadduck-McNally*	V	
Jesse Dillon	I	Andrea Weber (minutes)	I	
Michael Hayes	I	Sarah Watson	I	
Janae Malpas	A	Heidi Pruess	V	

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:05 pm

Public Comment

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Approval of the minutes from last meeting were postponed until the August meeting.

Information and Announcements

Natural Resources events for this month: <https://larimer.org/naturalresources>.

To sign up for Land Stewardship Advisory Board updates, go to <https://apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click “Subscribe,” and check the “Land Stewardship Advisory Board” box.

[DNR 2023 Annual Report](#)

[2024 Quarter 1 Board Report](#)

- Daylan noted a few highlights from the report.
 - DNR received a Centennial Grant from GOCO for the Heaven’s Door Ranch Acquisition. Staff were able to divert 53 tons of material (from deconstruction of the house on the property) from the landfill by sending it to be repurposed.
 - DNR and the marina vendors initiated a lottery system for marina slips this year. Larimer County residents received preference and were entered into the lottery twice.
 - The Our Lands Our Future survey results have been released and can be found [here](#). DNR’s master plans will be built around the survey results.

Updates/Discussion Items

Commissioner Update

- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally reported the Waters of the US bill was signed. There are some other bills that will be good and some consequential for the county.
- The Board of County Commissioners have begun budget conversations for the 2025 cycle. She encouraged all to use the [Budget Explorer](#).

Climate Smart Future Ready Update – Heidi Pruess

- Progress Overview:
 - Phase 1 Framework (Complete), Phase 2 Community Outreach (Complete), Phase 3 Plan Development (Complete), Action Phase 2024-2029
 - 90+ workgroup members, 30 workgroup meetings in 2023
 - 17 strategies developed in 4 categories
 - 24 actions with numerous tactics
 - Action Dashboard creation
 - Greenhouse gas inventory completed
 - 1 video series completed and 1 video series underway
 - Objectives:
 - Improve air quality and human health by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and use of non-renewable natural resources.
 - Increase community resiliency and ability to adapt to changing climate conditions.
 - Improve equity and quality of life for residents and ecosystems in Larimer County and beyond.
 - Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:
 - Goal = exceed 45% GHG reduction, aiming for a 60% GHG reduction by 2023
 - Larimer County GHG Emissions by Sector: Building Energy (65%), Transportation (27%), Industrial Process & Product Use (2%), Oil Wells (2%), Agriculture (2%), Waste (1%), Wastewater Treatment (0.04%)
 - Executive Team (creation of the plan): Larimer County Manager, city manager or assistant city manager from all municipalities and a group from CSU.
 - Focus Areas:
 - Built environment, Circular Economy, and Business and Jobs.
 - Mobility of People, Goods and Services.
 - Natural Environment, Water, and Agriculture.
 - Interconnection Between Focus Areas (communication with the public, diversity, equity and inclusion, land use policies and practices, health)
 - Champions
 - Larimer County: Community Development, Planning and Building, Solid Waste, Economic Workforce Development, Legislative Affairs, Health Department, Natural Resources, Sheriff Office, Office of Emergency Management, Climate and Sustainability Office.
 - Community champions
 - 50 partners and entities involved
- Next Steps (5-year plan)
 - 2023 Draft plan: Strategies, actions and champions identified
 - 2024 (Quarter 1 & 2) Finalize Plan: Complete and evaluate “Action Impact Analysis”, finalize GHG reduction goal, finalize plan and webpage
 - 2024 (Quarter 3) Implementation: workgroups become Action Teams, communication campaign with second video series
 - 2024 – 2029 Reporting: Quarterly updates to County Commissioners, regular website and newsletter updates
- Feedback:

- Michael asked how LC's plan compared to others along the Front Range. Heidi noted it is not easy to compare as few counties/municipalities have a plan and/or are varied in measurements and metrics.
- Brenda asked for clarification on the definition of ecosystem equity. Noting ecosystems do not experience inequities. Heidi said the plan references the Colorado environmental justice definition for equity to identify populations that are disproportionately impacted. Equity issues are defined in the plan by many different issues and metrics. One of these is environmental impacts, such as wastewater. The idea of ecosystem equity was likely a result of the desire to address specific disasters happening in certain areas that tend to happen in specific ecosystems.

FY2023 Annual Financial Summary – Sarah Watson

- 2023 Department Revenues:
 - Total: \$23,138,072
 - Breakdown: **Sales Tax** (51%), **Service Based** (28%), **Misc** (7%) **Conservation Trust/Lottery** (5%), **Intergovernmental** (4%), **Property Tax and Specific Ownership Taxes** (4%), **General Fund** (1%)
- 2022 Department Revenues (for comparison):
 - Total: \$24,919,557
 - Breakdown: **Sales Tax** (52%), **Service Based** (30%), **Misc** (6%), **Conservation Trust/Lottery** (4%), **Intergovernmental** (11%), **Property Tax and Specific Ownership Taxes** (4%), **General Fund** (1%)
 - *Funding breakdown from 2022 compared to 2023 is similar, as the business model is the same.
- 2023 Operating Expenses - Budget to Actual:
 - Open Space budget was 4% over budget.
 - DNR had an agreement with LC Engineering around acquisitions, which was budgeted for but not being paid over the last 5 years. DNR paid the past due bill in one lump sum.
 - BOR Reservoir budget was 13% under budget.
 - Land Stewardship budget was 4% under budget.
- Open Spaces 5-Year Revenue and Expense Trends:
 - Help Preserve Open Sales tax revenue in 2023 was slightly lower than 2022.
 - Service based fees were relatively similar from 2021-2023.
 - Operating expenses slightly higher than in 2022.
 - Project/Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) expenses were lower than 2022. *CIP expenses in 2022 were high due to the acquisition of the Blue Mountain Property (previously named Heaven's Door Ranch).
- BOR Reservoirs 5-Year Revenue and Expense Trends:
 - Service based fees were roughly \$500,000 lower in 2023 than in 2022.
 - Operating expenses were slightly higher than in 2022.
 - Project/CIP expenses were lower than in 2022. *CIP expenses in 2021 were high due to the building of Sky View Campground.
 - Active rain events in 2023, specifically over weekends, may have contributed to permits sold being down 5% in revenue, with 16,000 fewer dailies sold, and a decrease in camping by 50,000 overall.
- Land Stewardship 5-Year Revenue and Expense Trends:
 - Property & Specific Ownership Tax Revenue was slightly higher than 2022.
 - Operating expenses have increased gradually since 2020.
 - Project/CIP increased drastically in 2023. *Increase due to \$2.2 million spent to build the new Land Stewardship facility.
 - Casey added, weather in 2023 negatively impacted revenue due to staff being unable to do work on the ground. Other revenue sources for Land Stewardship include Weed Enterprise and herbicide sales. The "profit" is reinvested back into the CIP and other projects.

- Capital Improvement Projects for 2023
 - Using various sources, over \$3 million was spent in capital expenditures and projects in 2023.
 - Daylan said CIP projects are budgeted for in 5-year periods. DNR has an obligation to the sales tax to spend 35% of the Help Preserve Open Space sales tax on land acquisitions within the capital expenses. DNR spends what it brings in.

DNR 2024 Budget Presentation – Thanh Matthews

- 2024 Total Estimated Budget Revenue **\$23,400,000**
 - Help Preserve Open Spaces Sales & Use Tax (52.4%), Fees (31.6%), Property Taxes (3.89%), Lottery (3.53%), Land Stewardship Enterprise (2.63%), Other (5.95%)
 - Casey noted, in 2023, the Weed Enterprise lost revenue due to factors such as staff shortages, weather, etc. The 2024 projections are expected to be higher due to early contract commitments and diversification of contracts.
 - Fiscal year is January 1st to December 31st.
 - 2023 revenue was \$23,138,072.
- 2024 Total Estimated Budget Expenses **\$14,055,431**
 - Personnel (62%)
 - 2% Market and 3% Merit increase
 - Operating (38%)
 - Internal Costs (indirect costs paid to LC, IT, Fleet, etc.) – 52% of operating.
 - Misc Operating (Credit Card fees, trash, projects, etc.) – 48% of operating
- Daylan reported the 2025 budget will see a bit of growth but will be flat like 2024.

Action Items

Other Business

Next Meeting Scheduled - August 15, 2024 @ Horsetooth Area Information Center (HAIC) at 4200 W. County Rd. 38E, Fort Collins CO 80526

Executive Session

Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest.

Adjournment – 6:14 pm

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Larimer County will provide a reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with a disability who need assistance. Services can be arranged with at least seven (7) business days' notice. Please email us at weberan@co.larimer.co.us, or call (970) 498-7719 or Relay Colorado 711. "Walk-in" requests for auxiliary aids and services will be honored to the extent possible but may be unavailable if advance notice is not provided.