



Date: August 17, 2023
Time: 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Location: Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins, CO, 2nd Floor, Lake Loveland Room & Zoom Webinar

LAND STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Patrick Bickley	A	Casey Cisneros	I	Lesli Ellis
Brenda Engles	I	Daylan Figgs	I	Heidi Pruess
Ryan Blake	I	Meegan Flenniken	I	
Ronald Harris	I	Jody Shadduck-McNally*	A	
Jesse Dillon	I	Andrea Weber (minutes)	I	
Michael Hayes	I	Carolyn Rasmus	I	
Janae Malpas	V			

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:06 pm

Public Comment

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Ron moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Michael seconded, motion passed unanimously.

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.

April 2023 Open Space Sales Tax Distribution Letter

May 2023 Open Space Sales Tax Distribution Letter

New Board Member Introduction

- Brenda Engles is from South Africa, and currently lives in Larimer County. She has a background in biogenetics and a wildlife biology master's from CSU. She worked in regional planning in South Africa and as a World Wildlife Fund conservation manager. She substitute teaches at a high school in Fort Collins.

Updates/Discussion Items

County Climate, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Policy - Heidi Pruess, Climate Smart Program

- Heidi noted the LC Climate Policy was updated in January 2023, however, since acquiring a membership with Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA), the county is looking to update the policy again. There are over 50 municipalities and counties statewide that participate in CC4CA.
- The CC4CA policy went into effect in July 2023.
- She asked the board to provide thoughts and feedback, using the CC4CA policy as a reference. She noted there are a few places in the county policy which could use clarification and detail in verbiage.
- The county policy is intended to provide a broad policy to inform direction for staff, internal policy and weigh in on how the county plays an outward role in the community.
- She plans to collect and assemble feedback from Larimer County boards and provide the feedback to the BOCC in November.
 - Ron asked when the deadline for comments and feedback was. Heidi said Mid-October.
 - Daylan told the board to send feedback to Andrea and she will compile and send it to Heidi.
 - Ron asked how conflict between the two policies is handled. Heidi said conflict was likely to happen. CC4CA policy is used to guide legislation. If there is verbiage that impacts legislation, BOCC votes, can sustain from voting, and if so, the CC4CA procedure is to continue to amend until it is adequate for all parties.
- Janae asked where the funding for the CC4CA membership comes from and if this would be impacted by the anticipated county budget cuts. Heidi said the membership fee comes out of the County General Fund and is approved in the BOCC budget. BOCC determines on an annual basis if they want to keep the membership. Daylan said due to the nature and scope of the policy, some of the work will align with climate and DNR initiatives.

2023 Quarter 2 Board Report

- Daylan noted the report highlights various DNR projects, including ongoing conservation efforts, a stream restoration project at Red Mountain and a new visitor survey campaign.
- The new campaign, "Rate Your Day", was initiated to gather immediate visitor satisfaction feedback. It is given out as a QR located at DNR trailheads. Overall, current results display positive responses.
- The financial summary displays reduced revenue projections for 2024 and 2025. The HPOS sales tax will be cut by ½ million dollars. The mill levy for the Weed District is doing well. Proposition HH could have an impact but will not be known until after the November elections.
- Ron inquired about the Land Stewardship Program (LSP) moving to the new location at The Ranch.
 - Casey said building is complete and the team plans to move in at the end of the year. Herbicides and pesticides will continue to be sold from the Mulberry location until then. DNR has hired a commercial real estate agent to sell the Mulberry building.
- Jesse asked if DNR had a booth at the LC Fair. Staff noted a low return on investment and minimal interest, so they did not, but hope to see an increase in both once relocated at The Ranch.

Noxious Weed Management Plan proposed update follow-up – Casey

- The County Noxious Weed Management Plan is mandated by state law and must be reviewed every 3 years in collaboration with the LSAB. The last update was adopted in 2018.
- Staff in the field provided recommendations to edit and update the plan.
 - Item #1 (Page 3): Remove Eurasian Watermilfoil. Staff will work with ditch companies if it becomes an issue.
 - Main reason for change is it is a challenge to identify and eradicate. Reported to not be a large issue in native waterways and it is found mostly in reservoirs and built ponds.
 - Ron asked how it is managed. Casey said it is treated with aquatic herbicides.
 - Item #2 (Page 8): Add bullet that states List C species will not be subject to enforcement. Staff recommend education and outreach for List C and remove the mandate they are contained, suppressed, or eradicated.
 - Item #3 (Page 11): Combined Chamomile species as they are managed in the same way.
 - Item #4 (Page 11): Remove Russian Olive from the priority list and require long-term management plan to address exorbitant expense to meet compliance in a single year.

- Each report/case should be addressed differently and require ongoing, phased management. Meegan added, staff will work with landowners and HOA's to identify goals, plans and a timeline.
- Board members appreciated the case-by-case process.
- Jesse asked if DNR creates weed management plans for new developments. Casey said the Land Stewardship staff receive land use proposals and staff go and look at the parcel in the database and see if there are any priority weeds in the history. A site visit is conducted if there is an existing weed issue. Staff will help create a management plan if the development is inside the Weed District. Outside the Weed District applicants must develop their own plans to submit for LSP staff approval. Casey's team usually requests a plan for every 1 of 10 developments.
- Item #5 (Page 8): Relax enforcement procedure timeline for lower priority species and infestations – e.g., infestations of Canada thistle that are less than an acre in size.
- Item #6: Remove enforcement action after two years of complaints if the noxious weed infestation does not meet a high priority level.
- Item #7: Request photos of noxious weed complaints to confirm identification and priority level to inform need for an inspection.
- Item #8: As feasible to leverage staff time and reduce driving, conduct weed identification, outreach, and offer best management practices virtually (i.e.: interview landowner about goals, have them send photos, and discuss best management practices via phone).
- Casey said DNR will have a draft in November and would like to have the LSAB make recommendation to the BOCC before the end of the year.

November Field Tour Discussion – Casey

- DNR typically holds a field trip each year to show case work being done.
- DNR has been working on a RESTORE restoration project at Devil's Backbone and a grassland restoration project by the Keyhole parcel that he would like to present to the board.
- Ron asked about the weather in November and requested a video or photos of the area in the event of snow. Casey confirmed he could do this.
- Daylan said the meeting will be held at an alternative location if doing a field trip.
- Jesse asked if the meeting times could be adjusted. Daylan confirmed and noted the option of having the field trip as a separate event from the LSAB meeting. Board members agreed.

Action Items

Other Business

- Ron said attendance at the Estes Land Stewardship Association meetings has been low. There are upcoming Weed Round-Up events taking place where there will be onsite presence for questions.
- Daylan noted staff will likely bring a Dept. of Natural Resources budget update to the November meeting.

Next Meeting Scheduled

November 16, 2023 - at 200 W. Oak Street Fort Collins, CO 80524 – Carter Lake Room 150 and via Zoom Webinar.

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 6:06 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.