



Date: February 20, 2025
Time: 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Location: Horsetooth Area Information Center 4200 CR 38E Fort Collins, CO 80526 Mountain Lion Room & Zoom Webinar

LAND STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

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

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:01 pm

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Mike moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Ryan 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.

Agenda and Meeting Location Notice for the Land Stewardship Advisory Board

- The public place for posting the notices of public meetings of the Land Stewardship Advisory Board is designated as <https://www.larimer.gov/boards#/board/land-stewardship-advisory-board/>, which is the Larimer County website and is accessible at no charge to the public.
- In the event notice of a public meeting cannot be posted online at <https://www.larimer.gov/boards#/board/land-stewardship-advisory-board/> (example: website is down or due to exigent or emergency circumstances), notice shall be physically posted no less than twenty-four hours prior to holding of the public meeting at the bulletin boards located at the north and south entrances of the Larimer County Administrative Offices, 200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Daylan announced that the LSAB will no longer accept public comments. Those wishing to provide public comment should do so through the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). As an advisory board, LSAB does not make final decisions, and individuals seeking to share feedback should direct their comments to the appropriate decision-making body.

Updates/Discussion Items

Q4 Board Report - Daylan

- Ron inquired about connectivity challenges at Hermit Park and the usage of Text-to-Park. Daylan noted this is a challenge that is still being worked through.

Board of County Commissioners Update

- Commissioner Shadduck-McNally noted she met with senators and congressional districts to discuss budget and funding concerns.

2024 Noxious Weed Compliance – Maxine Guill

- Noxious Weeds Compliance occurs on private lands within Larimer County. These include public complaints and Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) species.
- Compliance Highlights: 3 staff members completed 750 compliance inspections, and 55 List A, and 35 high-priority List B noxious weed monitoring inspections.
- Compliance Code Cases
 - 703 total, 614 followed up from 2023 (2 no further action, 176 closed, 62 complied)
 - 89 new compliance cases: 27 public complaints, 4 no violations, 28 high-priority compliance cases, 7 new owners, and 27 initiated by staff.
- Larimer County Noxious Weed Management Plan – Compliance Procedures
 - Staff respond to complaints and take proactive measures for EDRR. If an infestation falls within designated boundaries, a case is initiated.
 - Upon receiving a complaint, staff have five days to verify the presence of noxious weeds. If there has been no prior contact with the property owner, a courtesy letter is sent, allowing ten days for a response or for the weeds to be addressed.
 - If there is no response or action taken, an enforcement letter is issued, granting an additional ten business days for compliance.
 - If the property owner still fails to respond or mitigate the weeds, staff will proceed with a right of entry for weed management. The owner is invoiced for the time and materials associated with the weed enforcement action. If unpaid, a notice of lien is placed on the property.
 - Enforcement applies to List A and List B species, as well as infestations covering over 80% of an acre, regardless of the species.
- Statistics
 - Compliance Inspections: 2024 (**750**) 2023 (**1302**) 2022 (**1025**) 2021 (**1120**) 2020 (**718**)
 - Courtesy Letters: 2024 (**146**) 2023 (**261**) 2022 (**199**) 2021 (**302**) 2020 (**80**)
 - EDRR Grant Letters: 2024 (**25**) 2023 (**67**) 2022 (**51**) 2021 (**106**) 2020 (**67**)
 - Enforcement Letters: 2024 (**97**) 2023 (**183**) 2022 (**134**) 2021 (**107**) 2020 (**64**)
 - Landowners Response Rate: 2024 (**36%**) 2023 (**37%**) 2022 (**34%**) 2021 (**31%**) 2020 (**81%**)
 - Right of Entries: 2024 (**5**) 2023 (**47**) 2022 (**28**) 2021 (**18**) 2020 (**5**)
 - Weed Enforcement Actions: 2024 (**4**) 2023 (**11**) 2022 (**12**) 2021 (**5**) 2020 (**5**)
 - Site Visits (focused on education, open to all in the Weed District, build owners a management plan): 2024 (**56**) 2023 (**61**) 2022 (**74**) 2021 (**120**) 2020 (**84**)
 - Herbicide Sales: 2024 (**\$37,918**) 2023 (**\$43,407**) 2022 (**\$41,895**) 2021 (**\$42,490**) 2020 (**\$33,452**)
 - Cost Share: 2024 (**\$1036**) 2023 (**\$3040**) 2022 (**\$2097**) 2021 (**\$1419**) 2020 (**\$2500**)
- Looking Ahead to 2025
 - 424 compliance cases to follow up from 2024, 7 List A noxious weed monitoring inspections, 12 high-priority List B noxious weed monitoring inspections, 9 new complaint cases
 - Meadow Hawkweed has been designated within the noxious weed management plan with the goal of eradication.
 - Implementation of fines instead of enforcement actions.

2024 Early Detection Rapid Response – Maxine Guill

- The eradication of noxious weed species is considered imminent when no new plants are detected over a monitored period.
 - Likely: Progress is being made, with decreasing occurrences.
 - Possible: New areas of infestation are being found, and some landowners continue to have infestations.

Noxious Weed Citations – Casey Cisneros

- In 2024, the legislature passed an amendment in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, allowing for the use of citations in noxious weed management.
- Staff are working with counties that have previously implemented citations to understand the process.
- Citations are expected to be most effective for landowners who are active and residing on their property. Most current enforcement efforts involve absentee landowners, where direct enforcement poses fewer challenges. More updates will be provided as the process develops.

Review 2025 Workplan, Board Bylaws, and Annual Compliance Training – Daylan Figgs

- Larimer County (LC) has 93 boards, commissions, and improvement districts.
- Board(s) Purpose: To advise and adhere to state statute.
- Types of Boards: Advisory, quasi-judicial, and decision-making.
- Board Responsibilities: Attendance, preparation, engagement, decision-making, representation, conduct, etc.
- Staff Responsibilities: Administer the board (non-voting members), review and understand board authority, train members, schedule meetings, keep records, assist BOCC with board member recruitment, orientation, etc.
- County government is a constitutional subdivision of state government. Responsible for: law enforcement, social services, health services, road and bridge construction and maintenance, weed control, etc.
 - BOCC performs legislative, executive, and quasi-judicial functions.
 - Other elected offices receive an approved budget from the BOCC but make decisions and operate independently.
- Policies and Laws Boards and Commissions are subject to: board bylaws, LC Policy 100.1, Colorado Open Meetings Law (Sunshine Law), Colorado Open Records Act, LC Code of Ethics, LC Code of Conduct, and Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Open meetings: if two members discuss board matters and/or business outside of the public board meeting, including phone calls, emails, or in-person, it needs to be noticed and open to the public. Minutes are to be taken and posted.
 - Conflict of interest: If there is a potential personal gain by a board member, the members should recuse themselves from the discussion and decisions.
- The Annual Workplan was submitted and approved by the BOCC. This provides a structured flow of information to be shared with the board throughout the year.
- Bylaws will be reviewed annually by the board.

Next Meeting Scheduled Thursday, May 15th, 2025 @ Larimer County Horsetooth Area Information Center
4200 W. County Road 38E Fort Collins, CO 80526 - Mountain Lion Room & 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 – 6:21 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.