



Date: August 19, 2021
Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins, CO, 2nd Floor, Lake Loveland Room

LAND STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS	
Bryan Kraft		Casey Cisneros	x		
Josh Wenz	x	Daylan Figgs	x		
Kraig Peel	x	Meegan Flenniken	x		
Ronald Harris	x	Lori Smith	x		
Tasha Carr	x	Melody Johnson	x		
		Jody Shadduck-McNally*	x		

x = present

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:08 p.m.

Public Comment – none

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Josh moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Kraig 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

Updates/Discussion Items

2020 Annual Report – Daylan Figgs, Director

- Daylan reviewed and summarized the annual report. Board members noted appreciation for the quality of the report and asked about its distribution. Daylan said the report is available on our website and pushed out via social media. Limited print copies are also available. Ron asked for a couple of hard copies.

2021 Quarter 2 Board Report – Daylan Figgs, Director

- Daylan highlighted key stories related to the department in the second quarter:
 - Sky View Campground groundbreaking and construction
 - Completion of ANS inspection stations
 - Suggested trail loop routes at Horsetooth Mountain and Devil's Backbone open spaces
 - Financial/visitation summary
- Ron asked about county funds available for runoff issues post-fire. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally noted there are NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection funds available and being planned around by a consortium of partners to implement debris removal, restoration, and other measures. Aerial mulching led by the City of Greeley was completed at a \$30M cost but did not cover the full burn scar so additional funding is being sought. There is a Cameron Peak recovery website where the public can subscribe for updates.
- Casey noted LCDNR has a contract to perform weed management on USFS lands, 90% of which were burned in the Cameron Peak Fire. We anticipate continuing to work closely with the USFS in 2022 to further prioritize efforts around new and existing weed infestations post-fire.

Restoration/Resource Management Update – Casey Cisneros, Land Stewardship Manager

- Casey presented a summary of LCDNR's restoration focus and efforts, specifically highlighting 2020-2021 restoration projects:
 - Building demolition and revegetation
 - A garage was removed following a new acquisition addition to Forks Park and revegetation took hold very well after just four months given the wet spring.
 - At Little Thompson Farm Open Space, a modular and dilapidated buildings were removed and restoration with native species took place.
 - The board asked questions about using grazing animals to achieve outcomes, Casey noted that we do work on various open spaces with local operators on grazing leases.
 - Road reclamation and revegetation
 - A road at Hermit Park Open Space was no longer needed following the relocation of two cabins and a trail to single track alignment. The road was ripped to reduce compaction and then revegetated. It is being monitored for adaptive management as needed.
 - Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked if we assist with restoring dozer lines associated with the Cameron Peak Fire response. Casey noted that LCDNR has provided seeding specifications, best practices, seed mixes, etc. to assist in the recovery effort.
 - At Red Mountain Open Space, a newly acquired inholding within the open space had several roads used by the former owner no longer needed by the county. The roads were ripped to break up compaction and the robust native plant community was able to reestablish without supplemental seeding.
 - Habitat improvements
 - At Little Thompson Farm, pollinator planting outside of cropland areas were completed in 2020 and internal unneeded fencing was removed in 2021. The department is currently prioritizing all unneeded fences for removal and those that are needed but not wildlife friendly for modification.
 - The restoration project to convert annual feral rye to a native foothills community at Devil's Backbone Open Space is ongoing. Specific herbicide applications target the pre-emergent germination of noxious weeds as well as the annual rye.
- Future planned restoration projects include:
 - Continuation of Devil's Backbone Open Space grassland restoration including restoration of the Keyhole parcel on the west side of the rock outcrop.

- Stream restoration at the newly acquired Table Mountain inholding at Red Mountain Open Space, including removal of a small earthen dam that separates the spring from the remainder of the stream corridor.

Budget Submitted to BOCC for Consideration – Lori Smith, Finance and Admin Div. Manager

- Lori presented the final department budget submitted to the BOCC. Expanse targets (and actual budget submittal) amounts are:
 - Temporary and seasonal staff increases of 3% (submittal is 15% increase), operational base increases of 2% (submittal is 5% increase), an additional increase in base budget of \$75,000 (submittal is for \$60,645), and a one-time project budget of \$216,000 (submittal is for \$202,915).
 - Regular wage range adjustments were approved by the BOCC for 2022 to increase by 10%. Salaries will increase between 2-10% with a sliding scale based on individual employee wages.
 - Merit increases are slated to increase by 2%.
 - Central Services and Utilities (represent 17% of the department operating budget) will increase by 3% and 6%, respectively.

Action Items

Other Business

Next Meeting Scheduled

November 18, 2021 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 – 6:39 p.m.

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 michlsl@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.