



LARIMER COUNTY | ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 1190, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522-1190, 970.498.5700, Larimer.org

FLOOD REVIEW BOARD

Date: February 26, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Lake Estes Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 200 W Oak St., Fort Collins and via Zoom webinar

Contact: Tina Kurtz, Larimer County Engineering Department

MEETING MINUTES

Staff Present: Tina Kurtz, Aaron Wurster, Nicole Hahn

Staff Online: None

Board Members Present: Matthew Hickox, Dr. Chris Thornton, Daniel Richardson, Jamis Darrow

Board Members Online: Chad Morris

Call to Order: Dr. Thornton opened the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

Introductions

Item 1: Election of Board Chair 2026

Motion:

Mr. Darrow motioned to elect Dr. Thornton as the Flood Review Board Chair for 2026.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

Further Discussion:

None

Vote:

Mr. Hunt – Absent

Dr. Thornton – Abstain

Mr. Morris – Yes

Mr. Darrow – Yes

Mr. Rounsaville – Absent

Mr. Richardson – Yes

Mr. Hickox - Yes

Motion passed [4-0], 1 abstain, 2 absent.



Item 2: Election of Board Vice Chair 2026

Motion:

Mr. Darrow motioned to elect Mr. Hunt as the Flood Review Board Vice Chair for 2026.

Mr. Hickox seconded the motion.

Further Discussion:

None

Vote:

Mr. Hunt – Absent

Dr. Thornton – Yes

Mr. Morris – Yes

Mr. Darrow – Yes

Mr. Rounsaville – Absent

Mr. Richardson – Yes

Mr. Hickox - Yes

Motion passed [5-0], 2 absent.

Item 3: Meeting Notice Location

Dr. Thornton read aloud the following notice:

The Flood Review Board designates www.larimer.gov as the place for posting notice of public meetings, and if exigent or emergency circumstances prevent the online posting at such location, public notice shall be physically posted at the bulletin boards located at the north and south entrances to the Larimer County Administrative Services Building located at 200 W Oak St., Ft. Collins, Colorado in accordance with Colorado's open meeting laws.

Item 4: Approval of December 18, 2025, Board meeting minutes

Motion:

Dr. Thornton motioned to approve the December 18, 2025, Board meeting minutes.

Mr. Richardson seconded the motion.

Further Discussion:

None

Vote:

Mr. Hunt – Absent



Dr. Thornton – Yes
Mr. Morris – Yes
Mr. Darrow – Yes
Mr. Rounsaville – Absent
Mr. Richardson – Yes
Mr. Hickox - Yes

Motion passed [5-0], 2 absent.

Item 4: Ladera Outfall

1. A petition filed by Sheri Welch for a Floodplain Project Review for construction of a pipeline to convey augmentation water from the Ladera Development South Reservoir to Mallard Creek in the FEMA and Best Available Cache la Poudre River Zone AE (Floodway) and Zone AE (Flood Fringe) Floodplain Overlay Districts at the following location to wit: Section 10, Township 6 North, Range 68 West, Larimer County, Colorado.

Applicants Present: Chris Pauley, Galloway; Kevin Brazelton, United Civil; Will Welch, Representing Applicant

Ms. Kurtz introduced the project. The pipeline will originate from the south ponds on the Ladera Development property and go south through the Colorado Youth Outdoors property and outfall into Mallard Creek. A portion of the pipeline and the outfall are located within the floodway. The project will convey augmentation water. Future project plans involve installation of a pump house between the two reservoirs which will be located within the Town of Timnath. The pipe is designed to discharge two cubic feet per second into Mallard Creek. She noted that this is a Floodplain Project Review.

Mr. Pauley presented the project to the Board. This is the fifth or sixth project for the Ladera Development that has gone before the Board. He discussed that the raw water outfall needs to be discharged directly to Mallard Creek due to water rights issues.

This will be a forced main 10 to 12-inch pipe that parallels a historic drainpipe. The pipe is located within the approximately 2,500 cubic feet per second area of the Cache la Poudre River divided flow path. There is a flared end section at the outfall of the pipe. The manholes will be buried. The pump for the pipe will run on a set schedule. There is a highpoint vent in the system located within the FEMA current effective floodplain. The installation is expected later this year.

Mr. Darrow clarified that it is within the floodplain but not within the floodway. Mr. Pauley clarified that none of the floodplains are accurate with the latest Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) project update.

Mr. Darrow asked about a pending Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from CDOT for the culverts underneath Interstate 25. He asked if the CLOMR changes the divided flow path. Mr. Pauley said that the divided flow path is still there. Mr. Pauley clarified that they did not consider that project



since it was not yet finalized by a Letter of Map Revision. There was further discussion on the floodplain in this area.

Mr. Hickox asked about a slight rise at the outlet and is wondering about the addition of 2 cubic feet per second of water to Mallard Creek. He mentioned that there are cross-sections that show a rise. He wondered if there was a way to control the pump so that the extra water wasn't running during the peak event. Mr. Pauley mentioned that you could do that.

There was a discussion about the rise in the water surface elevation shown in the model. Mr. Pauley said that they would look at the model.

Motion:

Mr. Hickox moved to recommend approval to the County Engineer for the construction of a pipeline to convey augmentation water from the Ladera Development South Reservoir to Mallard Creek. With the following conditions:

The applicant revise the model and the result tables in the report to account for discharge coming into the system where it is appropriate and that the applicant add clarification about plans and models to support the no-rise certification.

Mr. Darrow seconded the motion.

Further Discussion:

Staff will review the changes.

Vote:

Mr. Hunt – Absent

Dr. Thornton – Yes

Mr. Morris – Yes

Mr. Darrow – Yes

Mr. Rounsaville – Absent

Mr. Richardson – Yes

Mr. Hickox – Yes

Motion passed [5-0], 2 absent.

2. A petition filed by the City of Fort Collins for a Floodplain Project Review for a river rehabilitation project to improve river health of the river reach by reducing encroachment, creating in-channel complexity, and enhancing riparian vegetation in the FEMA and Best Available Cache la Poudre River Zone AE (Floodway) and Zone AE (Flood Fringe) Floodplain Overlay Districts at the following location to wit: Section 34, Township 7 North, Range 68 West, Larimer County, Colorado also known as parcels 8734000925 and 8734300931.



Applicants Present: Dusty Robinson, Mary Huisenga, Ayres Associates; Michael Pierce, CoFC, Kate Rentschlar, Bernadette Kuhn, City of Fort Collins

Mr. Hickox recused himself from this item.

Ms. Kurtz introduced the project. The project is in the Arapaho Bend Natural Area in Fort Collins. The project is located almost entirely in the floodway. The project entails reduction of encroachment, expansion of instream complexity, increase in channel-floodplain interaction and enhancement of riparian vegetation and ecosystem processes. The grading and in-channel features will be upstream of the flow split.

Ms. Kuhn presented the project from the City's perspective. The goal is to update the site to provide a dynamic, climate resilient, and functioning Cache la Poudre River system. The project timeline is from August to November 2026. The construction timeline is constrained due to eagles nesting.

Mr. Robinson described the hydraulic constraints of the site. It is slightly boxed in by large features which cause high water level rises. The project mostly consists of excavating out areas of the floodplain and placing that material in the gravel pits. There are relict bridge components that will be removed. There will also be new vegetation.

Mr. Robinson mentioned that there will be small drops in the water surface elevation due to the project. This project is in a backwater zone so the drops will be a maximum of 0.3 feet per their analysis.

They are expecting some minor changes to the design as they are finalizing the channel and vegetation designs.

There was a discussion of the bars being added in the project and the hydraulics of the ponds. There was also a discussion of stream power. Mr. Robinson said that there were very minor changes in stream power because it is in a backwater zone and a low velocity zone.

Mr. Morris asked if they had made a 2D model. Mr. Robinson responded that they did.

Mr. Morris said that he could not replicate the stream power calculations. He asked if they did full hydraulics or channel for stream power. Mr. Robinson couldn't remember. Mr. Morris recommended doing channel. He thought that they might be overestimating the encroachment with the modeling assumptions made. He also said that he would expect to see more deposition in more frequent floods. He asked if they were capturing the risk as this reach was getting a higher score. Mr. Robinson asked if he meant the risk of design increasing deposition therefore increasing flood risk.

Mr. Darrow asked if sediment was moving downstream, could it decrease the capacity of the downstream Interstate 25 bridge and increase overtopping. Mr. Robinson stated that the models assume a rigid bed. He said that the scour at the bridge would clear out any deposited materials during a



large event as there is high velocity at the bridge. He also said that in an actual flood event, the berm would blow out.

Mr. Morris asked at what event they are trying to engage the floodplains. Mr. Robinson said that the east floodplain is slightly lower and they're trying to get water over there at 270 cubic feet per second. The west floodplain they're trying to get at 500 cubic feet per second or every other year. They considered the impacts of future hydrology with Glade Reservoir in operation in the future.

Mr. Morris said that if it engages at that low of flow, then he would suspect that it will get a fair amount of deposition in the channel. Mr. Robinson said that they're opening the flood conveyance significantly. He said that it will self-maintain with deposition and erosion on the floodplain.

Mr. Darrow mentioned that there must be hydraulic controls downstream. He said that he doesn't think the documentation is fully there for describing the hydraulic controls downstream.

There was a discussion about cut and fill in the project and how it is depicted in the model, including what is happening with the ponds. Mr. Darrow said that he thinks that what is being shown on the design doesn't match what's being shown in the model.

Mr. Darrow recommended adding text to the report making it clearer what the hydraulic controls on the site are and so that is in large part why these changes can be made.

Mr. Darrow said that they should show in a cross-section where they show the pond as it is based on the actual topography and then the proposed grade; then superimpose that downstream control elevation on that cross-section. He said it's the berm on the downstream side of the pond that's really controlling everything because if they can show that everything is happening below that line then it's a little clearer that the rest of this is just noise.

Dr. Thornton said they should strengthen their conclusion with several figures and further documentation in the report.

Motion:

Mr. Darrow moved to recommend approval to the County Engineer for a river rehabilitation project to improve river health of the reach by reducing encroachment, creating in-channel complexity, and enhancing riparian vegetation in the Cache la Poudre River Floodplain with the following conditions:

Figures and explanations be added to the report to further bolster the argument that downstream controls dictate water surface elevations through the project reach and to illustrate fill is occurring within the pond.

Mr. Richardson seconded the motion.

Further Discussion:



Mr. Darrow will look at the resubmittal along with staff. Wait until 100% design until submitting the revised report.

Vote:

Mr. Hunt – Absent
Dr. Thornton – Yes
Mr. Morris – Yes
Mr. Darrow – Yes
Mr. Rounsaville – Absent
Mr. Richardson – Yes
Mr. Hickox – Recused

Motion passed [4-0], 2 absent, 1 recused.

Item 5: Other Business – Upcoming Agendas

March 26

Fish Creek BDAs
Thornton Water Pipeline
Buckhorn Bridge
ABC Supply Culverts (tentative)

April 23

Boxelder Development Conditional Letter of Map Amendment (tentative)
Board Training (tentative)

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.