

Larimer County Land Stewardship Advisory Board

The mission of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.

MINUTES

Scheduled times are subject to change.

Date: 5/17/2018

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins, CO, 2nd Floor, Lake Loveland Room.

Contact: Please contact Emmy at ellisoea@co.larimer.co.us or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

Members		Staff		Guests
Ernie Marx	x	Casey Cisneros	x	
Ken Mathias	x	Gary Buffington	x	
Richard McCulloch	x	*Lew Gaiter III		
Timothy Koski	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	
		Emmy Ellison (minutes)	x	

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – called to order 6:12 p.m.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Hitch motions to approve minutes, Ken seconds, motion passed.
5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - a. Recognition and appreciation of Ken Mathias and Tim Koski for their service as Land Stewardship Advisory Board members as their terms end in June. Thank you Ken and Tim!

- b. Colorado Native Plant Society is offering a liaison, Linda Smith, for communicating with the LSAB who can provide assistance regarding rare and native plants.
- c. Larimer County wrapped up a renovation of the South Shore Campground at Carter Lake. The popular camping area was upgraded with additional electric campsites, new restrooms, resurfaced parking areas and improved boat ramp access. South Shore reopened to the public on Sunday, April 15 – Casey/Gary
 - i. Revegetation was on a 4 acre construction footprint and included soil amendments, soil preparation, and the contractor drill seeded and hydromulched.
 - ii. Member question about types of amendments. It was noted that there were two soil tests (one on native material, one on topsoil), consultant determined amendments which were applied.
 - iii. Member suggestion to next time spray only half of selected area with the amendments and determine effectiveness.
- d. Staff finished applying soil amendments, seed and hydromulch at the Soderberg & Devil's Backbone trailheads to improve post-trailhead expansion revegetation efforts – Casey
 - i. Member question about treated area sizes. It was noted that Devil's BB was a one acre construction footprint and 1/10th of that was treated, very basic soil, added sulfur.
- e. Through a State grant, noxious weed boot brush stations that match a state-wide standard have been installed at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space, Soderberg trailheads, Eagle's Nest Open Space and Hermit Park (Homestead Meadows trailhead) – Casey
 - i. Member question about how they are mounted in the ground. It was noted that the Larimer County maintenance folks ingeniously mounted them in the ground while including a catchment below the brushes.
- f. Plans for reconstruction of Forks Park and restoration of the Big Thompson River through Forks Park are finalized and construction is set for post high runoff/flows – Meegan
 - i. CDOT constructed long-awaited parking lot at Forks Park on Monday. Instream work is being done by CDOT with specialists and restoration ecologists. Between work at Forks Park, Cedar Cove, Narrows Park, Glade Park and River Bluffs OS, a total of \$5 million of restoration work has been done with a direct cost to Larimer County of \$360k.
 - ii. Working on proposal with Big Thompson Watershed Coalition at Narrows for some of the CPW money (about \$210k was awarded to them after a concrete spill in the area) that they want to apply it to an area with public access. Proposal will be for some additional upland restoration work at Narrows as well as a large portion going to work at Glade Park.
- g. In partnership with the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, and with grant funds from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Larimer County Natural Resources will conduct

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.

Public can view agenda and minutes at:

<http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/lsabminutes.htm>



vegetation management of restoration projects implemented following the 2013 flood. This two-year, grant funded effort will ensure adaptive management and ongoing success of the 47 million dollar investment in these stream and riparian restoration projects – Casey

- i. Partnered with Engineering, money came through, over next two years more than \$50k is earmarked for crews to monitor and maintain the vegetation.
- ii. Member question about possible need for hiring. It was noted that the crew is a bit larger this year (three seasonals, one FT) and will spend three weeks managing vegetation the 1st year and two weeks during the 2nd year. Will be monitoring structures as well, will create monitoring reports. Canyon re-opens May 24th.

6. UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. LSAB binder updates – Casey
 - i. Goal is for board members to have hard copies of the Noxious Weed Act, the Pest Control Act, the County Resolution concerning Pest Control & Plant Disease Control Procedures and an updated contact list reflecting new members.
 - ii. Interviews for new members scheduled for mid-June (panel will be Gary, Casey, Ernie and Lew).
- b. Natural Resources Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Overview – Meegan
 - i. Finalizing CIP this month for 2018, moving forward will finalize this time of year for following year, adjusting to new protocol. Guiding documents are the Weed Management Plan, the Open Lands Master Plan, and the Parks Master Plan. Also utilized are the adopted Open Space Management plans, the Big Thompson River Recreation and Conservation Plan, the Historic Structure Assessment, and the River Bluffs Open Space River Resiliency Plan. Discussion of CIP categories. Have to allow flexibility for unforeseen issues. Will bring to LSAB periodically over next five years when working on projects that relate to LSAB. Will be updated every year. The public process is finished, will go to boards for feedback when necessary. Have eight funding sources which has complicated the process a bit.
- c. 2018 Noxious Weed Compliance update – Casey
 - i. Compliance season is underway, began in April around Horsetooth area. So far four enforcement letters (one already abated) and thirty-four courtesy letters sent to landowners. New this year are notifications to landowners for Hoary Cress (destructive, perennial mustard, blooms early then disappears which makes it more difficult to manage). There have been forty-three site visits requested to date. One new seasonal employee splitting time - 50% Early Detection Rapid Response and 50% Compliance.
 - ii. Member question about format. It was noted that a management plan has been added to the letter this year, adopted from Weld County. Intent is to increase longer-term compliance from landowners. Once enforcement letters are sent,



landowners have ten days to notify Larimer County of an anticipated completion date when the weed issues will have been addressed.

- iii. Member question about whether there are List A plants identified that have not been managed. It was noted that there are and attempts are made to manage those areas but funding, staffing and resource limitations restrict management. Transitioning responsibility to landowners. Myrtle Spurge enforcement has been stepped up in last two years and has been effective in areas surrounding Inlet Bay at Horsetooth Reservoir.
- d. Summary of Emerald Ash Borer service proposal submission – Casey
 - i. Emerald Ash Borer confirmed in Lyons, CO recently, moving within Boulder County, approximately four miles from Larimer County, will be hardship. Larimer County’s role will be as consumer advocate by providing accurate information to residents.
 - ii. Member comment that the problem will escalate quickly and will have long-term consequences. Recommendation to get ahead of it. It was noted that Larimer County has already submitted a service proposal for supplemental funding for Emerald Ash Borer mitigation and education. Work session scheduled with Commissioners in August. Requesting approximately \$90k for three years.
 - iii. Member suggestion to purchase a tub grinder for waste wood.
 - iv. Member question about energy generation from waste wood. It was noted that a facility used to exist but has been shut down.
 - v. It is a top priority, mitigation happening at parks, 70-80 ash trees removed, replaced some with other species, wrote plan and policy for Road & Bridge, Facilities has an inventory, the Ranch has a lot of ash trees. Suggestion to revisit that with the Ranch’s new director.
- e. County Weed Management Plan and enterprise rate increase progress report – Casey
 - i. Will review in August with Commissioners, new portion added in management plan relating to priority ratings for weed violations (will likely be an Appendix item in management plan).
- f. Annual CSU/Colorado Weed Network Field Day scheduled for June 28th, 2018. Registration at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/csucolorado-weed-network-field-day-tickets-45499329720>, please register before May 25th – Casey

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Recommend extending the termination date of the Pest District another 5 years – Casey
 - i. Tim Koski moves to extend the termination date of the Pest/Weed District for five years. Ken Mathias seconds. Motion passed. Sheet circulated for signatures.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Mention of 2017 Larimer County Department of Natural Resources Annual Report. More information and the full report can be found

here: <https://www.larimer.org/spotlights/2018/05/10/2017-annual-report-celebrates-milestone-land-conservation> – Gary

- b. Group photo – will wait until new members are confirmed and in attendance.
9. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 8/16/2018 at Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins, CO, 2nd Floor, Lake Loveland Room.
10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real, personal or other property interest.
11. ADJOURN – 7:33 p.m.

