

**LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
October 11, 2016**

Bison Room, Natural Resources Administrative Office, 1800 S. County Rd 31, Loveland, CO

The mission of the Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department 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.

PAB Members in Attendance:

Chris Klaas	x	Mark DeGregorio		Stephanie Vann Dyken	
Deborah Shulman		Nick Clark	x	Steve Ambrose	x
Frank Gillespie	x	Rob Harris	x	Steve Johnson, Commissioner	
John Gaffney		Ron Kainer	x		
John Tipton	x	Russell Fruits	x		

NR Staff in Attendance:

Gary Buffington	x	Ken Brink	x
Dan Rieves	x	Mark Caughlan	x

1. REGULAR MEETING OPENING

- a. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.
- b. Motion by Rob Harris seconded by Rob Kainer to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed 8-0.
- c. Review of agenda and enclosures
 - i. Moving executive sessions to 9.5 after Director’s Report
 - ii. Moving slip fees from agenda item to action item.

2. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS – None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on the agenda - None

4. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- a. Natural Resource Events for this month: See website <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>.
- b. To sign up for Parks Advisory Board minutes go to <http://larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm> put in your email and click ‘subscribe’, then check “Parks Advisory Board” box.
- c. We had a patrol boat and several people at our float in the CSU Homecoming Parade. It was a great community engagement event.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. Funding challenges of ANS program
 - i. Ken has a meeting tomorrow with Northern Water & CPW to see what they’re going to do for 2017. STAX Tier 2 funding is no longer going to be available. It has been used to do studies and has historically funded the ANS program. ANS is a \$4 million program. They have decided to fully fund ANS programs at the 5 top most threatening lakes, which are all on CPW land. We have a proposal to cost share this program for the next year but are still seeking a solution. They told us we would have funding through June, but it now appears that we do not. They are trying to raise some money to help fund the program, ex. by

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possibly requiring stickers on trailered vessels, adding \$1 to fishing licenses, requiring stickers on hand launched vehicles, etc.

ii. Board and Staff comments:

1. Robert – It seems like boat registration would be the most logical place to get the funds, not the fisherman.
2. Dan – It’s a little more complicated. The boat fees are specified to what they can and cannot be used for. There’s just not the clarity there to use just the boat registration to provide the funds.
3. Ken – It’s also a matter of numbers. There’s only about 80,000 registered boats in Colorado. At \$10 per boat, that’s only \$800,000, and the program is \$4 million. The proposal on the fishing licenses is not to add another dollar to the old proposal, it’s to earmark one of the extra dollars already proposed for the ANS program.

b. Master Plan

- i. Today Gary, Ken & Meegan with the Bureau of Reclamation to talk about the Master Plan. They had some questions about our process for connectivity. The connectivity from West Loveland to here is about \$1 million, so we’ve got some short term things like microwave solutions, but our long term solution would be fiber coming from Loveland. So we’re trying to do \$1 million divided by 3 groups, to share the costs.
- ii. We continue to work with the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the delegated 50/50 under Title 28. In general, we land at a cost share of about 65%/35%. We’re on the 65% side. For example the HAIC cost \$5.4 million, and the Bureau put in \$186,000, and it’s on federal property. We’ve been at this for 60 years, and I think we’re one of their best partners.

iii. Board and Staff comments:

1. Steve – Where does the 50/50 come from?
2. Gary – It’s a MOU. The past director worked very hard, they went to Washington DC and was able to obtain that, which is a huge deal, because before that, we had nothing. It’s a budgeted Congressional Bill. We used to get \$200-400,000 allotments on an annual basis in the early 2000’s, but that cash flow has drastically decreased.
3. Mark – That money is available per region. We have to compete against other agencies in our region.
4. Steve – And who decides who gets the money?
5. Dan – A lot of time it depends on who has the money to match? We do a rolling 5 year scoping project so they are constantly aware of what we’d like to be working on. If they try to give you the money, you have to have the match right then to get it. The one thing that has really worked to our advantage is that we will always make the match. We have positioned ourselves to be able to take advantage of those situations.
6. Gary – For example, in 2008, the Feds came down with \$2.2 million for this region to comply buildings with ADA compliance. We had just finished our Master Plan so we were all lined up. They came to us and said they were having trouble finding people that have the funds to match, and we said we had them. We borrowed \$1.2 million from the landfill and paid it back at 0.6% interest. That allowed us to do a lot of work.

6. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Draft of Filming Policy

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- i. People keep asking to do commercial photography or filming and it was putting the managers in a difficult position because we did not have an official policy. So, what we have here is a draft version of this program.
- ii. Board and Staff comments:
 1. Russell – What’s the cut off to decide if it’s a professional venture?
 2. Anytime somebody is selling a product that is produced on our lands it is commercial. We don’t want it to be too onerous for the public or for our DMs. And if we said no, we want to have the documentation on why. So we gathered information from several different states and the main thing we used was the State of New Mexico’s process. But we also found an interesting policy about what would be a fair price. In one of the states, for \$150/year for still photography, you can get a permit and put 3 staff photographers on the permit. It seemed like a practical, inexpensive approach. It also gives the DMs the chance to suggest a better location for an event.
 3. The State of Texas also had a worksheet (last page) showing some of the things we’re going to be thinking about as we make our decision. It seemed to be a very logical and clear way to explain why an event would or would not work with our property.
- iii. This will probably end up as an addendum to our Commercial Policy & Procedure.
- iv. As we’ve done with other regulatory items, we will work with our PR person to do a press release and inform the public, go to the Commissioners, and to take an education & warning approach to people who did not know. We would see 2018 as the year that you could potentially be in violation of the process. It’s part of the growing progress, so we wanted to seek your feedback.
- v. Board and Staff comments:
 1. Frank - \$25 per ranger/\$35 truck...what is this for?
 - a. We think this would be for a really big event, like making a motion picture and they have a lot of people and are in an area where there is also public. In that event, we would have to assign staff there to monitor the activities at our cost.
 2. Russell – What if there is a wedding group of 49 people. Is there going to be a monitor there for the photographer?
 - a. Dan – The monitor is at the DM’s discretion. We have monitoring on our special events as well.
 3. Frank – What about the \$150/year for a commercial photographer?
 - a. Ken – When we looked at it, several states have decided not to consider that a commercial venture. We feel there should be a flat fee for that. We’re trying to address people who will be here 100 days a year or 3 days a year. Admittedly, we have some of the nicest photographic backdrops in the county.
 4. Dan – It is not our intention that if you have already reserved the Pavilion for your wedding, then we are not going to make you pay another \$150.
 5. DMs - What would you be comfortable with as the cost of the ranger w/ truck?
 - a. Mark - \$35-55
 6. Steve – Are you going to charge the same thing to ESPN and a church group?
 7. Ken – Our intention is to only charge people who are commercial. If someone is coming in to earn a profit from the federal property for a profit, then they will be charged.
 8. Steve – You might consider doing a graduated fee schedule.
 9. Ken – We want to standardize this, but it’s hard for us to know what they do with the material.

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10. Dan – If they want to do the car commercial that closes down the county roads, etc. then it triggers the Special Events process...or we don't charge them anything but we get the rights to the photos to use. If it's going to be mutually exclusive, then there are options. The venue has value.
- vi. Motion by Rob Harris seconded by John Tipton to recommend the Film & Photography Policy. Motion passed 8-0.
- vii. The board will be updated on this item again next year.
- b. Mark Caughlan, Horsetooth District Manager
 - i. Slip & Mooring Fees at Inlet Bay
 1. The Marina would like to increase their fees. They have 350 boats – 300 on dock, 50 on mooring. They charge a varying scale. They have about a 10 year waiting list.
 2. Glen has not increased fees since 2000. He'd like to do across the board an additional \$200/year. He has advised all of his customers coming back next year. He is limited by contract, and I think we are all in agreement that we will not increase the size of his marina. When the water is high, it feels like the right size. When it's a low water year, it's kind of tight and he's out of business early. We had hoped to deepen the marina there at some point, but that's probably not possible anytime soon.
 3. We earn about \$80-100,000 a year from him. He makes about \$1.6 million gross, and we get 5% (\$80,000). \$60,000 of that is from rental boats. He sometimes rents the same boat 3 times a day on the weekend.
 4. Motion by Rob Harris seconded by Ron Kainer to approve a flat fee increase of \$200 per slip/mooring at Inlet Bay Marina and to move this on to the county Commissioners. Motion passed 8-0.

7. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Park District updates and Parks Master Plan Implementation Progress report
 - i. Dan Rieves, Carter Lake District Manager
 1. We are still pretty busy on the weekends. The water forecast for next year should be similar to this year. We are in fall chore mode.
 2. As far as the Master Plan implementation progress, the big project that is still a holdover from 2007 is the South Shore redevelopment campground. We have decided for now not to spend the \$1 million to not put in the shower house, so we went back to planning, and if the dollars remain available, we hope to be breaking ground right after Labor Day 2017. We could roll some of the public vetting through the Master Plan process. It may come through as a project, but since there hasn't been any movement on it in over 1 year, then we invite the people closely affected to revisit it. The cost per campsite was pretty high due to the rock on the NW side, so we've asked them to adjust those sites and take the money and maybe do more sites on the southern part of the campground.
 3. We are hoping to have some good trail connectivity between Carter & Chimney Hollow.
 - ii. Mark Caughlan, Horsetooth District Manager
 1. We're also full on the weekends for camping and should be through the end of October. Even mid-week use is up. By far our busiest use is the fishermen.
 2. Sunset Magazine rated Horsetooth Reservoir as the 2nd best reservoir in the US!
 3. Horsetooth continues to get voted the 1st or 2nd best fishing reservoir in the west.
 4. The water forecast for next year is exceptional and along with that goes the 95-98% usage mid-week in the summer.

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5. The boat-in campsites are done for the year. Inlet Bay closes at the end of October.
 6. We participated in the CSU Homecoming parade.
 7. The HAIC is open to the public, the hours are 7 days a week 9am-4pm. That is the same hours as Lory SP and Boyd Lake. There are probably 20-30 people a day coming in. There are still some things to be completed. The educational displays are about 65% complete. The cost has been about \$120,000. There is a huge fishery display, a display on the history of the Colorado Big Thompson Project, what rangers do, the history of the town of Stout, geology, and more. Those will be installed the last week of January.
 8. We agreed to do a soft opening now, and do a grand opening in April.
 9. Board and Staff comments:
 - a. Steve – Could you quickly summarize your perception of this season? Red flags, surprises?
 - b. Mark - What we see is the population growth along the Front Range is greatly impacting our staff. Any mid-week day, we're almost at capacity and we do not have adequate staff to manage those things. With the growth, it's not going to get less busy. And really the wear and tear on our facilities. They were not meant to see this kind of usage. So how do we harden these facilities and how do we take care of what we have? The Inlet Bay needs to be paved, etc. It's hard to get grant money to do these projects, but we need to address them.
 - c. Steve – Do you think it's being addressed in the Master Plan?
 - d. Mark – Yes.
 - e. Dan – The county infrastructure as a whole needs to be updated. The county roads built around Carter was built for very low usage. I think it's a strain on the County Resources. Everyone in the county is feeling it.
 - f. Ken – I don't think there was hardly a week when I didn't get a text message based on our communication protocol that our staff responding to a very serious accident. It's a very big part of what the rangers do – helping people that are sick or injured. And we have a much higher training standard than a lot of agencies. We're doing the best we can to keep people well trained and prepared, but we need to take good care of our people also.
 - g. Frank – Has there been any thoughts about body cameras for the rangers?
 - h. Mark – Some of our staff have them, and we're working on vehicle cameras as well.
 - i. Dan – We're following the lead of the Sheriff. There is an enormous amount of policy regarding data collection. What we're finding is that the individuals are implementing more data collection devices to protect themselves. It is a national discussion. Remember that the cameras don't show everything.
 - j. Robert – One of the concerns I have is that there's never any follow up about what could we as bicyclists or motorcyclists learn from these accidents? To make this proactive, are there things we could be doing differently to help us live longer?
 - k. Dan – The most recent accident was right at Gate 1. Coming from East to West, right when you turn into the gate. I have concerns regarding biking on County Rd. 31. We don't approve special events on that road during summer months anymore.
- b. Bureau of Reclamation – Ken McCusker (not in attendance) – Ken Brink

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- i. We're working with the Bureau on the Master Plan and working on alternatives and are trying to nail down what is and is not allowable. But, when you see alternatives come out, you will not see any come out regarding cut & fill at Horsetooth.
- ii. We talked to a reporter from the Coloradoan because they had heard a lot of concern about a new 50 site campground at Inlet Bay, but that is not an alternative because the regulations do not allow it.
- iii. Has it been done on federal properties 10+ years ago? Yes, there are projects like that where cut & fill has been done. But it's not a viable tool for us at this time. We have informed Logan Simpson after having these conversations with the Bureau & the Army Corp of Engineers that we don't want to see any alternatives of this sort. If there are some small areas, like at Carter, where we might be able to develop a group site that the Boy Scouts, etc. could use, then that is a possibility, but there will not be anything regarding cut & fill.
- iv. Board and Staff comments:
 1. Nick – Do you know where those comments came from?
 2. Ken – I don't. We had gotten some comments regarding it at the public meetings, but we're not sure where it originated. We did get a lot of comments saying they wish there were more campsites and that they feel crowded when they're at Horsetooth. So, we have done the background and due diligence on this to see if it is an option, and it is not.
- v. Public comments:
 1. Larry Martin 4120 Kano Dr., Fort Collins, CO
 - a. Concerned about the possibility of the County adding 50 more campsites at Carter Lake and 25 at the north side of Inlet bay and 25 at the south end of Inlet Bay.
 - b. Ken – It was part of the brainstorming process.
 - c. Larry - Wasn't the big parking lot at the marina cut & fill in the past?
 - i. Gary - It was, but it was above the high water line.
 2. Patty Walchter - 4101 Minuteman Dr., Fort Collins, CO
 - a. We also heard you may be dredging the marina. What we heard is that fill would be put on the side and a 3rd row of campgrounds would be put. So that's not a thing?
 - b. Ken – There's not even an active proposal or application to dredge the marina.
 - c. Mark – It's been discussed, especially at low water to try to give the marina longer to stay in business. Every campsite you see at the reservoir was built from cut & fill. We tripled the size of the Inlet Bay parking lot. It's not unusual or unique for us to do that, but the rules of engagement have changed with the Army Corp. We used the Army Reserves to cut & fill and create the road. The only caveat was that there could not be any net loss of storage. And every time we build above, we were always on the plus side of that. They did a complete archeological studies to find where we could or could not take fill from. We've done some really great fish rehabilitation studies. We take advantages of the opportunities when the reservoir is down.
 - d. Ken – I think nationally, rules & regulations are what they are but in some areas there is discretion. After Hurricane Katrina, the Army Corp of Engineers has become far stricter and more detail oriented.
 3. Gary – What are your concerns about more campsites?
 - a. Lawrence Lay 2101 Minuteman Drive, Fort Collins, CO

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really want to make sure that the proverbial family of 4 can afford to come camping. We want our parks to be affordable to the general public.

Break at 7:10pm

8. Back in order at 7:15pm
 - a. Chair moves that the Board enter into 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 or person property interest [or relevant provision]. Motion was seconded and approved 8-0. The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:15pm.

9. Executive Session was ended at 8:20pm.

10. Dates to note:
 - a. PAB Meeting & Master Plan - November 9, 5:30-8:30pm @ Lake Estes Room, 200 W. Oak St.
 - b. Tech Advisory Committee – October 28th
 - c. There are 2 public meetings coming, it would be great if folks could sign up and at least 3 attend each
 - i. November 16 – 5-7pm at the Chilson Center in Loveland– Chris, Russell
 - ii. November 17 – 5-7pm at the Hearing Room, 200 W. Oak St. in Ft. Collins – Frank
 - d. This is not the federal requirement to have public meetings for this phase of the process, but we’re airing on the side of more public involvement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Butler

APPROVED:

Russ Fruits, Chair

**Next regular meeting [if needed]: November 9,
Lake Estes Rm, 3rd Fl, Courthouse Office Bldg,
200 W Oak, Fort Collins, CO**

Public can view agenda and minutes at
http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/parks_advisory_board.cfm
