



OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 24, 2015

5:00- 8:00 PM

Civic Center Municipal Bldg • Council Chambers • 500 E 3rd St., Loveland CO

The mission of the Larimer County Open Lands Program is to preserve and protect significant open space, natural areas, wildlife habitat, and develop parks and trails for present and future generations. These open lands provide opportunities for leisure, human renewal and protection of our natural and cultural resources.

Members Present

Paul Alaback	Town of Berthoud
Gerry Horak	City of Fort Collins
Pete Kelly	At-large
David Marvin	At-large
Ward Nelson	Town of Estes Park
Carl Sorrentino	At-large
Mary Banken	At large
Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission

Staff Present

Alex Castino, Land Agent
Chris Fleming, Open Space Operations Manager
Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager
Sandy Werkmeister, Department Specialist
Teddy Parker-Renga, Community Relations Specialist
Meegan Flenniken, Resource Program Manager
Timothy Meyer, Land Agent
Charlie Johnson, Senior Land Agent

Members Absent

Suzan Fritchel	At-large
Jason Brothers	At-large
Hugh McKean	City of Loveland
Trudy Haines	At-large

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments.

3. AGENDA REVIEW – no changes

4. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Kerri - Donations to the Friends of Larimer County Parks and Open Lands can now be made whenever a Larimer County camping reservation is being processed at larimercamping.com or reserveamerica.com. The money collected will be given directly to "Friends" to help with specific needs of our parks and open spaces. So please pass the word of this great opportunity to donate to such a worthy cause.
- b. Meegan - Bison Welcome Home ceremony will be Sunday, November 1, with events during the day. You will need to RSVP if you wish to attend the bus tour portion of the day. You may do so at naturetracker.fcgov.com, or contact Meegan Flenniken at mflenniken@larimer.org. She has a few spots saved for us. See invitation for details. There will be a close in portion of the ceremony at the Foothills campus and then the bus ride. Private vehicles are not allowed. Teddy reminded the Board that all proceeds from the sales of Prairie Thunder Imperial Brown Ale at Pateros Creek Brewery, 242 N. College Ave support the bison project.
 - The full brochure about the Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd -- attached separately
- c. The annual Regional Open Space Boards meeting will be November 18 at 5:00 PM in the Cherry Room of the Chilson Center in Loveland this year. RSVP's are due to Sandy by November 9.
- d. Visitor Services Manager position interviews were delayed due to some applicant schedule conflicts. This position oversees our District Managers, including Chris and Travis.
- e. Many staff and Dave Marvin from OLAB attended the annual COSA conference in Snowmass 9/14-16. There were almost 250 in attendance. Dave added that he found it most educational and his biggest take away was the tremendous passion the people have for what they do.
- f. Nature's Harvest Fest was 9/12 at Gardens on Spring Creek. It is the first year of this combined event of

the Birding Fair and the Harvest Festival. Over 1,200 people attended.

Carl Sorrentino commented that the first birding fair at Fossil Creek Reservoir was exactly 10 years ago today. He shared his remorse that it has been swallowed up by a more commercial event, and that it isn't explicitly free, even to kids. While he understands the need to change the festival to attract crowds, he made a specific request to staff that the activity at our booth be nature related. This year it was building a paper kazoo and a paper tambourine.

- g. The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) selected Larimer County's "Our Open Space Story" video as the national NATOA award. Over 300 cities and counties from around the country submitted to this competition. The video was the hand drawn sketch by Karina Mullen, videoed by Cable 14, and scripted by former employee Rob Novak. We will do a presentation with the Commissioners when the award arrives.
- h. The Colorado Water Conservation Board met on 9/17 to award grants. Our request of \$178,500 to pilot the Alternative Transfer Mechanism for irrigated farmland and water projects.
 - i. We submitted a GOCO open space grant. A final decision will be made December 10. A tour of the related property may be available in October.
 - j. Our Volunteer Program (thanks to Pam Mayhew) received almost \$3,000 from Comcast as part of Comcast Cares day. In addition they participated in some volunteer trail building and a kids hike!
- k. The Big Thompson Recreation and Conservation Assessment was adopted by the Planning Commission on September 16. This was the last required adoption.
- l. We passed on to you a public resiliency survey that will assist the county in a variety of planning efforts surrounding emergency services and hazard mitigation. If you haven't taken it yet, click below:
<http://www.larimerhmp2016.com/home/surveys/>
- m. River's Edge Natural Area Grand ReOpening today!
- n. Open Space Operations District Reports – no questions
- o. Sales Tax Report from prior month
- p. On August 19 Charlie closed on the Deter's Trail easement, a short but important link to the Poudre River Trail project.
- q. Carl and Teddy shared that the birding tour on the Three Bells Conservation Easement was a great success. Charlie added that the work we have done to remove the Russian Olives is incredible and a positive change to the character of the corridor and river.
- r. Sandy reported there were 11 applicants for Small Grants for Community Partnering and she distributed the applications to the committee (Carl, Mary & Dave.) Zac will follow up with score sheets next week.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Carl Sorrentino and second by Mary Banken to approve the July 23, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted in this month's packet. Motion carried unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION & UPDATES

- a. Communications planning – Teddy
Presentation is included with minutes.
Board Feedback –
 - There isn't enough about promoting conservation. Teddy agreed and will incorporate as he continues to work on the plan.
- b. 20th anniversary of the County's Open Lands Program and Help Preserve Open Spaces tax dollars is in 2016. Teddy introduced ideas in the works to celebrate.
Board Feedback –
 - Every survey of citizens puts conservation at the top of why they support the open space tax. Include things that have been accomplished in the conservation area, and/or how we have leveraged other conservation efforts.
 - More messaging about the benefits of nature, especially with kids...
 - The logo is not accurate, as the 20 years is about the tax not open space in general. Teddy responded we are trying to get beyond the nuts and bolts of the tax, and more into the values obtained from it, and we will keep working on it.
- c. Open Lands Board By-Laws
For the benefit of new board members, Kerri recapped that we updated our 2008 bylaws and the Board approved and adopted those changes at the June meeting. At that meeting the Board also had more suggestions, which Sandy is presenting to the Board tonight.

Discussion –

Regarding --VI. MEETINGS--the County Attorney advised us that a member of a public body may appear by telephone, she asks that this occur as a matter of necessity and not as a matter of routine. That is not in the bylaws, and would be up to the department to enforce if it becomes a problem.

The Colorado Open Meetings law defines a meeting as "any kind of gathering, convened to discuss public business, in person, by telephone, electronically, or by other means of communication." The Board discussed the use of "electronic" in the context and agreed that it refers to more of a webinar type format that anyone could attend and participate.

Sandy summarized that everyone (board members, staff and public attendees) need to be able to hold a discussion and have access to any materials being presented.

7. ACTION ITEMS

a. Open Lands Advisory Board By-laws update and adoption

Motion by Gerry and second by Mary Banken to adopt the Open Lands Advisory Board Bylaws as presented on 9/24/15. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Seven Spruces CE Final Review

Motion by Gerry Horak to recommend to the Board of County of Commissioners that we accept the conservation easement on the piece of property known as Seven Spruces from Legacy Land Trust. Second by Paul Alaback. Motion carried unanimously.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION -- 6:05 p.m. -- Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6- 402 (4)(a) for discussion regarding the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real, personal, or other property interest, motion by Gerry Horak and second by Mary Banken to move into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.