



# OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, November 18, 2015**

5:00- 8:00 PM

City of Loveland Chilson Senior Center • Cherry Room • 700 E 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

<b>Members Present</b>	
Paul Alaback	Town of Berthoud
Mary Banken	At-large
Jason Brothers	At-large
Suzan Fritchel	At-large
Pete Kelly	At-large
David Marvin	At-large
Ward Nelson	Town of Estes Park
Carl Sorrentino	At-large

<b>Staff Present</b>
Gary Buffington, Natural Resources Director
Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager
Charlie Johnson, Senior Land Agent
Alex Castina, Land Agent
Meegan Flenniken, Resource Program Manager
Sandy Werkmeister, Department Specialist
Zac Wiebe, Fund Development/Special Projects

<b>Members Absent</b>	
Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission
Hugh McKean	City of Loveland
Gerry Horak	City of Fort Collins
Trudy Haines	At-large

**1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS /**

Suzan Fritchel called the meeting to order.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**3. AGENDA REVIEW – No changes**

**4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Carl Sorrentino and second by Ward Nelson to approve the October 22, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted in this month’s packet. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Ten bison were released as part of the Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd at Red Mountain Open Space/Soapstone Prairie Natural Area to the excitement of about 400 spectators November 1. The board discussed the popularity of the event, encouraging staff to use it as a spring board to talk about the value of conserving land (for many animals), scheduling tour events, etc. Meegan reported we are helping CSU with soliciting donors by providing tours to them. The groups have been diverse and coming from as far away as New York so far.
- b. Joel Wykoff, LCDNR trails supervisor, retired on October 30th after working 21 years for Larimer County, 15 of those as the trails supervisor under Meegan. During his tenure as the trails supervisor, Joel helped lay out and construct over 50 miles of new trails on our open space and parklands and led the charge on maintaining the over 83 miles of trail in our current system. Happy Trails Joel! Our new trails supervisor, Joel Schwab, has worked as LCDNR Trails Technician II for 4 years and comes to LC with over 8 years of professional trails experience.
- c. Zac is working on a grant application to Overland Mountain Bike Club to help fund trail construction at Devil’s Backbone Open Space
- d. Small Grants site visits are completed. A full report will follow later.
- e. A site visit to Fossil Creek is planned for 12/15 330-430 to walk the site and continue discussions about a potential future office and nature center building. We will be joined by the Fort Collins Land Conservation Board and Fort Collins staff. Please RSVP with Sandy.

- f. Jeffrey helped organize the Northern Bike and Ped Conference. It was the second annual conference - a success with over 140 people in attendance. The Governor and Shailen Bhatt, CDOT Director, addressed the audience and expressed support for more trails and pedestrian infrastructure. A walking audit was conducted around the University of Northern Colorado campus and the economic and health benefits of an active lifestyle were highlighted. Jeffrey represents our department on the NOCO Bike and Ped Collaborative and helped orchestrate this second annual conference!
- g. Our annual department calendar is complete and with the printer. Expect one in the mail soon.
- h. Plans for the 20th anniversary celebration continue to progress. Staff finalized the 20th anniversary T-shirt – calling Horsetooth Mountain “our warm-up gig.”
- i. The joint application between us, Fort Collins, Loveland and Wellington for the GOCO Inspire Initiative was funded! We will receive \$50,000 for an 18-month planning effort to determine how best to connect kids to nature. It is expected to kickoff Spring of 2016, with a report back to the Board the following year.
- j. School field trips are in full swing and will wrap up mid-November.
- k. Zach Schierl hosted two astrophotography workshops at Devil's Backbone with full attendance (and waiting lists) and an article in the Reporter-Herald. Having a seasonal who is an expert in astronomy and geology is a real asset.
- l. Chris and Travis and company working on funding/grant opportunities for CPR training equipment purchases
- m. We have acquired the fore mentioned CPR training equipment.
- n. Open Space Operations District Reports – comments were “great photos!”
- o. Sales Tax Report from prior month

## 6. DISCUSSION & UPDATES

- a. Small Grants for Community Partnering presentation & committee recommendation. Zac first recognized the Small Grants committee – Mary Banken, Dave Marvin and Carl Sorrentino. For this grant cycle we received 12 applications, 7 of which are repeat applicants. The distribution across the county is good. For the first time, the committee is recommending every application for a grand total of \$20,748.00. Zac presented details of each project (presentation attached), explaining the contingency attached to two of them. There was active discussion among the Board around each project, and particularly regarding the pond weeds project. Paul Alaback wanted assurance that they are obtaining expert advice regarding their ongoing work on this problematic lake. Zac responded that a consultant they hired provided a statement regarding this latest remedy – that keeping these particular weeds out should be sustainable.
- b. Mary brought up the idea of reviewing the amount of the grants and there was agreement from several. There was a suggestion to tie it in with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Zac confirmed that we are planning to revamp the program in 2016.

## 7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Motion by Carl Sorrentino and second by Ward Nelson to approve the Small Grants for Community Partnering committee recommendations to fund each applicant for a grand total of \$20,748. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Charlie Johnson presented the 188 acre Luxor LLC/Beierwaltes property in southwest Loveland that the City of Loveland has under contract. It is a really strong project, meeting ALL of the conservation values. It is a 3 million dollar project. Staff recommendation is to partner with Loveland at \$375,000. Loveland will be applying for a GOCO grant and if they receive that, we will serve as the conservation easement on the property. Motion by Paul Alaback with second by Mary Banken to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners contributing \$375,000 toward the purchase of the Luxor LLC/Beierwaltes property by the City of Loveland and holding any conservation easements required by GOCO. Motion carried unanimously.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 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 the Board moved into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m.

9. ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.





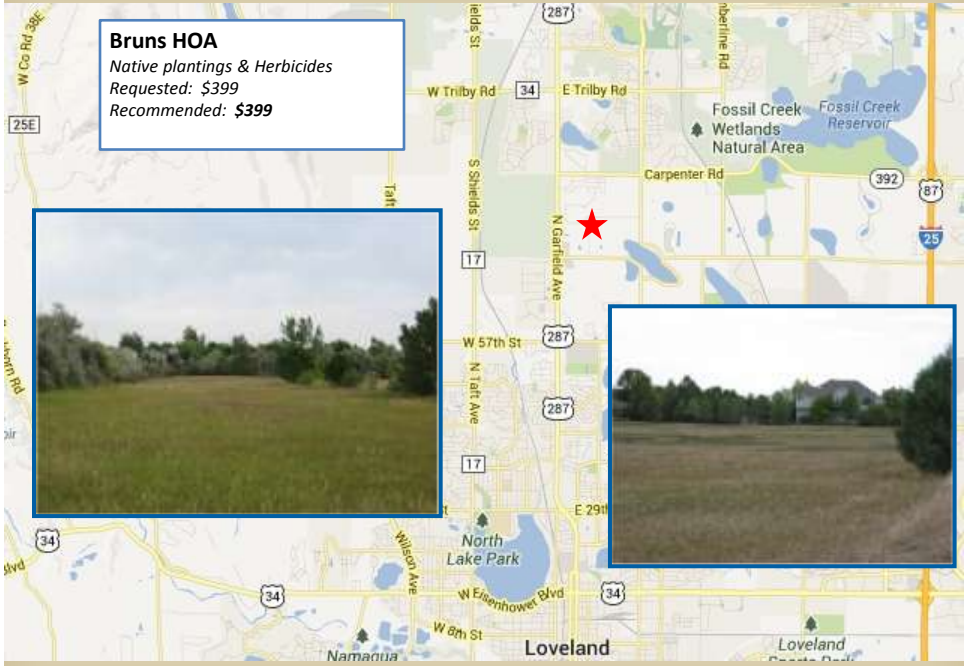


**Bird Conservancy of the Rockies\***  
Colorado Bluebird Project  
Requested: \$1,587  
Recommended: **\$1,587**  
*\*contingent on approved location*



**Devil's Backbone Open Space**



**Bruns HOA**  
Native plantings & Herbicides  
Requested: \$399  
Recommended: **\$399**



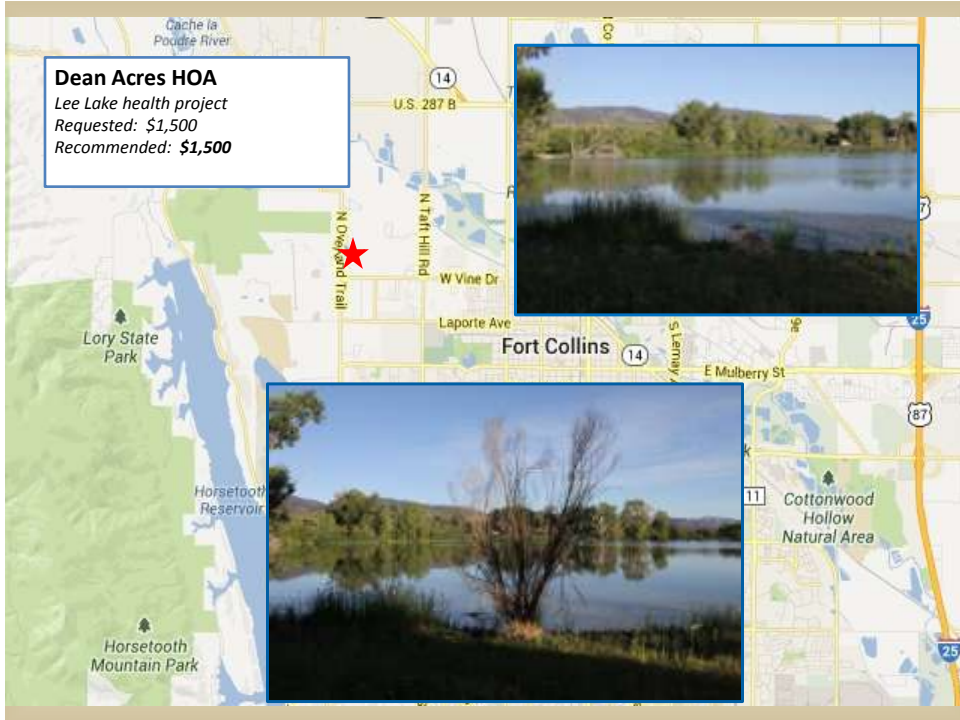


**Colorado Foundation for Agriculture**  
*Understanding Water workbooks for Poudre School District*  
 Requested: \$2,000  
 Recommended: \$2,000

**Colorado Youth Outdoors**  
*Interpretive signs*  
 Requested: \$2,000  
 Recommended: \$2,000

**Swift Ponds**

**Dean Acres HOA**  
Lee Lake health project  
Requested: \$1,500  
Recommended: **\$1,500**





The map shows the project location in Fort Collins, Colorado, near the intersection of N Overland Trail and N Tart Hill Rd. Key landmarks include Lory State Park, Horsetooth Reservoir, and Cottonwood Hollow Natural Area. Major roads shown are U.S. 287 B, Laporte Ave, E Mulberry St, and I-25. The project location is marked with a red star.

**Estes Valley Community Garden**  
Irrigation system  
Requested: \$1,372  
Recommended: **\$,1372**



The map shows the project location in the Estes Valley area, near Loveland and Berthoud. Key landmarks include Crystal Lakes, Red Feather, and Roosevelt National Forest. Major roads shown are I-70, I-25, and US-26. The project location is marked with a red star.

**Grayhawk Knolls HOA**  
*Community Trail*  
*Requested: \$1,890*  
*Recommended: \$1,890*



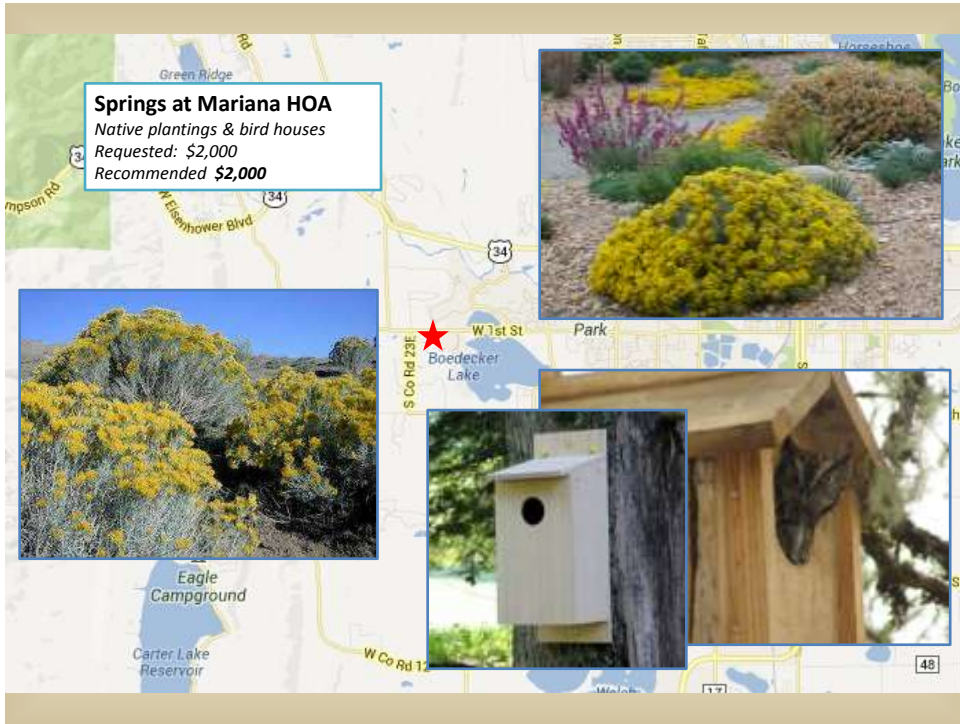
**Kate Wilkins - CSU**  
*Bison Research*  
*Requested: \$2,000*  
*Recommended: \$2,000*









**The Growing Project**  
*Educational Garden – Teens for Food Justice*  
Requested: \$2,000  
Recommended: \$2,000

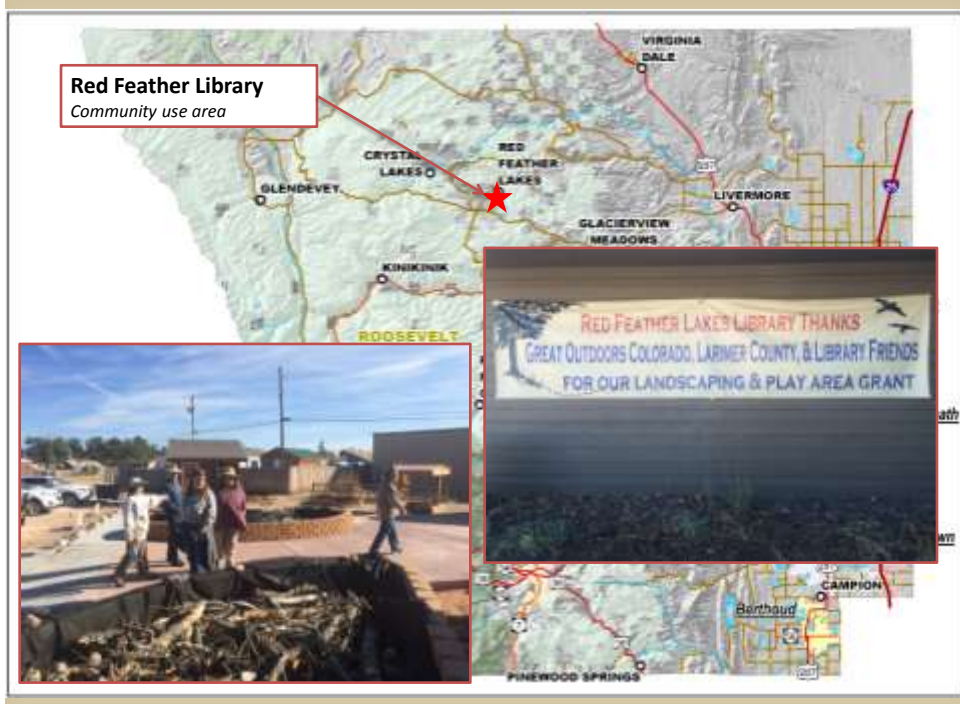
**Soaring Eagle Ecology Center**  
*Observatory*  
Requested: \$2,000  
Recommended: \$2,000





**Springs at Mariana HOA**  
Native plantings & bird houses  
Requested: \$2,000  
Recommended \$2,000



Map labels include: Green Ridge, Eisenhower Blvd, W 1st St, Boedecker Lake, Eagle Campground, Carter Lake Reservoir, W Co Rd 17, and W Co Rd 29E.



**Red Feather Library**  
Community use area



Map labels include: VIRGINIA DALE, CRYSTAL LAKES, RED FEATHER LAKES, GLENDEVEY, KINIKINIK, GLACIERVIEW MEADOWS, LIVERMORE, ROOSEVELT, Berthoud, CAMPION, and PINWOOD SPRINGS.