



# OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 26, 2016

5:00- 8:00 PM

Courthouse Offices Building • 200 W Oak, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Fort Collins • Jewell Lake Room (495)

*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>	
Jeff Hindman	Town of Berthoud
Jason Brothers	At-large
Trudy Haines	At-large
Gerry Horak	City of Fort Collins
Pete Kelly	At-large
David Marvin	At-large
Ward Nelson	Town of Estes Park
Carl Sorrentino	At-large
Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission
<b>Members Absent</b>	
Hugh McKean	City of Loveland
Suzan Fritchel	At-large
Mary Banken	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
Travis Rollins, Open Space Operations Manager

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

Jeff Hindman is a newly re-elected trustee from Berthoud and will serve on the Board this year.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

### 3. AGENDA REVIEW

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

Motion by Carl Sorrentino and second by Dave Marvin to approve the *April 28, 2016 meeting minutes* as submitted in this month's packet. Motion carried unanimously.

### 5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Passport Program will kick off at the end of May. Commissioner Donnelly will lead a family passport hike at the Devil's Backbone on June 3 at 8:30am. Please sign up at [www.larimer.org/nrregistration](http://www.larimer.org/nrregistration). Kerri encouraged Board members or family to attend if possible. The Passport Program is 16 posts on eight different open spaces (one easy and one more difficult). If you do eight you receive a collapsible water bottle, for 12 you receive a t-shirt and if you complete all 16 you receive those prizes plus your name is put in the drawing for grand prizes. Passport booklets are available in all trail kiosks.
- b. [2015 Annual Reports](#) are out and Board members all received one in the mail.
- c. Landowner packets were recently updated. Alex Castino passed around a completed packet for the Board to see.
- d. Implemented fire scar restoration project with 22 volunteers assisting 7 staff members at Hermit Park Open Space. Treated 60 fire scars and revegetated the meadow across from the pavilion.
- e. Staff continue to work on water sharing agreement options as part of the Colorado Water Conservation Board grant. Multiple meetings with municipal water providers, as well as Northern Water continue to move this discussion further. They expect to receive some proposals soon.
- f. Awarded \$60,000 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to remove Russian-olive and tamarisk trees from flood damaged sites in the Big Thompson Watershed on City of Loveland Natural Areas.

- g. [Bison calves](#) - 2 born so far as part of the Laramie Foothills Conservation Herd on Red Mountain and Soapstone. The calves will be up there for about 2 years, until they are weaned and then sent to other conservation herds in the nation.
- h. The Hidden Valley Trail at the Devil’s Backbone is very close to done. On the weekend it opens, Overland Mountain Bike club will have a booth at the trailhead to help educate the public of the change in use. The Wild Loop Trail is hiking only. Biking and horses are moved to the new trail.
- i. The Parks Master Plan stakeholder kick-off meeting is set for June 1st. The process will take about 10 months. We are partnering with the Ranch as they update their master plan to potentially have joint meetings for cost savings and reaching an expanded audience. Public process will include stakeholder interviews and regular working meetings of the Parks Advisory Board.
- j. The Colorado Conservation Exchange stems out of CSU, and is now a non-profit group of people trying to figure out ways to get money funded from utilities or downstream water users to fund upstream land stewardship activities. Northern Water and the CSFS are partnering to treat ~60-80 acres of forest on Ramsay-Shockey Open Space and the Pinewood State Land Board parcel as a pilot project for the exchange which seeks to create a market for stewardship on public/private lands that benefit downstream end users.
- k. City of Fort Collins Natural Areas is updating the Fossil Creek Area management plan which includes all city natural areas within the Fossil Creek basin, starting at the west with Cathy Fromme Prairie all the way east to Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area. Larimer County Natural Resources is a 50% owner of Fossil Creek Reservoir.
- l. Soderberg trailhead redesign Phase I is complete. The area was redesigned for safety and improved traffic flow by moving 7 horse trailer parking spots away from regular parking, to an adjacent area. Phase II will add 8 new standard parking spots within the existing parking footprint, providing a total of 37 parking spots at the trailhead.
- m. Kerri mentioned that we may be in touch with appointed members about how we are to send confidential email to each town/city. Ward reported that Estes Park uses “deliberative.”
- n. Open Space Operations District Report – Trudy wondered if we charge for search & rescue services. The response was no, that it is subsidized by hunting & fishing licenses. If medical services are called/used, those are charged to the patient.
- o. Sales Tax Report from prior month
- p. 2015-2018 CapDev&Acq Summary 05-26-16
- q. Natural Resources [events and registration](#) and [NR News](#)

6. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Alex presented on the 73 acre Ward Trust Property. Loveland is asking us to hold the easement and partner with them financially. The appraisal is 2.657 million, down from the preliminary appraisal of 2.75 million. The Board had discussed a partnership gift of \$250,000 at the time of preliminary appraisal. Motion by Trudy Haines to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) that we hold the conservation easement on the Ward Trust property being acquired by Loveland Natural Areas through a GOCO grant and that we give them \$250,000 toward the acquisition. Second by Dave Marvin. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Alex presented on the 34-acre Orr Property, a part of the GOCO funded Poudre River Trail partnership, for which we have been asked to co-hold third party conservation easements with the Town of Windsor for the City of Greeley. Motion by Pete Kelley and second by Trudy Haines to recommend to the BOCC that we co-hold the third party conservation easement with the Town of Windsor on the Orr property. Motion carried unanimously.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. The group wanting a large off-leash dog park have sent in a proposal for the County and City of Fort Collins to consider. The department has not reviewed the proposal in detail yet.

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 6:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.