



OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 23, 2016

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	
Mary Banken	At-large
Jason Brothers	At-large
Suzan Fritchel	At-large
Trudy Haines	At-large
Hugh McKean	City of Loveland
Ward Nelson	Town of Estes Park
Carl Sorrentino	At-large
Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission

Members Absent	
Pete Kelly	At-large
Gerry Horak	City of Fort Collins
Jeff Hindman	Town of Berthoud
David Marvin	At-large

Staff Present
Gary Buffington, Natural Resources Director
Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager
Charlie Johnson, Senior Land Agent
Tim Meyer, Land Agent
Alex Castina, Land Agent
Meegan Flenniken, Resource Program Manager
Sandy Werkmeister, Department Specialist
Steve Gibson, Open Space Operations Manager
Chris Fleming, Open Space Operations Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Steve Gibson introduced himself in his new capacity as manager for the Red Mountain District. Travis Rollins is moving to the Resource Specialist position vacated by Charles Gindler retirement.

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 *May 26, 2016 meeting minutes* as submitted in this month’s packet. Motion carried unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The [Passport to Your Open Spaces](#) launched May 31. It has received lots of positive feedback. More than 2,000 were distributed in the first week alone, prompting a second printing. Very popular, and a couple of great articles in the local papers. We’ve already had 20 turned in for prizes.
- b. Staff have participated in numerous Commissioner Citizen Outreach meetings around the County, touting the many activities and things to do this summer on our parks and open spaces.
- c. The Berthoud Town Council voted on Tuesday June 14 to contribute \$100,000 towards the acquisition of the Malchow farm property. Thank you Berthoud!!
- d. On June 13, the GOCO board awarded a \$4 million grant to Larimer County, in partnership with Ft. Collins Natural Areas, for four properties (three by us) in the Foothills/Devils Backbone/Horsetooth area. This is in addition to the million dollars we already received last year for properties in this area.
- e. Preparing application to the [International Dark-Sky Association](#) to designate Red Mountain Open Space and Soapstone as Dark Sky Parks
- f. Soderberg horse trailer parking post-construction revegetation was completed May 13.

- g. Teddy and Sandy met with IT department to discuss Natural Resources website overhaul, to be done in conjunction with new County website slated for early 2017.
- h. Started initial branding of new trail conditions webpage, to be called NoCo Trail Report.
- i. Staff met with City of Fort Collins Natural Areas and Squarei Technologies about Offero, the generic name for the City’s Nature Tracker. It will allow us to manage volunteers much easier.
- j. LC101 is a program offered by the County each year on things every citizen might want to know about the County. This year Teddy, Gary and Ken represented our department.
- k. Completed school field trips for the spring season - 11 trips for 550 students.
- l. Zac Wiebe will be moving into Meegan Flenniken’s program, filling Jeffrey Boring’s vacated position of Resource Specialist II. Zac has been with the department for 7 years and we are happy to be keeping him in the organization in a new capacity.
- m. Open Space Operations District Reports –
 - Steve Gibson highlighted that the grazing leases are all completed and they were also finally able to get the trespassing cattle at Red Mountain out. Rangers were involved in several rescues at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space this past month. Release of the cutthroat trout at the northwest corner of Red Mountain Open Space is on track.
 - Chris Fleming highlighted that the new Hidden Valley Trail is open and it receiving rave reviews from the mountain bikers, but also some confusion and some line-of-site concerns on the current separation of uses. Stay tuned for changes.
- n. Sales Tax Report – no questions
- o. COSA is September 12, 13 & 14 in Estes Park this year. Registration will be kicked off sometime in July.

6. DISCUSSION & UPDATES

- a. Jeff Drager, Project Manager for the Windy Gap Firing Project at Northern Water presented an update on the project, including some background about the CBT Project for the benefit of new Board members. Presentation attached. Direct any questions on the project to Jeff Drager at 970-622-2333 or jdrager@northernwater.org
 - Kerri responded to the Board that our process will be about a year long management planning process followed by about a year to build trails, trailheads, parking lots, things like that. We will be in close connection with Northern on timing. Some overlap may be able to occur toward the end of Northern’s construction window.
 - Jeff responded to the Board that they are not anticipating a 1041 permitting process with Larimer County, relying on permits that were obtained earlier in the process (12-15 years ago.)

Size comparison of the reservoirs (when full):

Carter Lake	112,000 acre-feet	1,100 surface acres	maximum depth of 180 feet
Chimney Hollow <i>anticipated</i>	90,000 acre-feet	740 surface acres	<i>anticipated</i> max depth of 260 feet
Pinewood	2,181 acre-feet	97 surface acres	maximum depth of 24 feet
Flatiron	760 acre-feet	47 surface acres	maximum depth of 18 feet
Horsetooth	156,000 acre-feet	1,900 surface acres	maximum depth of 180 feet

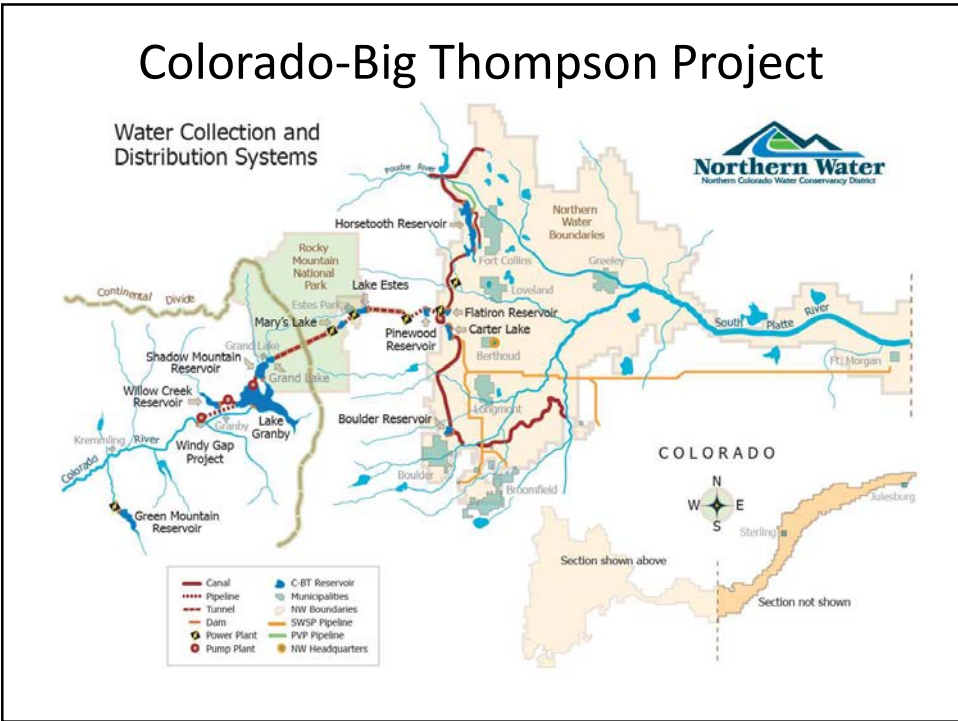
7. BREAK – celebration for outgoing board member – Mary Banken

Mary said it has been an honor to serve, an informative and enriching opportunity to learn how Larimer County does business. Mary was presented with a signed certificate and framed photo of Hermit Park Open Space.

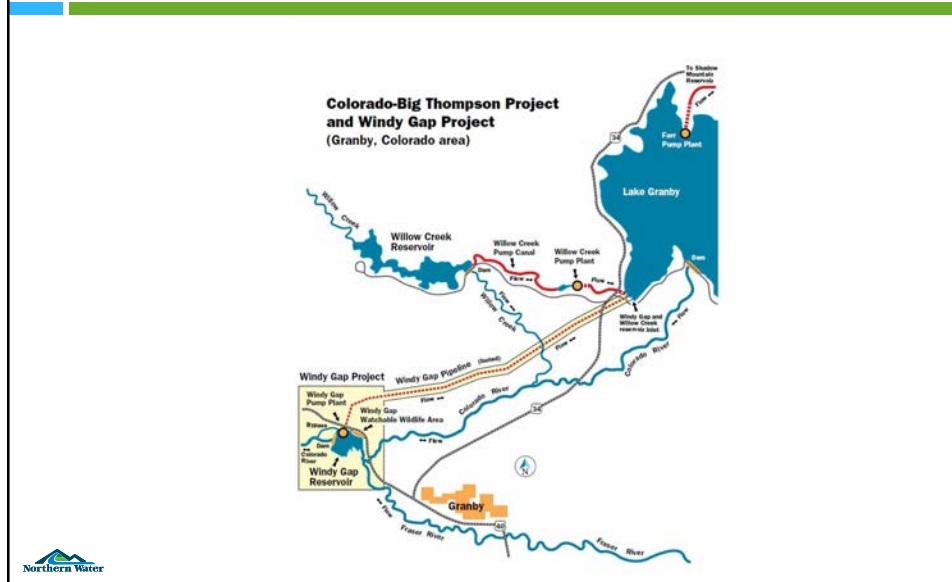
8. OTHER BUSINESS - None

9. 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 , motion by Suzan Fritchel to move into Executive Session. Second by Ward Nelson. Motion carried unanimously. The Board moved into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m

10. ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



Windy Gap Project



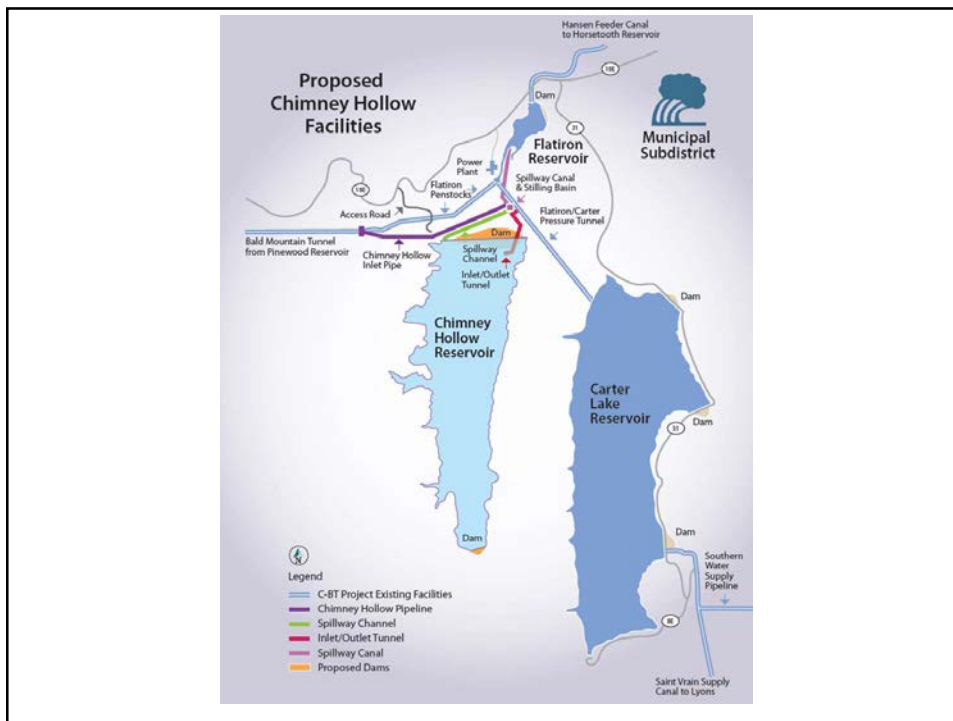
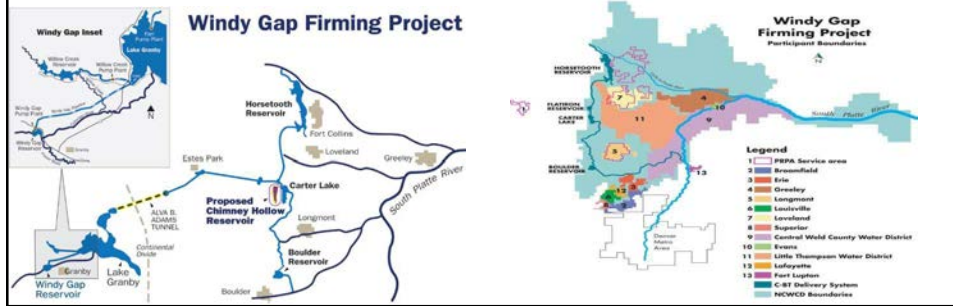
Windy Gap Project

- Built 1985; 1 reservoir, 1 pumping plant and pipeline
- Makes use of “unused capacity” in the C-BT Project
- Reliable annual yield: ZERO
 - Junior water right, lack of storage
 - Original plan called for terminal storage by individual participants



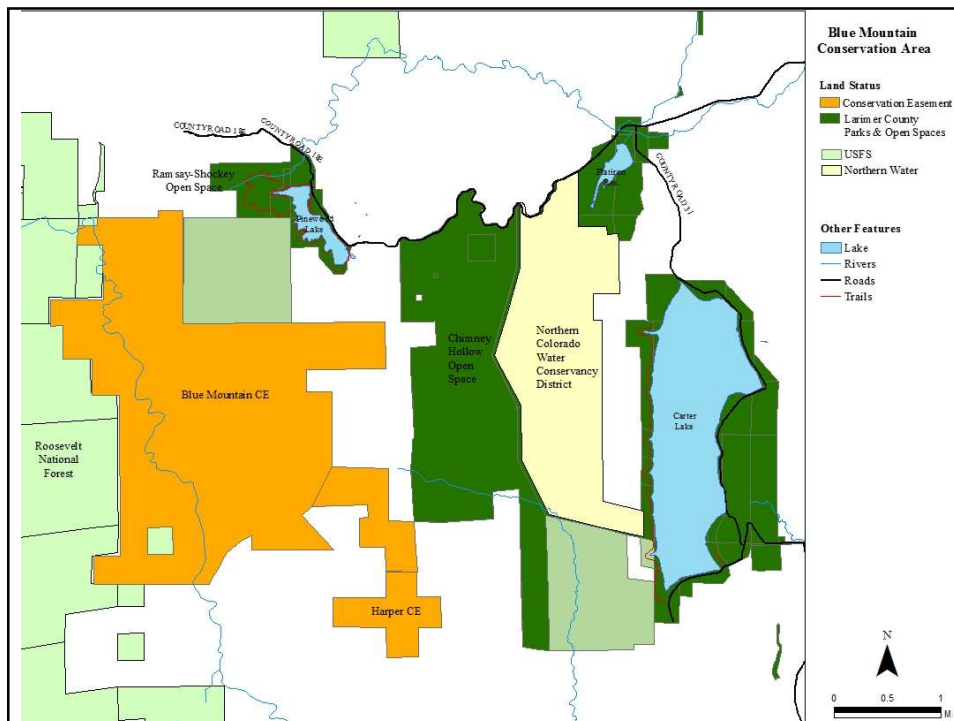
Windy Gap Firing Project

- Provides dedicated storage to improve reliability of the existing Windy Gap Project for 13 participants
- Nearing completion of permitting process after 10 years
- Negotiated agreements with local agencies, landowners and conservation groups



Chimney Hollow Partnership

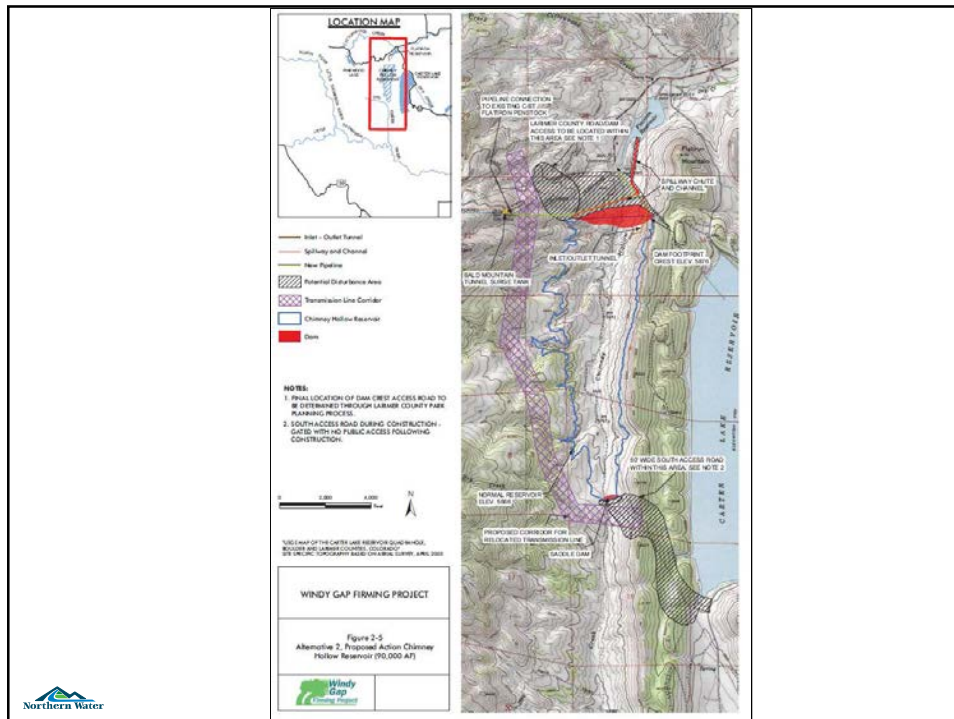
- 3,400 acres owned by Hewlett-Packard as future employee recreation site
- Purchased in partnership between Larimer County (1800 ac as open space) and NCWCD (1600 ac as future reservoir site) in 2004.



Chimney Hollow Partnership

- IGA in place for site planning/development and future management that stipulates:
 - Lease to Larimer County to manage future reservoir recreation;
 - Day-use only;
 - Water quality assurances
 - Non-motorized boating (except small electric motors);
 - Joint development of property mgmt plan
 - Joint development of future access

- Current management activities include forest stewardship, weed management, guided public tours.
- Management Plan – future public access.



Current Status

Milestones Completed:

- Draft EIS (August 2008)
- Biological Opinion for ESA Compliance (Feb 2010)
- Colorado Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan (June 2011)
- Colorado Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Plan (June 2011)
- Final EIS (November 2011)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Report (March 2012)
- I041 Permit from Grand County (Dec 2012), includes:
 - IGA with Grand County
 - Windy Gap Reservoir Bypass Funding Agreement
 - Learning By Doing Agreement
 - Grand Lake Clarity MOU with Grand County (June 2012) – still needs Reclamation approval
- Reclamation:
 - Conveyance Contract
 - Record of Decision
- Corps of Engineers:
 - CDPHE 401 certification

Remaining Milestones:

- Corps of Engineers 404 Permit
 - Permits Anticipated in 2016
 - Design Begins July 2016
 - Power Line Relocation: 2017
 - Begin Construction: 2018?

