NORTHERN COLORADO REGIONAL OPEN SPACE MEETING
Agricultural Conservation
5:00 - 7:45 pm

1. Dinner - networking
2. Regional Meeting begins
3. Welcome and Introductions
4. Agency Highlight Reports (on 2016 use of sales tax)
   a. Thank you to: Towns of Berthoud, Windsor and Timnath and Cities of Loveland and Fort Collins, as well as Larimer County for their report presentation (attached when applicable.)
5. Agricultural Conservation Discussion & Breakouts (presentations and notes attached)
6. Wrap up and transition to separate board meetings (Loveland, Fort Collins & Larimer County)

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
9:00-9:15 PM

Members Present
Jason Brothers At-large
Trudy Haines At-large
Jeff Hindman Town of Berthoud
Pete Kelly At-large
David Marvin At-large
Ward Nelson Town of Estes Park
Carl Sorrentino At-large
Sherri Valentine At-large
Nancy Wallace Planning Commission

Staff Present
Gary Buffington, Natural Resources Director
Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager
Meegan Flenniken, Resource Program Manager
Charlie Johnson, Senior Land Agent
Alex Castino, Land Agent
Jenn Almstead, Fund Development & Special Projects
Sandy Werkmeister, Department Specialist
Steve Gibson, Red Mountain District Manager

Members Absent
Hugh McKean City of Loveland
Gerry Horak City of Fort Collins
Suzan Fritchel At-large

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
   a. Kerri introduced Jennifer Almstead, our new Fund Development & Special Projects staff person. She is a Colorado Native, and her education is in landscape architecture. Her previous experience includes working for Boulder County Open Space, and the past six years were with Volunteers for Outdoors Colorado, primarily doing grants and fundraising. Gary introduced Todd Blomstrom, the new Public Works Division Manager. He is an engineer by trade, and he hails from Minnesota originally and Texas. The Board members and staff introduced themselves.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – one public attendee, without comment.

3. AGENDA REVIEW – no changes
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
   Motion by Dave Marvin and second by Carl Sorrentino to approve the *September 22, 2016 meeting minutes* as submitted in this month’s packet. Motion carried unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
   a. Nancy Wallace, Trudy Haines and Gary Buffington attended the Commissioners Reception for Boards and Commissions.
   b. 2017 Small Grants for Community Partnering: Sixteen applications were submitted to the program requesting over $28,000. This is the most applications received since the program’s inception in 1996. The small grants committee, made up two Larimer County staff and three board members, are evaluating proposals and will bring funding recommendations in January.
   c. Open Space Operations District Reports – the Board asked if use has gone down at all with this warm fall. Steve reported they have not been at capacity every weekend, which has actually been surprising with the unseasonably warm fall, but it still feels like summer season for the rangers.
   d. For the Hermit Park Open Space Trail system, there are three trail segments and the Open Lands Board subcommittee gave name recommendations that were ultimately decided by Gary - drum roll...... The main ~5 mile trail that will ring the property to be "Limber Pine," the connection from the main trail down to Hermit's Cabin trailhead to be “Dutch Louie,” and the connection between the USFS and Homestead Meadows trailhead to be "Moose Meadow." Ward Nelson commented how excited he is about this new trail system at Hermit Park Open Space and the quality of the trail work done so far!
   e. Phase 2 of the Poudre River stabilization project at Lions Open Space started Oct. 19. Crews will finalize the lines of rock installed in the river and along the east riverbank last spring, complete revegetation work along the east riverbank and repair the damaged section of the Pleasant Valley Trail. This work will keep the parking lot and trailhead closed through Nov. 25. The Pleasant Valley Trail will remain open with a temporary reroute away from the river. Fishing access also remains open as long as no equipment is in the river.
   f. Sales Tax Report from prior month

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, motion by Jeff Hindman with second by Dave Marvin to move into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously. The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

9. ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.
Breakout #2
Outreach on Agricultural Properties
Public Engagement in Agricultural

Outline:
- Overview of goals
- Encourage participants to keep discussion high-level and to write down comments and questions
- Hand out sticky notes and have participants respond to following question: What opportunities do you see for your community in engaging citizens in agriculture? 2 sticky notes per person
- Ask for volunteers to share what they wrote. As participants share, begin categorizing group’s sticky notes on flip chart.
- Once the group feels we have a sufficient number of categories, move on to resources step.
- Go through categories and have Leeann share resources and potential partnerships that can fulfill ID’d opportunities.

On white board:
Goals:
- Capture broad ideas for public engagement and additional opportunities on conserved agriculture.
- Learn about resources for potential future partnerships and collaboration.

What opportunities do you see for your community in engaging citizens in agriculture?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broad Categories for Opportunities</th>
<th>Potential Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Ag education &amp; outreach topics: conservation tools, water &amp; collaboration</td>
<td>CO Foundation for Ag 3-6th grade curriculum (Food, Land &amp; People)</td>
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<td>Small Acreage Farms</td>
<td>Larimer County Farm Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstration farms &amp; Farmer’s markets</td>
<td>Young Farmers.org (national)</td>
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<td>Urban Ag: Community gardens, CSA’s, Food Coop</td>
<td>CO Young Farmers Education Assoc</td>
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<td>Emerging &amp; young farmers</td>
<td>CO Farm to Table Inc</td>
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<td>Educ Programs – Youth, Experiential (in-school), mentorships, 4H, Internships, local CSA’s, CALF,</td>
<td>CSU Coop Ext – Karen Crumbaker (Building Farmers and ranchers Program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Tours &amp; Events: Harvest fest, U Pick it opps, Farm reenactments, Farm to Table events, Food production demo’s</td>
<td>Larimer County Ag Advisory Board; Rural Land Use Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livestock Production educ opps: eggs; dairy (yogurt to cheese); promote local brands; programs for youth</td>
<td>Investors – ie Poudre Valley Community Farm coop</td>
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<td>CO Agritourism</td>
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<td>USDA – Veterans to Farmers</td>
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<td>Co Farm Bureau</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Larimer County Small Grants Program</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Partnerships: FFA, CSU, Alternative Sentencing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Other notes:
- Use green-fill development city planning to get land for ag
2016 Parks and Trails Projects

- Timnath Community Park
- Poudre River Trail and Trailhead Park
- Wildwing Park - Landscape Improvements
- Summerfields Parkway - Park Connection
- Harmony Road Underpass - Trail Connection
- Old Town Timnath North Sidewalk Improvements

Timnath Community Park Master Plan

- 20 Acres
- Linear Drive and Parking Lot
- Basketball Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Play Hill
- Market Plaza Area
- Restrooms
- Pavilion
- Playground
- Nature Play Area
- Passive and Active Turf Areas
- Maintenance Shed
- Detention Ponds

Timnath Community Park Birds Eye View

Timnath Community Park Phase 1 Improvements

- Total Construction Cost: $3.25 million
- Funded in part by the ¼ Countywide Sales and Use Tax for Open Space, Natural Areas, Wildlife Habitat, Parks and Trails Purposes
Grand Opening – August 12, 2016

Poudre River Trail and Trailhead Park

Total Project Cost = $1,360,000
Funded in part by GOCO, CDOT, and Larimer County
• 1.5 miles of 10’ wide trail
• 34 parking spaces
• 3 picnic tables
• Two climbing boulders
• Bike fix-it station
• Bike pump
• Benches
• Fishing access

Grand Opening is planned for late November

2017 Parks and Trails Projects

- Timnath Community Park - additional phases
- Old Town Timnath South Sidewalk Improvements
- Wildwing Park Master Planning
- General Park Planning
Loveland Open Lands & Trail Update

How Many Acres Has Loveland Preserved?

- Fee Simple Properties - 2,673 acres
- Partnerships with Other Agencies - 3,101 acres
- Conservation Easements - 2,365 acres

TOTAL ACRES PRESERVED - 8,139 acres

Currently, 900 acres are publicly accessible at 12 open sites - with more planned.

Land Management

Acquisitions

- Ryan’s Gulch II - 186-acres - partner parcel with Larimer County & Berthoud.
- Mihelich - 9-acres - in-fill property on the south-end of Namaqua Skyline
- Nicholson - 9-acre Big Thompson River Property
- Pfeiff - 78-acre - Agriculture & river bottom.
- Ward Trust - 78-acres - west Loveland

Site Improvements & Public Accessibility

- Public processes, Site Analysis and Management Plans
- Morey - restored flood areas, replanted vegetation and added new trail
- Marana Butte Trail - new sustainable trails offering several ability levels
- Carlisle Avenue safe pedestrian crossing and trail connection to River’s Edge
- Oxbow fishing access and trail
- Old St. Louis Trail, benches and wildlife viewing areas
- 1st Street parking lot and trail access at River’s Edge.
- Fencing, signage, trash cans, kiosks, and benches

Education Programming & Community Outreach

- 2-6 Grade School Environmental Education
- Preschool Environmental Education Programs (PEEPs)
- Community Group Education - school groups, senior tours
- Family Nature Programs - C.O. Critter Zone Investigation, nature walks
- Guided Trail Walks - monthly, volunteer-led
- Special Events - Dog Day, Earth Day, Kid’s Day, Cherry Pie Festival
- Interpretive signage - self-guided
- New Trail Host Program and increased Citizen Contacts
- Featured Site of the Month (stewardship projects, bird walks, family activities)
- Community Lecture Series (HPEC, Can Do)

Volunteers

- Volunteer Opportunities
  1. Environmental Educators
  2. Trail Hosts
  3. Stewardship Projects
  4. Open Lands Advisory Commission
- Recruiting and Training of Volunteers
Partnerships
- Regional Partners - Larimer County, Fort Collins and Berthoud
- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Colorado Open Lands (merged with Legacy Land Trust)
- Trust for Public Land
- Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- High Plains Environmental Center
- Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society
- Loveland Fishing Club
- Colorado State University
- Front Range Community College
- Larimer County Conservation Corps
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Loveland Parks and Recreation Foundation
- CWCB

Conclusion
- The volume and magnitude of operational duties has significantly increased as we have more acres to manage and maintain within our program.
- Our presence and outreach in the community has increased.
- We have acquired an additional 361 acres of quality open lands.
- There are more opportunities for citizens to engage with nature.
Malchow Farm Acquisition
Berthoud, CO

- Property was purchased on August 8th, including 211 acres, 240 C-BT units, 16 Handy Ditch shares, historic buildings and scenic barn.
- Water sharing negotiations are underway!
- Farming operations are on-going pursuant to an annual farm lease
- Historic Assessment is on-going

Leveraging County Dollars

$5.38 Million in 2016!
- $4 Million for GOCO Protect Initiative – Horsetooth Area
- $1 Million for GOCO Open Space – Horsetooth Area
- $100,000 from Town of Berthoud for Malchow farm acquisition
- $100,000 from private foundation for ATM project
- $178,000 for Colorado Water Conservation Board ATM project

Resource Management News

Reintroduction of Greenback Cutthroat Trout
Colorado’s state fish has a new home in Northern Colorado
This summer, in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, genetically pure greenback cutthroat trout were reintroduced to Sand Creek at Red Mountain Open Space.

American Planning Association Award
(APA Colorado Chapter)

“A Bigger Vision for the Big T: A Recreation and Conservation Assessment” plan, in collaboration with the City of Loveland, received the 2016 APA Honor Award by American Planning Association in the category of Community Resiliency!

“The awards committee felt the project demonstrated a comprehensive approach with strong buy-in and coordination of multiple jurisdictions and agencies.”
– Anna Gagne, APA CO Awards Program Chair

GOCO Inspire
Fort Collins/Loveland

www.fcgov.com/projectoutdoors

Larimer County 2016 Other Accomplishments

- 43 conservation easements monitored
- ~155 educational programs for ~7,500 people
- 200-300 volunteers, with several full projects
NORTHERN COLORADO REGIONAL OPEN SPACE MEETING

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

20th Anniversary

http://www.larimer.org/openlands/openspaces20th/

Questions?
Conserving Agriculture

Conservation Values and Quality of Life benefits provided by agricultural lands

- Ag Productivity – local economy, local food
- Wildlife habitat
- Spanic
- Community separation, buffer
- Educational
- Groundwater recharge
- Flood/surge control
- Historic
- Generational knowledge base – cultural, institutional
- Sense of place

The greatest gap in conservation in Larimer County is in working farms and ranches. 86% of high value acres are not currently protected.

2001 Open Lands Master Plan

Primarily CE's

Identified need for water
Identified other conservation values

2015 Open Lands Master Plan

larimer.org/naturalresources/plans

Open Land Program’s Role in Agriculture
- Important agricultural lands do not need to be located within the Priority Areas in order to be conserved for conservation. Larimer County’s farms will be a larger area, srcnscopsc area and will partner on smaller area near urban areas.
- The Open Lands Program will seek to support the Larimer County Agricultural Advisory Board in directing agricultural conservation opportunities as needed.
- Agricultural lands will primarily be conserved using conservation easements, although an open land protection mechanism may be used depending on the intended goal. The Open Lands Program will evaluate priorities using available conservation tools.
- Water rights, as an integral component to the protection of prime agricultural lands, may also be acquired by the Open Lands Program and are protected under Water Rights and Management, Indiana.
- The Open Lands Program will continue to purchase and lease lands for agriculture, and will evaluate and enhance this program to potentially provide increased opportunities for emerging farmers and ranchers as well as providing opportunities for existing farms and ranches to continue to operate.
The Facts

- Larimer County is losing ag land at a rate of 4,500 acres per year.
- The average age of a farmer in Larimer County is 59.

A 428,000 AF/Y gap is projected in S Platte Basin for municipal needs between now and 2050.

Ag Opportunities

- What is the demand and what does it mean for your agency?
- What are others doing and what partnerships can be formed?
- What are our agency roles and responsibilities, if any?

Urban
- Classroom Ed. - e.g. Project Food, Land & People
- Community Gardens
- CSAs
- Small acreage leasing
- Public education - e.g. Farm to Plate
- Experimental ag learning - e.g. RFA
- Large acreage leasing
- Contac: Boulder/CS model

Rural

Where are we going today?

Urgency...

BUSINESS > REAL ESTATE

Auction of Colorado farm and water brought in $12.6 million
Cbl-T water units averaged $27,356 per share

By DARRA MORTON/HOWARD<br>
Published: July 28, 2016 at 5:13 pm | UPDATED: August 10, 2016 at 2:45 pm

Loveland’s Perspective on Conservation of Agricultural Lands

Historical Perspective

- Loveland has a long agricultural heritage and identifies with the values of a farming community.
- The HPOS Tax identifies Agricultural Lands as a natural resource to be preserved.
- Loveland's Boyd Lake Open Space was one of the first irrigated farmland open space parcels in Larimer County.
- Loveland has 9 open space parcels with agricultural leases/management.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Policies and Advisory Council Support Agricultural Lands.

- Loveland's Master Plan and Other Planning Documents call for the inclusion of agricultural lands.
- 3 of Loveland's 5 property acquisitions this year have an agricultural component. 2 of this year’s acquisitions have active agricultural leases.
- Management Plans underway all have an inclusion of agricultural assets and considerations.
- Loveland uses Agricultural Leases as a Land Management Tool.

Agricultural Conservation Challenges

- Lack of Expertise on Agricultural Management
  - Water Management
  - Crops and Equipment
  - Agricultural Education
  - Shortage of interested farmers
- Funding for Agricultural Operations