



# OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 27, 2017

5:00- 8:00 PM • Civic Center Municipal Bldg • Council Chambers • 500 E 3<sup>rd</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> |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Jason Brothers         | At-large             |
| Suzan Fritchel         | At-large             |
| Marilyn Hilgenberg     | City of Loveland     |
| Gerry Horak            | City of Fort Collins |
| Pete Kelly             | At-large             |
| David Marvin           | At-large             |
| Carl Sorrentino        | At-large             |
| Sherri Valentine       | At-large             |
| Nancy Wallace          | Planning Commission  |
| <b>Members Absent</b>  |                      |
| Ward Nelson            | Town of Estes Park   |
| Jeff Hindman           | Town of Berthoud     |
| Trudy Haines           | At-large             |

| <b>Staff Present</b>                         |
|--|
| Gary Buffington, Natural Resources Director  |
| Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager    |
| Charlie Johnson, Senior Land Agent           |
| Alex Castino, Land Agent                     |
| Sandy Werkmeister, Department Specialist     |
| Chris Fleming, Big Thompson District Manager |
| Steve Gibson, Red Mountain District Manager  |
| Heather Young, Education Coordinator         |

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

3. AGENDA REVIEW – One Discussion Item added

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Suzan Fritchel and second by Pete Kelly to approve the *March 23, 2017 meeting minutes* as corrected (Pronghorn Antelope to Pronghorn.) Motion carried unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Application to DOLA was submitted on March 24 requesting \$1.3 million to support three phases of watershed infrastructure/improvements at River Bluffs Open Space
- b. Visitor Use Study budget is final and the seasonal position is hired. Training for volunteers administering the surveys is May 18 at 3:30 in Fort Collins and Kerri asked if anyone could volunteer for shifts. Dave Marvin and Carl Sorrentino volunteered.
- c. We closed on the Spring Canyon Ranch on March 23 as a partner with Fort Collins.
- d. Hilde donation for a trail easement near the Larimer/Boulder line was partially completed.
- e. Redstone Canyon fee purchase was approved by the BOCC and will close early May.
- f. Printed versions of the [Open Lands Master Plan](#) were handed out to those who wanted one.
- g. The Visual Artist committee chose Fort Collins-based painter Larry Tucci as the 2017 Visual Artist ([www.tucciart.com](http://www.tucciart.com).)
- h. Larimer County Department of Natural Resources now has a page on Instagram, a popular social media platform that utilizes photography. It is best accessed via smart phones and is used mostly by a younger demographic (18-29 years old.) Follow @LCNaturalResources on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/lcnaturalresources/](http://www.instagram.com/lcnaturalresources/).

- i. Finalized content for Horsetooth Area Information Center lobby and interpretive materials; installation is expected in June.
- j. Cascade Cottages project in RMNP, to which OLAB contributed \$50,000, was conveyed to the National Park Service by the Trust for Public Land, almost one year earlier than anticipated.
- k. Content for 2016 Annual Report is almost finished; hoping to print in May.
- l. At their April 20, 2017 meeting, Loveland City Council discussed Board and Commission assignments and decided to have the liaison to the Larimer County Open Lands board be a staff assignment. They appointed Marilyn to continue in the role.
- m. Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report – no questions

6. UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Kerri reminded the Board that they had approved \$289,442 for the Front Range Trail Project. The bids have come in and the project is an additional \$36,023. This will come back as an action item next month. Kerri explained it was an estimate at that time (over a year ago) and some adjusting of numbers on projects like this is typical.
- b. Inspire Initiative – Recall that Larimer County partnered with the City of Loveland and City of Fort Collins on a joint application to Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Inspire Initiative and was awarded a \$50,000 planning grant to lead an effort in both cities.

Heather Young presented on the developing program (Project Outdoors) which focuses on two city Hubs (as shown in the included presentation) to start. She also recommends watching the [GOCO Inspire Initiative YouTube video](#). The Board discussed several facets of the project in depth.

Next step is for both cities to apply for implementation grant dollars from GOCO. The awards are given by how well a project is put together, not size of community, which is why community matching plays such a role in whether a grant application is successful. Kerri mentioned that landing an endowment for some years is even better. We have identified someone who might match an endowment one to one. Implementation proposals are due in July, with awards announced in December. Kerri asked the Board to think about how many dollars they might consider recommending toward this project as a match, knowing that it is potentially a 2 million dollar project.

- c. Open Space Operations District Reports

Red Mtn District – Steve highlighted items from his report, explaining water gap construction. He added that equipment is on order for the Visitor Use Study and installation will begin soon. Ranger Excellence School is May 15-19 and Steve invited Board members to come out too see what it is all about if they would like.

Big Thompson District – Chris reported that the webcam for the Devil’s Backbone parking lot is live. The caretaker house at Hermit Park is done and a seasonal ranger has moved in for the season.

7. OTHER BUSINESS - None

- 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 Suzan Fritchel to move in Executive Session. Second by Gerry Horak. Motion carried unanimously.

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



## GOCO Inspire Initiative

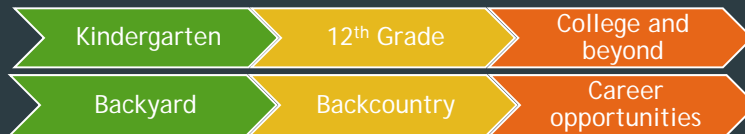
- ▶ [GOCO Inspire Initiative](#)
- ▶ "How do we inspire people to have meaningful outdoor experiences from the backyard to the backcountry?"

Lise Aangeenbrug, Former GOCO  
Executive Director



## What does success look like?

- ▶ Inspire people to have meaningful outdoor experiences from the backyard to the backcountry.
  - ▶ Hubs
  - ▶ Spectrum of opportunities



backyard



nature playground



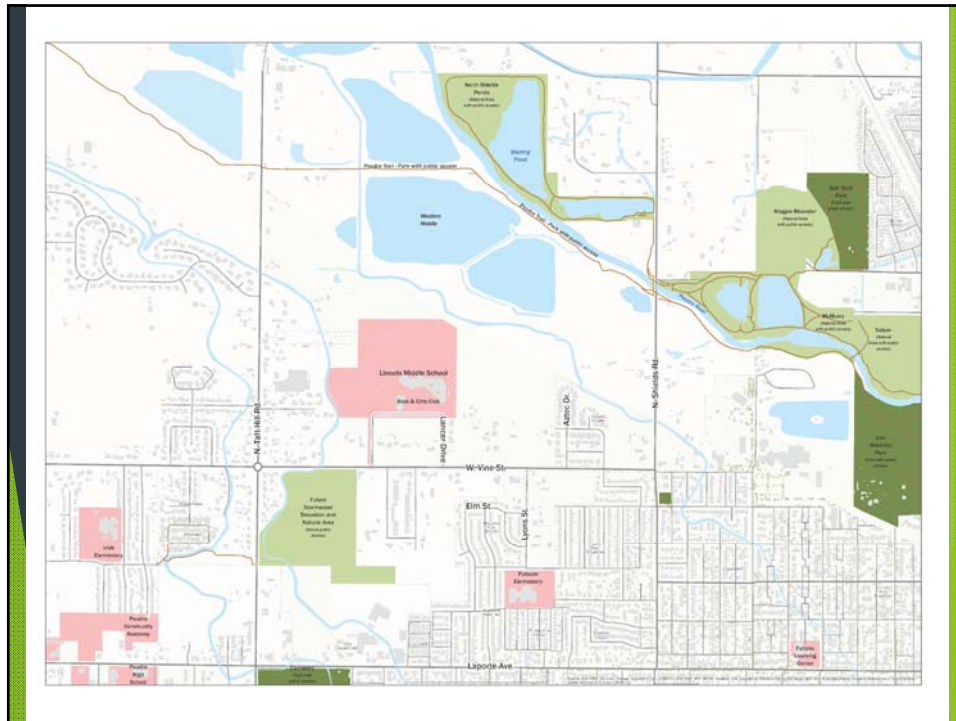
wilderness

▶ Youth can enjoy the benefits that nature provides in an array of places ranging from their backyard to wilderness.

## Partners

- ▶ Boys & Girls Club of Larimer County
- ▶ City of Fort Collins
- ▶ City of Loveland
- ▶ Larimer County
- ▶ Colorado State University
- ▶ Others: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Poudre School District, Thompson School District, Larimer County Conservation Corps, Gardens on Spring Creek, High Plains Environmental Center, Colorado Youth Outdoors, Loveland Youth Gardeners and many more!





## Northwest Fort Collins: Outreach

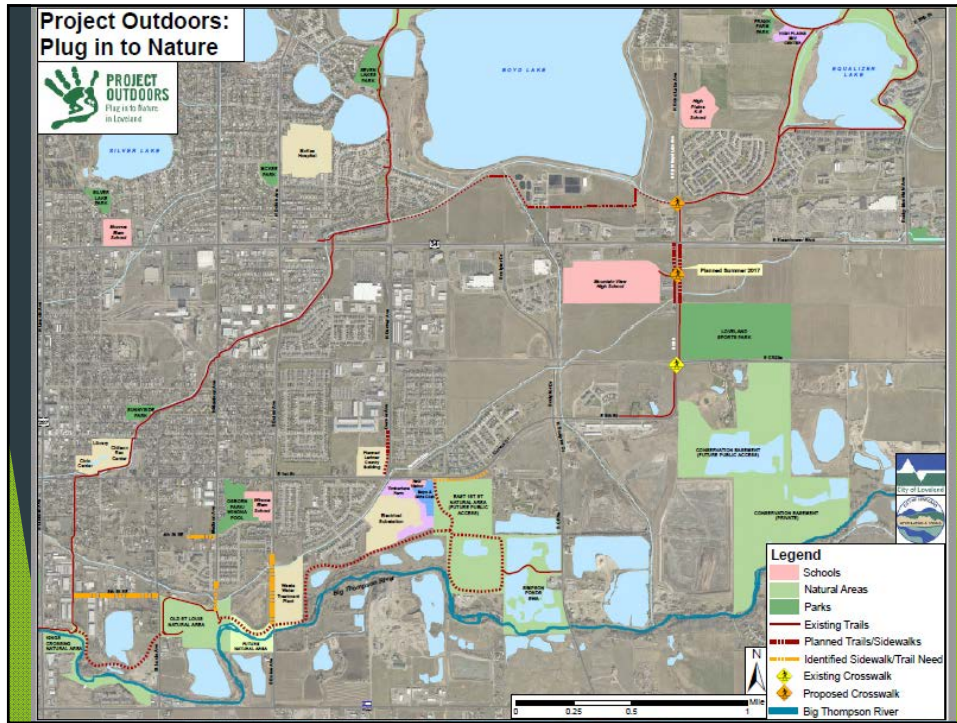
- ▶ Kick-off meeting (October 2016, 80 attendees)
- ▶ Teacher meeting (November 2016, 25 attendees)
- ▶ Youth Advisory Council (15 members)
- ▶ Environmental Education Providers meeting (January 2016, 32 people from 19 organizations)
- ▶ Surveys (17 in English, 9 in Spanish)
- ▶ Conversations and follow-up with Boys and Girls Club staff
- ▶ Follow-up meetings with teachers, school staff, PSD Facilities, PSD Curriculum staff
- ▶ Listening sessions and site visits to each school
- ▶ Youth survey created by and distributed by Youth Advisory Council (January, 2017, 120 responses)
- ▶ Inventory of career pathways opportunities and follow-up discussions with providers
- ▶ Prioritization Open House (February 2017, over 100 attendees)

## Northwest Fort Collins: Common Themes

- ▶ Trail connections and safe routes for bikes and pedestrians, support for biking, walking as outdoor activities.
- ▶ Support for nearby outdoor facilities at schools and Boys & Girls Club (gardens, outdoor classrooms, play spaces) including streamlined bureaucracy.
- ▶ Barriers include gear, training, staff and coordination, time/interest, and physical discomfort (hot, cold, bad weather, bugs).
- ▶ More barriers include time, trust, location, lack of trail connectivity, lack of resources such as gear, cost, transportation, language, lack of knowledge/training, challenges with bureaucracy, safety concerns, and teacher burn-out.

## Northwest Fort Collins: Places

1. Putnam Learning Garden Enhancements
2. Outdoor Classroom at Poudre HS
3. Learning Garden shared by Lincoln MS and B&G Club
4. Outdoor Gear Library
5. Trail Connection and Enhancements to corridor from Lincoln to Poudre Trail
6. Learning landscape and greenhouse at Irish Elementary
7. Sidewalks on Vine
8. Huidekoper Park enhancements



## Southeast Loveland: Outreach

- ▶ Kick-off community open house (January 2017, 85 attendees)
- ▶ Teacher's workshop (February 2017, 12 attendees)
- ▶ Youth Advisory Council (monthly meetings & field trips, 12 members)
- ▶ Environmental Education Providers meeting (*with Fort Collins*) (January 2017, 32 participants from 19 organizations)
- ▶ Follow-up meetings with teachers, Thompson School District staff, Boys & Girls Club staff
- ▶ Listening sessions and site visits to each school
- ▶ Site visits to E. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Property/Big Thompson River trail with program providers, Youth Council
- ▶ Youth surveys created by and distributed by Youth Council
- ▶ Winona Elementary School community survey and prioritization (April 2017)
- ▶ Prioritization Open House (May 2017)

## Southwest Loveland: Common Themes

- ▶ Trails, connectivity, and safe routes for bikes and pedestrians
- ▶ Outdoor facilities at schools / Boys & Girls Club (gardens, outdoor classrooms, learning landscapes)
- ▶ Access to water (fishing, kayaking)
- ▶ Areas for natural exploration and unguided play
- ▶ Guided trips and programs (hikes, river walks, camping skills, mountain biking clinics)
- ▶ Urban agriculture, community gardens
- ▶ School field trips to open spaces & natural areas
- ▶ Barriers include gear, training, staff and coordination, time/interest, transportation

## Southwest Loveland: Places

- ▶ Trail connection from Winona Elementary School/Park/Pool and Mirasol neighborhood to Old St. Louis Natural Area/Big Thompson River corridor
- ▶ Outdoor classroom / community gardens at Winona Elementary School
- ▶ Wetland boardwalk and Big Thompson River trail connection from E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street Natural Area trails
- ▶ Youth fishing dock at E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street Natural Area pond
- ▶ Learning landscape / natural playground / outdoor classroom at E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street Natural Area (New Vision School / Boys & Girls Club area)
- ▶ Community gardens / agriculture at E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street Natural Area
- ▶ Bicycle skills park / trail enhancements at E. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Natural Area / Big Thompson River trail
- ▶ Outdoor gear library available to community, to be housed at E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street Natural Area and operated by Boys & Girls Club - Outdoors Club members



## Programs and Career Pathways

- ▶ Coordinator for Poudre School District / City of Loveland / Thompson School District to focus on in-school programs.
- ▶ Coordinator housed at Boys & Girls Club to focus on after-school and summer programming.
- ▶ Funding for providers to do activities and programming aligned with state standards.
- ▶ Partnerships with environmental organizations, conservation corps, colleges and universities for internships, credit, and stipends for students.
- ▶ Opportunities for older youth to mentor/guide/teach younger children through environmental projects or programs.
- ▶ Transportation to natural areas for programs.