OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 25, 2017

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suzan Fritchel</td>
<td>At-large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Hilgenberg</td>
<td>City of Loveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Marvin</td>
<td>At-large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward Nelson</td>
<td>Town of Estes Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Sorrentino</td>
<td>At-large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherri Valentine</td>
<td>At-large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members Absent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Wallace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Brothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerry Horak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Hindman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pete Kelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trudy Haines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff Present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gary Buffington, Natural Resources Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meegan Flenniken, Resource Program Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Johnson, Senior Land Agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Castino, Land Agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Werkmeister, Department Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Fleming, Big Thompson District Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Gibson, Red Mountain District Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zac Wiebe, Resource Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Rieves, Carter Lake District Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Brink, Visitor Services Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexie Sorenson, Visitor Survey Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. CALL TO ORDER / - Suzan Fritchel called the meeting to order.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public/no comments

3. AGENDA REVIEW – a couple of additional information items added.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
   Motion by Carl Sorrentino and second by Dave Marvin to approve the April 27, 2017 meeting minutes as submitted in this month’s packet. Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS

Kerri introduced Lexie Sorenson, the seasonal hired for the Visitor study. She graduated from CSU with a Natural Resources degree in 2016. Introductions were made by the Board.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Visitor Use Study: The Natural Resources Project Coordinator has been selected (Lexie Sorenson) and she will start on Friday, May 12.

b. Completed interviews for seasonal position to help with volunteer events and easement monitoring (Zac Tobias selected and started May 1)

c. Selected contractor, Zak Dirt, to construct the Front Range Trail connecting Fort Collins and Loveland

d. Charlie let the Board know we closed on the 359 acre Sanem property, most of which is contiguous with Horsetooth Mountain Open Space.

e. Charlie alerted the Board that Fort Collins Loveland and Power is proposing to bury an underground power source from Timberline to the Interstate. They are proposing to put it on the Fossil Creek Reservoir side of the road. Charlie will bring an initial review to the Board in the future, including the
value of the easement. Charlie informed them that underground easement values are typically 50% of the whole.

f. Marilyn mentioned that Loveland will be interested using the Kauffman Easement for trailheads in the future if possible. She further suggested that it might be easier for Loveland to hold the easement, if Larimer County was interested in that switch.

g. Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report – no questions,
h. News articles
i. Natural Resources events/registration and NR News

6. UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS
   a. Open Space Operations District Reports
      • Chris reported that Hermit Park received 4 feet of snow during our late spring storm and all the springs are running, so you could be camping in winter conditions or with water front property. The new webcam at Devils Backbone was struck by lightning just 3 weeks after installation. They hope to have it back up and running this week.
      • Steve reported that his crew toured the Sanem property. It won’t take too much work to bring it up to regulatory status. Ranger Excellence took place last week. He will have a video next month.
      • Dave Marvin commented that he enjoys reading their reports to understand what is happening, but he would like a better understanding of things, wanted by rangers or visitors, that are not being accomplished due to funding constraints, etc.

   b. Parks Master Plan update – Ken Brink, Visitor Services Program
      • Ken started by letting the Board know they have reached the stage of final public comment of the draft plan.
      • The overall flavor is that at the reservoir parks, use has gone up tremendously. People are very happy with the cleanliness and convenience of the parks and the safety. People also feel our parks are crowded and often unavailable. There is not a lot we can do about this, as there was not much extra land purchased around the reservoirs when they were built.
      • Ken talked through his presentation (included with these minutes), noting that currently we are not tracking how many visits are made from annual permits. His hope is to start having closer “actual visit” counts beginning in 2018, thanks to the equipment purchased for the visitor study. The camping numbers are solid, as ALL reservations are made through Reserve America. Camping at Horsetooth Reservoir has more than doubled in 5 years.

   The Board asked if there are ways to increase flatwater recreation for the public. Ken responded that the department is always watching for opportunities of any water that is currently private or not being used for recreation at all. And any opportunity we consider has to be additive. If a recreation area is already open to the public, there is not an incentive for us to manage it. He also touched on some exploration of winter recreation possibilities.

   c. South Shore at Carter Lake redevelopment plan – Dan Rieves, Carter Lake District Mgr
      • Dan Rieves gave a presentation on improvements to the entrance, boat ramp and parking at the Sundance trail. There is also an additional plot of 21 campsites planned as well as a 30-car parking lot included in the engineering plans for the future trail over to Chimney Hollow.
      • Presentation is attached. Dan will be coming back to ask for some percentage of the project from the tax dollars. The placeholder amount is on the cash projections spreadsheet.

   d. Regional Trails project update (Longview & Front Range) – Zac
      • Zac provided an update on the two regional trails providing connection between Loveland and Fort Collins. Presentation is attached.
e. Budget Request (Front Range) – Zac
   • Estimates for both projects were made 2 years ago, and construction costs have increased.
     Tonight he is requesting an additional $36,023 for the Colorado Front Range Trail between
     Carpenter Road and Loveland’s recreation trail system near Boyd Lake. He noted that there could
     be a need for a little more money pending what happens at the underpass at County Road 30.

f. Acquisition & Development sheet

7. ACTION ITEMS
   a. Regional Trails budget request
      • Motion by Carl Sorrentino to recommend $36,023 for the Colorado Front Range Trail. Second by
        Ward Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.

8. 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 Ward Nelson
   and second by Carl Sorrentino to move into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

9. ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
RESERVOIR PARKS MASTER PLAN

Open Lands Advisory Board
May 17, 2017

Agenda

- Process Update (Chapter 1)
- Visitation Trends (Chapter 2)
- Recommendations (Chapter 3)
  - Existing Parks
  - Future Parks
  - Funding

Next Steps
  - Public Review of the Draft
  - Potential Comments
## Two Coordinated Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESERVOIR PARKS</th>
<th>Resource Management Plan/Environmental Assessment Update</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Master Plan Update</strong></td>
<td><strong>Larimer County Department of Natural Resources</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCOPE OF PLAN</strong></td>
<td><strong>Update to County-wide Park Needs and Opportunities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIME FRAME</strong></td>
<td><strong>10 Years +</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIQUE / SPECIAL NEEDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Address future management opportunities including needs not likely met by the four reservoirs</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Process & Schedule

#### PHASE 1: FOUNDATION
What methods should we use to reach you and what is your initial feedback?
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Online Questionnaire #1

#### PHASE 2: Visioning
Refine the vision, issues, objectives and opportunities for the plan.
- Public Scoping Meetings
- Online Questionnaire #2

#### PHASE 3: Alternatives
Provide input on the preferred opportunities and programs.
- Alternatives Public Workshops
- Online Questionnaire #3

#### PHASE 4: Draft Plans
Input on the preferred options, strategies and draft plans.
- Draft Plan Public Meetings
- Public Review Period
- Online Questionnaire #4

#### PHASE 5: Final Plans
Refine the final plans, support the adoption and define the steps for implementation.
- Final Plan Presentations
- Public Hearings

5 Event Series
Who was Involved?

100,000+
people have received
direct notification
about opportunities

3,000+
people have commented via events, questionnaires or online

Methods:
• Stakeholder Interviews
• Press Releases
• Parks Advisory Board
• Board of County Commissioners
• Natural Resource Newsletter
• Online Questionnaires #1, #2, and #3
• New West Fest
• Neighborhood Postcards
• Outdoor Public Meeting @ Horsetooth
• Public Meeting @ Carter Lake
• Public Meeting @ The Ranch
• Entrance Gate @ Carter + Horsetooth
• Technical Advisory Committee
• Facebook
• Constant Contact Emails

Trends Influencing Demand

• 90% of Coloradoans participate in some form of outdoor recreation and 60 percent will either greatly increase or somewhat increase their participation (CPW 2014).
• County will grow by 150,00 people (another Fort Collins) by 2040.
• Horsetooth Reservoir ranked #3 “best lake in the U.S.” by FourSquare.com
• New types of recreation.
Trends Influencing Demand

Annual Passes:

Visitation Trends

Day Passes

Camping - Occupied Nights
Visitation Trends

2016 visitation is estimated between 650,000 - 1.4 million

Table 2.5 Estimated Visitaton for Annual Passes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Passes</th>
<th>Total Annual Passes Sold*</th>
<th>Annual Visit Times (Low)+</th>
<th>Annual Visit Times (High)+</th>
<th>Group Size+</th>
<th>Total Visitors (Annual Passes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>8,470</td>
<td>30.97</td>
<td>42.38</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>263,661 - 1,019,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>7,752</td>
<td>30.97</td>
<td>42.38</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>241,512 - 933,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6,983</td>
<td>30.97</td>
<td>42.38</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>217,054 - 840,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5,108</td>
<td>30.97</td>
<td>42.38</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>159,139 - 614,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>8,547</td>
<td>30.97</td>
<td>42.38</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>266,260 - 1,028,710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.4 Estimated Visitaton for Day Permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day Permits</th>
<th>Total Day Permits Sold*</th>
<th>Group Size+</th>
<th>Total Visitors (Day Permits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>140,163</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>390,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>135,505</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>384,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>120,485</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>342,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>106,215</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>301,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>85,995</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>244,226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: * Larimer County 2017, +CPW 2009

A Plan for the Future

- **Existing Parks**
  - System-wide Goals and Policies
  - Management Zones
  - By Park
    - Desired Future Facilities, Resource, and Management Conditions
    - New Development by Site

- **Preferred Alternative balances:**
  - Demand from recreationists for more, more, more
  - Interest of neighbors for no changes
Horsetooth Reservoir

Land Management Zones
High
Moderate
Low
Natural
Restricted

Water Management Zones
Motorized Multiple Use
Wakeless Boating
North Dam

- Carried forward from 2007 Plan
- New fee area
- Unique 3D archery experience

The archery range would be comparable in size as the existing Fort Collins range near Interstate 25 with ample buffers from neighboring properties.

Archery is a very quiet, day use activity.

Operations would be funded through day use/annual passes.
Horsetooth: Considered but Not Carried Forward

**North of Horsetooth Dam**
- No development or trails only
- Disc golf course
- RV, cabin, tent, or group camping

**Satanka Bay**
- Limiting the number of boats in coves
- Converting to non-motorized paddle sports only
- Relocating a paddle sports concessionaire to a cove with access via Lory State Park
- Walk-in camping from Lory State Park to the coves
- A hiking trail from to Lory State Park

**Inlet Bay Campground**
- Adding a substantial number of additional campsites
- Relocating Inlet Bay Trail

**Inlet Bay Marina**
- Increasing the number of moorings/slips

**Blue Sky Trailhead**
- Playground

**Trail Connections**
- The primary obstacles for most trail alignments are private land rights, terrain (cliffs), and natural resource conflicts.
- DNR will continue to investigate opportunities with other County Departments to improve bicycle access and public safety along CR 38E to Horsetooth Reservoir.
Big Thompson + Quarry Area

- Carried forward from 2007 Plan

Big Landia + Swim Area

- Group camping carried forward from 2007 Plan
Carter Knolls

- Carried forward from 2007 Plan

North Pines
- New and upgraded tent campsites. Additional day use areas is preferred

Marina Area
- A full-service restaurant

Big Thompson & Quarry Area
- Camping in the quarry area
- Conversion of existing campsites to electric RV campsites

Carter: Considered but Not Carried Forward

Carter Knolls
- Retaining Carter Knolls as a day use area or group day use.

Big Landia
- Cabins or RV camping

South Shore Campground
- Tent camping below the high water mark
- Boat-in camping along the west shore
Pinewood Reservoir

- Improve Fisherman’s Cove Parking Area
- Update Blue Mountain Day Use Area
- Add self-service kiosks
- Increased presence for boat inspections

Fisherman’s Cove

PROGRAM:
- Access on South End of Parking Lot
- Automated Fire Kiosk
- Bear Proof Trash Receptacle
- Parking Directional Sign
- Neighborhood Traffic Only Sign
- Small Identification Sign
Flatiron Reservoir

- Update Campground/Day Use Area and Gatehouse
- Pedestrian connection from Natural Resources Administration Building to Cheyenne Day Use Area.

Considered but Not Carried Forward

**Pinewood Reservoir**
- New horse trailer parking at Fisherman’s Cove or a new trailhead below the dam
- A RV dump station
- Cabins at Blue Mountain trailhead

**Flatiron Reservoir**
- Additional restrooms
- Full RV hook ups
- Water recreation activities including but not limited to, swimming, wading, and boating of any type – unsafe
- A disc golf course
- A trail around the entire Flatiron Reservoir - Homeland Security
Future Park Needs

- Increased regional recreation demand and population growth
- No acquisitions of “active parks” since 2007
- Less desirable visitor experiences already occurring
- Population growth by 2040 would require:
  - 5,040 Acres of Land + 2,250 Acres of Flatwater
  - Equivalent of 2 Carter Lakes and 1 HT Mountain Open Space

Future Park Needs

- **Potential Active Park Opportunities**
  - Glade Reservoir
  - Chimney Hollow OS and Reservoir
  - Private and Public Reservoirs
  - Mountain/Foothill Properties

- **Criteria**
  - New Public Recreation Opportunity
  - Valuable Natural and Cultural Resources
  - Meets Demand and Diversify Recreation Opportunity
  - Generates Revenue to Cover Costs
  - Right for Larimer County Staff and Mission
Summary of Improvements

**Horsetooth Reservoir:** Archery Range and Trailer Parking

**Carter Lake:** North Pines and Big Thompson Day Use, Big Landia Camping Area

**Need for Additional Properties in the Future**

---

**Funding**

**Key Financial Challenges:**
1. Securing reliable asset replacement funding
2. A competitive grant environment
3. Recovering state aquatic nuisance species funding
4. Offset declining funding sources
5. Funding for new parkland or water acquisition
Funding

Reservoir Permit and User Fee Revenue

Options to increase these revenues:
- Introducing differential and/or dynamic pricing
- Increasing fee schedules
- Marketing and quality-of-service initiatives to attract new daily users

Next Steps

- **Outreach Series #4: Draft Plan (May- July)**
  - Publish Parks Master Plan and RMP/EA Public Drafts
  - 60 Day Public Comment Period
  - Online Questionnaire #4
  - Public Meetings
    - Tentatively scheduled for June 14 & 15

- **Prepare Final Plans (August – September)**
  - Comment Response
  - Final Plan Presentations
  - Adoption of Reservoir Parks Master Plan
Potential Comments on the Draft

Interface between County Parks and Residential Areas.

**Horsetooth Reservoir:**
- Archery Range
- Trail between Fort Collins to Horsetooth Reservoir via Spring Canyon Dam

**Carter Reservoir:**
- Carter Sail Club
- Big Thompson Day Use Area / Swim Area
- Camping at Big Landia
Plan elements are from the 2007 Parks Master Plan.

- Improve traffic flow
- Organize parking
- Increase camping opportunities
- Additional boat ramp lane
- Enhanced trail access
| Item | Description | Quantity | Rate | Total
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Concrete Wall</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>2500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Concrete Slab</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Paving Stone</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>3000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Landscape Mats</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Irrigation System</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand Total:** $7500.00
Regional Trail Updates

OLAB – 5/25/17

Colorado Front Range Trail
Loveland to Ft. Collins connection

- First connection of Ft. Collins’ & Loveland’s trail systems
- 2.1 miles
- 10 ft. wide, 6 in. concrete trail
- Funded by two state grants

Timeline

- March 2017
  - Final design complete
- April 2017
  - Final approvals secured
  - RFP distributed
- May 2017
  - Contractor selected
- June 2017
  - Contract signed
  - Construction begins
- August 2017
  - Construction complete!
Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-DOT: Transportation Alternatives grant</td>
<td>$450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO State Trails Program</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larimer County</td>
<td>$325,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Loveland</td>
<td>$112,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Ft. Collins</td>
<td>$14,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,252,890</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Budget request= $36,023*

*$325,465 (actual cost) - $289,442 (original estimate)

Long View Corridor Trail

Loveland to Ft. Collins connection

- Connects Sunset Vista Natural Area to Ft. Collins' trails
- Includes new trailhead construction at Sunset Vista NA
- 4.3 miles
- 10 ft. wide, 6 in. concrete trail
- Funded by two state grants

Timeline

- June 2017
  - Final design complete
- July 2017
  - Final approvals secured
  - RFP distributed
- August 2017
  - Contractor selected
- September 2017
  - Contract signed
  - Construction begins
- Spring 2018
  - Construction complete!
# Budget Estimate
(construction costs only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-DOT: Transportation Alternatives grant</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Outdoors Colorado</td>
<td>$999,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Fort Collins</td>
<td>$1,166,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Loveland</td>
<td>$656,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larimer County</td>
<td>$607,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,429,834</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OLAB Meeting Minutes, May 25, 2017
Page 28 of 28