



OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 24, 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 Absent	Members Present	Guests	Staff Present
K-Lynn Cameron Ward Nelson Carl Sorrentino	Jason Brothers Suzan Fritchel Marilyn Hilgenberg Gerry Horak Pete Kelly David Marvin Sherri Valentine Nancy Wallace		Gary Buffington Kerri Rollins Meegan Flenniken Charlie Johnson Alex Castino Sandy Werkmeister Chris Fleming Steve Gibson

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order by Pete Kelly.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

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

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Sherry Valentine and second by Nancy Wallace to approve the *July 27, 2017 meeting minutes* as submitted in this month’s packet. Motion carried unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The attached Chimney Hollow Open Space map shows forest management projects by year completed. The perimeter of the lightning-caused wildfire in July is overlain to show its location within a unit treated in 2009. Emergency Services confirmed that the forest treatment had significant impact on fire effects and in keeping the fire low to the ground.
- b. We are hosting year two of a Volunteers for Outdoors Colorado trail building weekend at Hermit Park Open Space on Aug 26/27th with almost one mile of the Limber Pine Trail staked out for construction. We are expecting about 100 volunteers.
- c. The public comment period for the Parks Master Plan ended Aug 7 – we’re compiling responses to comments received and preparing a final draft of the document. We hope to finalize it in September or October.
- d. Meegan reported on river and upland restoration work in the Big Thompson Canyon. Work commenced earlier this month in the Cedar Cove area (which includes parcels owned by LCDNR). Restoration work completed earlier this summer at Narrows Park held fairly well thru unexpected high summer flows - follow up plantings are planned for September.
- e. In 2008, Larimer County and the YMCA of the Rockies began litigation to determine whether or not the YMCA properties in Estes Park qualify for exempted status. The final ruling determined that most of the YMCA properties are exempt from both property tax payments and use tax payments that are collected on building permits. Under the law, taxes collected in error, must be returned to the payee along with substantial interest. This includes portions of the Help Preserve Open Space sales and use

tax that must be refunded by the beneficiaries of that tax to the YMCA. The YMCA left some of the money to be reimbursed with the cities and county as a goodwill gesture.

- f. The department hosted a staff and volunteer appreciation picnic on August 17 with over 250 attendees.
- g. Gary passed around an invitation to Board members to attend the Planning Commission Summit for helping with the County's master plan. Sandy will also send out an email where there is a place to respond at the end of the email. Nancy Wallace validated the importance, mentioning some of the affected areas.
- h. Kerri announced that the Broomfield water deal closed officially two days ago. We are having a celebration on August 30 that you have all been invited to attend.
- i. Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report - no questions

6. UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Open Space Operations District Reports

- Chris provided a bit more information about the FEMA emergency grant money we received for the loss of several of our Big Thompson Canyon properties. Due to the construction in the canyon, we were not able to make decisions on the properties so we were allowed to use the money for alternate projects including the Hermit Park trail system and purchasing emergency equipment and training. There is \$95,000 left, which we are using to purchase swift water packages, wildland fire training, new medical jump kits, AED's and low angle rescue training. Steve explained that low angle rescues are usually less dangerous than high angle rescues, which typically occur on a vertical rock wall.
- Steve mentioned the restoration work being done at Soderberg historic structures. They obtained some funds to improve the drainage around the structures. Grafitti is showing up further into Horsetooth Mountain Park than it ever has. Grafitti is removed a variety of ways, depending on the application.

b. CapDev&Acq Summary August 2017 – Kerri went over the changes from last month and this month.

7. ACTION ITEMS

a. Wright acquisition, fee and conservation easement projects

- Charlie Johnson presented the Wright Conservation Easement purchase of 837.71 acres in partnership with the City of Fort Collins and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) (detailed document attached). No discussion.

Motion by Nancy Wallace that we recommend to the Board of County of Commissioners to allocate \$365,285 toward the purchase of this conservation easement. Second by Suzan Fritchel. Motion passed unanimously.

- Next Charlie presented the Wright Fee purchase of three separate parcels totaling 198.9 acres, in partnership with Fort Collins (detailed document attached.) These properties may be used to relieve some pressure at our existing trailhead for Horsetooth Mountain Open Space in the future.
 - The Board asked why we didn't involve GOCO in the fee purchase, to which Charlie and Kerri responded we wanted complete flexibility for negotiations on the fee portion plus we wanted to focus on the larger piece of property for a grant application.
 - The Board asked if there will be a management plan before any access is considered, to which Meegan responded that yes we would and in fact, the management plan for all of Horsetooth Mountain Open Space is due for an update in 2018.

Motion by Nancy Wallace that we recommend to the Board of County of Commissioners to allocate the \$612,940 toward this fee purchase. Second by Sherri Valentine. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Letter of support for Colorado Open Lands on their grant application to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for Little Thompson River priority area agricultural lands.
- Kerri explained that the purchase of the Malchow property served as a catalyst in the Berthoud area for farm conservation. Colorado Open Lands has been contacted by several landowners in the Berthoud area. They are seeking grant funds to move forward on some of them and are looking for a letter of support.

The board discussed the letter content and verified that staff would still come back to the Board with any actual funding requests beyond transaction costs. Motion by Suzan Fritchel to sign and send the letter as presented. Second by Jeff Hindman. Motion carried unanimously.

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 Nancy Wallace to move into Executive Session. Second by the Board moved into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.