

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board

The mission of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.

MINUTES

Scheduled times are subject to change.

Date: January 25, 2018

Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: City Council Chambers, Civic Center Municipal Building, 500 E. 3rd St., Loveland, CO.

Contact: Please contact Emmy at ellisoea@co.larimer.co.us or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

Members		Staff		Guests
Carl Sorrentino	x	Alex Castino	x	
David Marvin	x	Charlie Johnson		
Gerry Horak		Gary Buffington	x	
Jason Brothers	x	Ken Brink	x	
Jeff Hindman		Kerri Rollins	x	
K-Lynn Cameron	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	
Marilyn Hilgenberg	x	Steve Gibson	x	
Nancy Wallace	x	*Thomas Donnelly		
Peter Kelly	x	Timothy Meyer		
Sherri Valentine	x	Emmy Ellison (minutes)	x	
Suzan Fritchel	x	Jennifer Almstead	x	
Ward Nelson	x	Thanh Matthews	x	

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Meeting called to order by Pete Kelly at 5:10 p.m.
- b. Emmy Ellison and Thanh Matthews introduced.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Jim Olson (Preserve at Lone Tree HOA Landscape Committee) expressed interest in possible assistance from Larimer County for planting trees and shrubs to bolster bird

and insect habitat. Small Grants program was introduced to him and further communication was agreed upon.

3. AGENDA REVIEW

- a. Information item additions will be added.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

- a. Ward Nelson responded to an inaccurate comment documented in the minutes: 'Estes Park is not actively trying to conserve land for habitat or recreation, they are relying on the Estes Valley Land Trust. They spend their HPOS funds on a) trails and b) parking.' Ward gave a brief rundown of the actual funding from the last 4 years regarding Estes' sales tax dollars being spent on habitat, recreation and trails. He clarified that Estes Park has never spent HPOS funds on parking.
- b. Ward Nelson moves to approve minutes. Jason Brothers seconds. Motion passed.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A leadership advisory committee will be convened which will consist of leader representatives from all 3 of our Boards to discuss our department finances. The first meeting is set for 2/5 – Gary
 - i. Dave and Pete will represent Open Lands Advisory Board (OLAB) and will join members from other 2 Boards.
 - ii. Will discuss financials at Feb. meeting but will still do OLAB financials in March.
 - iii. K-Lynn asked to be included in the Leadership Advisory Board meeting. Gary explained that the meeting invitation was just for the chair and vice chair which would represent the three advisory boards in the department. (**It was later decided that K-Lynn and other interested parties could attend at their option.*) Lori will be explaining financials in March to OLAB members. Any remaining questions after that can be addressed at that time.
- b. Did everyone sign up for paperless system thru BOCC? Please see attached instructions and get signed up if you have not! – Gary
- c. Little Thompson Farm was leased on a 5-year lease to the existing farmer and includes renting up to 8 additional units of Handy Ditch water – Alex
 - i. Finalized a 5 year lease with tenant, in Alternative Water Transfer Method (ATM) years tenant will pay ½ rent, if late notice, will have costs reimbursed.
 - ii. Handy Ditch shares – Current market is \$300,000 to purchase the full 6 additional shares, renting for \$230 per share.
- d. The farm's water sharing agreement is being discussed across the state. Presentations have or will be made to Colorado Counties Inc., Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Colorado Water Congress, and the Poudre River Forum – Kerri
 - i. Signed Little Thompson Farm lease shows that it is agreeable for a farmer to lease a farm with an ATM water sharing agreement on it.
- e. The White properties, totaling 320 acres, closed on January 10th! Congrats to Tim on his first closing! – Kerri
 - i. Smooth close. Press release with City of Fort Collins for final press push for the Protect Initiative is forthcoming.

- f. Instream flow decrees for Boxelder Creek and Sand Creek at Red Mountain Open Space were issued January 12th – Hooray! – Meegan
 - i. Current flows shouldn't change – 5 cubic feet per second (CFS) in summer and 1.5 CFS in winter. Held by Power & Water Conservation Board in perpetuity.
- g. Information gathering and resource inventories planned for 2018 at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space – Meegan
 - i. Update on Wright and Sanem properties that were purchased as a part of the Protect Initiative – there is concern from Redstone community area about public access to Redstone Canyon area. Anticipated no public access on Sanem property and some public access on Wright property at time of purchase. Working with Colorado State University (CSU) Center for Public Deliberation to formulate plan for engaging with the Redstone and other affected communities regarding the potential location of a trailhead. Following Management Planning Process Plan for Open Lands, Parks and Trails. The selected panel consists of 6 Redstone neighbors, 6 38E neighbors, 3 OLAB members, 6 members of public with direct affiliation, and their first meeting is next Wednesday 1/31. Yearlong process at least.
- h. Natural Resources events/registration and NR News – Gary
- i. Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report – Kerri
 - i. 2 month lag time for collection and reporting. Anticipate 2017 will be up again from 2016, will get final 2017 report next month.
 - ii. Member question about why municipalities did a sharing agreement. It was noted that in the past, Berthoud grew out of Larimer County and Windsor and Johnstown grew into Larimer County, agreement to reallocate portion to group growing into Larimer County.
 - iii. Member question about December Sales Tax collections. It was noted that that information is not yet available.
 - iv. Last Friday was the Fort Collins Natural Areas Program's 25th anniversary. Great video on their website.
 - v. Inspire update – approved allocations in June to help city's applications to Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to implement Inspire plans, neither Loveland nor Fort Collins grants were awarded. Community has been rallying around the outcomes from the planning documents. Cities are pursuing individual components now, still utilizing the monies committed by OLAB (\$15,000 this year and \$30,000 next year) along with other matching grants. GOCO is still working with those applicants who were not awarded grants via invitations to workshops and education sessions about implementation, encouraging re-applications. Many of the winners were in Denver metro areas who had no systems in place.
- j. Last Friday was the Fort Collins Natural Areas Program's 25th anniversary. Great video on their website.
- k. Kerri announced her resignation from her position as Open Lands Program Manager with Larimer County effective 2/9.

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Open Space District Reports – Steve/Chris

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.

Public can view agenda and minutes at:

http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm



- i. Closed down Red Mountain Soapstone and Hermit Park for the season. Lots of bull and cow moose at Hermit.
- ii. Fire in December at Chimney Hollow OS, machine from forestry field crew started small grass fire and was quickly contained by emergency services crew and Rangers.
- iii. Red Mountain fence projects due to wildlife damage.
- iv. Vic Wilcox working with Steve now, will be attending next OLAB meeting along with Zach Cook.
- v. Red Mountain Hunt results – 4 bulls, 2 bucks, 4 pronghorn, not great results for cow tags as they likely move south. Will be increasing the pronghorn hunt from 6 to 10 next year on a recommendation from CPW due to large size of herd. Also working with the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas on hunting Rawhide Pasture area and portions of Soapstone. Good educational relationship with hunters. Over 800 applicants for all licenses.
- vi. Steve Gibson received commendation from the Sheriff for his role as Incident Commander at the Spring Glade fire.
- vii. Zach Cook received a Lifesaving Award for assisting a bicyclist in an emergency medical situation.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Meeting locations and schedule discussion, calendar appointments and packet – Gary/Kerri
 - i. Discussion of possible relocation of the OLAB meetings to the new Larimer County building (on Denver and 1st Street) that is expected to be completed late summer or early fall. Board was open to the move, will stay at present location until building completion.
 - ii. New calendar invitation being sent out, request that the old appointments be deleted. Will continue to send email with meeting packet PDF and post the packet to the website.
 - iii. Annual Regional meeting scheduling for November to remain the same (usual Nov. meeting always falls on Thanksgiving, so is always cancelled, hence the off-schedule date for the Regional meeting of November 14th which is 2nd Wednesday and coincides with the cities’ regular meeting schedules), December meeting is placeholder (typically cancelled unless there is a vote needed for land acquisition), but will be changed to 20th at request of the Board.
- b. Ranger program history presentation – Ken (see packet attachment for presentation materials)
 - i. Presentation on the history/heritage of rangers and the different strategies utilized in the natural resource world for doing field operations work, how to design efficient ranger models to fit dynamic needs (public image, department brand, colors, vehicles/horses, uniforms, badges, public safety, trail contacts, training, ranger presence) and the value of participating in broader conversations about ranger programs on both local and national levels.
 - ii. Things to address: mountain bikes, E-bikes, consistency, uniforms, training and equipment, hiring process.

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.

Public can view agenda and minutes at:

http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm



- c. Acquisition & Development sheet – Kerri
 - i. No items for approval, just re-organized sheet for easier review.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Small grants for Community Partnering recommendations and approval – Jenn
 - i. Committee members K-Lynn Cameron, Suzan Fritchel and Sherri Valentine.
 - ii. Administrative changes for 2018:
 - 1. Individual grant amount increased to \$3,000.
 - 2. Any applicant funded for 3 consecutive years is now required to take a year off.
 - 3. Budget worksheet restructured.
 - iii. 14 grant applications, 7 were new this year, total amount requested is \$30,360 and recommended funding is \$20,646 for 11 projects.
 - iv. Recommended projects and funding levels are:
 - 1. Denver Museum of Nature and Science – *Mass Extinction in Larimer County Open Space Geology* – Requested \$3,000, Recommended \$3,000
 - 2. Estes Land Stewardship Association (ELSA) – *2018 ELSA Weed Roundup & Monitored Weed Drop-off* – Req. \$2,988.50, Recomm. \$2,988.50
AND 2018 ELSA Weed Booklet – Req. \$1,507, Recomm. \$755
 - 3. Kendall Brook Master Association HOA – *Biological Diversity of Kendall Brook HOA Wetlands* – Req. \$1,000, Recomm. \$500 – Partial
 - 4. Loveland Youth Gardeners – *Enhancing Garden Spaces* – Req. \$3,000, Recomm. \$3,000
 - 5. Mulberry Community Gardens – *Hoop House Enhancement Project* – Req. \$1,143.90, Recomm. \$1,143.90
 - 6. Wellington Middle School – *Partnership with Our Environment: Compost is too Good to Waste* – Req. \$3,000, Recomm. \$2,000 – Partial
 - 7. Ridgewood Hills HOA – *Raptor Perches w/ Kestrel Boxes* – Req. \$1,100, Recomm. \$1,100
 - 8. Rocky Mountain Raptor Program – *Educational Outreach* – Req. \$3,000, Recomm. \$3,000
 - 9. Soaring Eagle Ecology Center (SEEC) – *SEEC Environmental & STEM Technology* – Req. \$2,144, Recomm. \$2,144
 - 10. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado – *Family Friendly Volunteer Medicine Wheel Garden at HPEC* – Req. \$1,014.50, Recomm. \$1,014.50
 - v. Suzan Fritchel moves to accept recommended projects for funding for this year’s Small Grants, Sherri Valentine seconds. Motion passed.

9. OTHER BUSINESS - None

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: February 22, 2018 at City Council Chambers, Civic Center Municipal Building, 500 E. 3rd St., Loveland, CO.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real or person property interest. Motion by David to move into Executive Session, seconded by Nancy, motion passed at 7:40 p.m.

12. ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

*After further consideration, it was decided to include this comment that occurred after the meeting had taken place.

Included in PDF:

- Agenda
- Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report
- 2018 OLAB schedule
- Open Space Operations District Reports
- Flier on instructions for going paperless
- Ranger program history presentation
- Small Grants for Community Partnering presentation
- Acquisition & Development sheet

Attached Separately:

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. News articles
3. Executive session materials

