

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: August 23, 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	Gary Buffington	x	
David Marvin	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	
Gerry Horak	x	Ken Brink		
Jason Brothers	x	Charlie Johnson		
Paul Alaback	x	Todd Blomstrom		
K-Lynn Cameron	x	Chris Fleming	x	
Marilyn Hilgenberg	x	Steve Gibson		
Nancy Wallace	x	Timothy Meyer	x	
Peter Kelly	x	*Thomas Donnelly		
Sherri Valentine	x	Emmy Ellison (minutes)	x	
Suzan Fritchel		Zac Wiebe	x	
Ken Zornes	x			

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – called to order at 5:09 p.m.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

- a. Nancy Wallace requested that minutes reflect actual names of Board Members when they comment. Nancy Wallace moves to approve minutes, Carl Sorrentino seconds, motion passed.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Natural Resource events for this month: See <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>.
- b. To sign up for Open Lands Advisory Board minutes, go to <http://larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click 'Subscribe,' and then check the 'Open Lands Advisory Board' box.
- c. The long-awaited Long View Trail will officially open on August 18th with a grand opening celebration from 8-11am and ribbon cutting ceremony at 10am at Sunset Vista Natural Area. All are invited and more information can be found at <http://bit.ly/LongViewTrail>. Attendance is expected to be high and the trail is already seeing a lot of use – Zac
 - i. Grand Opening was huge success, video of aerial view of trail shown to board. Trail is 4 miles long, 10 feet wide, includes 5 bridges (one repurposed from flood), wetlands, public very excited. Thanks to cities of Loveland and Fort Collins.
- d. Funds (\$7,500) were approved for the County Forester to conduct an inventory of high value and hazard trees in campgrounds and trailheads to help inform future management – Meegan
 - i. Need for systematic plan for managing trees, County Forester project will be funded primarily through General Fund and DNR will fund remaining, project will have a 5 to 10 year phase plan.
- e. The enterprise crew has been hired by Northern Water to manage noxious/troublesome weeds at the Chimney Hollow Reservoir site as well as a mitigation site on the Little Thompson River – Meegan
- f. Regional Open Lands Advisory Board meeting on November 14th, working with cities of Loveland and Fort Collins. Will likely cancel October 25th meeting. Board meeting following the regional meeting should last 1.5 to 2 hours. Venue still unknown, could be new Larimer County building or Rec Center.

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Open Space District Reports – Steve/Chris
 - i. Busy season, visitor management is priority, still at capacity but slowing down on trails. Hermit continuing construction on trailheads, hard to keep folks out before they are open to public. Red Mountain also busy, high number of rescue and fire calls, cattle trespass issues continuing.
 - ii. Nancy Wallace inquired about rattlesnakes at Red Mountain. It was noted that the rattlesnakes were monitored for 3 years, hibernacula was never found, not seeing them as frequently.

- iii. Hermit hosted Wolfwood for the 10th straight year, over 700 attended. Estes Valley Land Trust had a community event. Vault toilets arrive on Monday. High number of Junior Ranger swearing-in's this year.
- iv. Red Mountain fence repair, lots of rescues at Horsetooth. New AED's from FEMA saved a life on Sunday.
- b. Update on proposed venue change to the new Larimer County Loveland Campus building at 200 Peridot Avenue – Gary
 - i. November will be 1st meeting that can possibly be at new venue, still waiting for approval.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Gary Buffington retiring at the end of this year after 17 years. Todd Blomstrom is working on readying job announcement, should come out early September. Congratulations from the board.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Lions Open Space Bank Stabilization & Restoration budget request – Zac
 - i. Before, during and after construction photos. Board has reviewed budget request. Riprap was covered with topsoil and vegetation, in-stream structures installed for fish habitat and flow. Total project cost was just over \$645k, were not reimbursed by FEMA as planned for \$112k. Budget request includes the FEMA shortfall, \$10k for floodplain revision, and \$7k for additional public notification, total request is \$129,334.
 - ii. Carl Sorrentino asked what agency looks at history of success/failure of restoration choices such as riprap, etc. It was noted that a consultant is still under contract for in-stream monitoring, info is shared with CWCB, should be stable.
 - iii. Sherri Valentine asked if LC was misled by FEMA. It was noted that it is a challenging process working with FEMA, is rarely exactly what is quoted.
 - iv. Jason Brothers asked if the project was considered a 'betterment' by FEMA. It was noted that it was. Submitting the new floodplain Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) is next step and there may be comments from FEMA, is currently incorporated in the budget request.
 - v. Pete Kelly asked how the restoration component and the mapping component were combined. It was noted that they are two different things and the floodplain re-mapping was requested by LC folks and was included in the original scope. What changed was the additional parcels/landowners in the floodplain, LC felt it was responsible to notify appropriate people and provide updated maps, FEMA has to approve any correspondence. FEMA's review of the LOMR's has become more stringent and lengthy even since project started, the budget request includes the anticipated use of a consultant to assist with the LOMR process. Monies can be returned if full requested amount is not used.

- vi. Nancy Wallace asked how far the flood plain goes into Laporte. It was noted that it does not go far beyond the open space, just the area right around Lyons.
- vii. Pete Kelly asked about whether re-mapping and re-messaging in floodplain projects can be expected in the future. It was noted that the anticipated river work at River Bluffs Open Space is a different situation and fewer homeowners will be affected. Other floodplain projects are not on the horizon but LC is aware of the issue now.
- viii. Dave Marvin asked if FEMA provides feedback about shortfalls and if there is an appeals process. It was noted that there are appeals processes and they have been exhausted in this case. LC has been cautioned that pushing harder can result in losing more money.
- ix. Marilyn Hilgenberg discussed the City of Loveland's experiences working with FEMA on river corridor projects. FEMA rules changed multiple times throughout the process which created complications and loss of funding. Emergency situation management has improved because of these problems with FEMA.
- x. Ken Zornes asked if this is new behavior for FEMA. It was noted that these issues have occurred in the past.
- xi. K-Lynn Cameron asked if the \$129k is in addition to the \$645k. It was noted that the \$645k includes the \$129k and is not in addition to it.
- xii. Dave Marvin commented that the work was necessary, LC utilized good partners and the monetary overage is not extensive. He also asked if the responsibility rests with the Open Lands program or if other County departments will be participating. It was noted that CPW owns the property (99-year lease) so it is OL's responsibility, other departments (like Engineering & Purchasing) provide support to the project but not financially.
- xiii. Paul Alaback commented that after the flood, LC decided to improve the area instead of putting it back the way it was and asked if FEMA supported that. It was noted that FEMA pays to put back what originally existed and that is where discrepancies were. This project had a more heavily armored approach than River Bluffs will have because of the threat to infrastructure. Will be attempting to re-establish willows this spring in the riprap areas.
- xiv. Nancy Wallace moves to approve that this comes out of the budget, Sherri Valentine seconds, motion passed unanimously.

9. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: September 27, 2018 at City Council Chambers, Civic Center Municipal Building, 500 E. 3rd St., Loveland, CO.

10. 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, personal or other property interest. Dave Marvin moves into Executive Session at 5:59 p.m., Nancy Wallace seconds, motion passed.

11. ADJOURN – 7:34 p.m.