

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

Date: April 25, 2019

Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Larimer County Loveland Campus Building, 200 Peridot Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537, Poudre River Room

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	Daylan Figgs	x	Leslie Ellis (LC Comm. Develop.)
David Marvin	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	Dave Myers (City of Fort Collins)
Gerry Horak		Ken Brink	x	1 member of the public
Jason Brothers	x	Charlie Johnson	x	
Paul Alaback	x	Justin Core	x	
K-Lynn Cameron	x	Zac Wiebe	x	
Marilyn Hilgenberg	x	Steve Gibson	x	
Nancy Wallace	x	Jenn Almstead	x	
Peter Kelly	x	Sarah Watson	x	
Sherri Valentine	x	Lori Smith	x	
Suzan Fritchel	x	Emmy Ellison (minutes)	x	
Ken Zornes	x	*Thomas Donnelly	x	

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:01 p.m.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Nancy moves to approve last meeting minutes, Suzan seconds, motion passed unanimously.

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. GOCO Connect Grant concept paper submitted April 4th for Poudre River Trail – Meegan
- d. The Long View Regional Trail project was selected as one of 11 projects to receive a 2019 Starburst Award from the Colorado Lottery! – Meegan
- e. River health assessment planned for Glade Park – Meegan
- f. DNR Administrative Offices interior work – Meegan

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Update on HB 19-1264 – Meegan/Justin
 - i. Modifications relating to conservation easement benefits discussed at last OLAB meeting have been removed from the bill. Bill is still moving forward, extends the life of the bill to July of 2026 but without the modifications.
 - ii. Sherri asked about whether specific language is new and if it puts LC's CE's at risk. It was noted that LC would check on that.
- b. Open Space District Reports – Steve/Chris
- c. CIP Project Manager position – Daylan
 - i. New and significant position, will report to Daylan and will work for Land Conservation and Visitor Services, salary will be shared by Parks and Open Lands. Org chart discussion.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Visitor Study presentation – Zac/Jenn
 - i. Increasing visitors due to increasing populations, purpose of study was to look at several properties (HTMOS, RMOS, HT Reservoir) to understand visitation and overall visitor experience. Worked with Colorado State University on statistically valid surveys. Utilized 26 trail counters, 9 cameras, 2 webcams and a number of vehicle counters.
 - ii. Study highlights include:
 1. Visitor Counts: Estimated annual person visits & Parking Capacities (5 or less available parking spaces).
 2. Visitor Satisfaction Survey: typical visitor, residence of visitors, top cities where visitors are coming from, average group size, reasons for visiting, percentage of first-time visitors, primary activities by location, specific trail uses reported, quality of facilities, crowding/conflict summary.
 3. The full Visitor Use Study report can be found here: <https://www.larimer.org/naturalresources/plans-reports-advisory-boards>.
- b. Budget presentation – Lori

- i. 2018 Department Revenue (\$18.8 million)
 - ii. Funding Sources and Funds
 - iii. 2018 Revenue by Section
 - iv. Reservoir Operations Revenue and Expenses
 - v. Conservation Trust (Lottery) Revenues
 - vi. Park Capital Projects Revenue Sources for 2009-2018
 - vii. Open Space Sales Tax and Development Fees Revenues
 - viii. Help Preserve Open Space Initiative 1996-2018
 - ix. Sales Tax Expenses from 1996-2018 (\$80.3 million – 72% Acquiring Interest, Protecting & Improving Open Space, Natural Areas, and Wildlife Habitat and Trails; 22% Cost of Operating, Maintaining and Administering of Open Spaces; 5% Improving Existing Regional Parks including Carter, Horsetooth, Flatiron and Pinewood; 1% Cost of Operating, Maintaining and Administering of Regional Parks)
 - x. Extension of Sales Tax 2019-2043 (50% O&M, 35% Acquisition, 15% Flex), County's share increases from 42% to 50%.
 - xi. Parks Operations and Lottery Fund Balances
 - xii. Sales Tax and Regional Park Fees Fund Balances
 - xiii. Historic and Projected Regional Population Growth
 - xiv. Existing Fee Areas Projected Permit and Camping Growth
 - xv. Discussion of specifics regarding spending flexibility, fund balances and budgets, allocation of flex money, bonding capacity, fund tracking and population growth.
- c. Overview of current land ownership and access – Meegan
- i. 1996-2018 Land Acquisitions by Type (40% or 18k acres were CE's, 60% or 23k acres were Fee)
 - ii. Total Acres Acquired 1996-2018 (46,475 acres) – 8% in 1996-1998, 28% in 1999-2003, 54% in 2004-2008, 3% in 2009-2013, 7% in 2014-2018
 - iii. Total Acquisition Cost 1996-2018 (\$102,356,000) – LCDNR 44.5%, Grants 22.8%, Fort Collins 19.3%, Loveland 8.9%, Land Trusts 1.9%, Other Cities 1.2%, Other 1.1%, State/Federal .3%. Landowner donations totaled \$10,546,000. Acquisition costs are pure costs only and do not include additional direct costs (like closing costs) or indirect costs (staff time, etc.).
 - iv. Map shown of Priority Areas Indicated in the 2015 Open Lands Master Plan, Land Conservation Status and Visitation Levels
 - v. Our Lands – Our Future 2014 Statistically Valid Survey of 7,500 Residents – showed public desire to balance conservation with public access.
 - vi. Diagram showing how LCDNR's current portfolio matches that desired balance and spectrum of how closer in/higher visitation/levels of infrastructure properties cost more to manage than lower infrastructure level properties and/or CEs.
 - vii. Miles of Non-motorized Trails in LC (all agencies) totals 943 miles – 41% multi-use, 47% hiking/horse, 9% hiking only, 3% hiking/biking

- viii. Miles of LC constructed/managed trails (~100 miles) added consistently over time
- ix. Number of trailhead parking spaces constructed/added by LCDNR over time
- d. Audit results – Daylan
 - i. Zero findings of negative consequence by auditor.
- e. Oil and Gas Regulations Task Force seeking liaison from OLAB – Daylan/Lesli
 - i. Lesli Ellis of LC Community Development explained the position, will narrow down 90+ applicants next week and do interviews. 15 members total representing a variety of interests, candidate can expect 5-6 meetings from May through September and 2 public events. Role is to carry information back and forth between task force and board as non-voting member of task force and assist with developing regulations to bring to the Planning Commission.
 - ii. Commissioner Donnelly noted that the purpose of the Task Force is to develop land use regulations, not to stop oil and gas regulations and that they are seeking open minded individuals for the roles.
 - iii. K-Lynn and Sherri both expressed interest in the role, both gave brief presentations on their qualifications/interest and it was decided that a vote would take place via email.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Adoption of updated OLAB bylaws (with changes from County Attorney)
 - i. Nancy moved to adopt the updated bylaws, Marilyn seconded, motion passed unanimously.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: May 23, 2019 at the Larimer County Loveland Campus Building, 200 Peridot Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537, Poudre River Room

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest. Sherri moved to enter Executive Session, Nancy seconded, motion passed unanimously at 7:42 p.m.

12. ADJOURN – 8:04 p.m.