

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: May 23, 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 Sidney at smichl@larimer.org or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend

Members		Staff		Guests	
Carl Sorrentino	X	Daylan Figgs	X	Jenn Cram (LC Comm. Develop.)	
David Marvin		Meegan Flenniken	X	George Wallace (LC AAB)	
Ken Zornes		Ken Brink	X		
Jason Brothers	X	Charlie Johnson	X		
Paul Alaback	X	Justin Core	X		
K-Lynn Cameron		*Thomas Donnelly			
Marilyn Hilgenberg	X	Sidney Michl (minutes)	X		
Nancy Wallace	X	Emmy Ellison (minutes)	X		
Peter Kelly	X	Travis Rollins	X		
Sherri Valentine	X				
Suzan Fritchel	X				

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:03 p.m.
 - a. Emmy’s last meeting, introduced Sidney Michl as the new Department Specialist.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

- a. Sherri asked for clarification on 7.e. to clarify that the OLAB liaison role is non-voting for the Oil and Gas Regulations Task Force. Pete motions to approve last meeting minutes with Sherri's request, Marilyn 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. Larimer County Comprehensive Master Plan draft is publicly available for review through 5/31 at: <https://larimercompplan.com/comprehensive-plan-draft-review> – Meegan
- d. Passage of House Bill 19-0871 with amendments – Justin
- e. River Bluffs restoration project was selected as 1 of 4 (out of 17!) state-funded projects for a site visit from DOLA – Meegan
- f. Change to District/Area Reports – Daylan

6. REPORTS

- a. The 2018 Annual Report can be found here: https://www.larimer.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2019/natural_resources_annual_report_2018.pdf – Daylan
 - i. Changed format and added infographics to be more streamlined and user-friendly, focus on revenue and expenses, land conservation stories, ANS program, weed management, etc. Format will be replicated for Visitor Study. Thanks to Teddy for putting it together.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) tool presentation – Jason Brothers/George Wallace
 - i. LC LESA revisions - primarily changes on "Site Assessment" process, brought to OLAB for review and discussion.
 - ii. Paul asked about considerations for water quality, Jason clarified LESA is meant to be a non-technical tool and water quality is not explicitly targeted as an evaluation criterion.
 - iii. Paul suggested adding criteria for scenic value, transportation corridors, and habitat value. George said scenic value can be flexibly included in the narrative. Jason noted LESA is primarily intended to focus on farming value and that enhanced transportation access can lead to urban-rural conflicts.
 - iv. Marilyn asked if existing properties were scored with new LE and SA components to test tool. George said properties were scored according to the initial LESA draft, would be a good practice to replicate again. Meegan noted that LESA is a helpful tool we've used when rating the ag value of a property acquisition, but not the only factor.

- v. Jenn Cram, LC Planner, mentioned possibility for LESA to be used by the Planning Dept as well when reviewing conservation developments and areas preserved for residual land.
- vi. Sherri asked about ranking system and its reliance on traditional farmland, Jason noted difficulty in capturing diverse agricultural industry. Original LESA tool reflected commodity agriculture, recent revisions are meant to consider both large traditional farms and smaller scale operations/CSAs without bias. George noted a stronger case could be made in the narrative. Justin emphasized the importance of economies of scale in agricultural production.
- vii. Sherri asked about frequency of manure removal from CAFOs, George said removal is annual. Jason noted not wanting to affect standard industry practice and that LESA is mainly focused on assessing the inherent value of the property itself.
- viii. Next steps are to develop a scoring sheet and schedule meeting with BOCC. Daylan said conversations about land acquisition priorities will continue in coming months. George said they are happy to make presentations about LESA on the County's behalf.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Pittington Conservation Easement Final Review
 - i. Nancy moves to recommend the BOCC accept the donation, subject to the cost of completing the process transaction costs at \$50k, Marilyn seconds, motion passed unanimously.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. New board appointments have been made but not yet advertised, board should know by June meeting, new members will start in July.

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: June 27, 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. Nancy moved to enter Executive Session, Marilyn seconded, motion passed unanimously at 6:04 p.m.

12. ADJOURN – 6:28 p.m.