

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: November 14, 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 |
|------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------|
| Bob Hewson | x | Daylan Figgs | x | |
| David Marvin | x | Meegan Flenniken | x | |
| Jason Brothers | x | Ken Brink | x | |
| K-Lynn Cameron | x | Steve Gibson | x | |
| Ken Zornes | | Justin Core | x | |
| Linda Stanley | x | *Thomas Donnelly | | |
| Mark DeGregorio | x | Sidney Michl (minutes) | x | |
| Nancy Wallace | x | | | |
| Peter Kelly | x | | | |
| Rick Brent | | | | |
| Sherri Valentine | x | | | |
| Tom Shoemaker | x | | | |

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:03 p.m.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
 - a. Will discuss the electric motorized bike review after the restoration strategy overview.
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

- a. Linda motioned to approve last meeting minutes, K-Lynn seconded, 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. In partnership with the non-profit group Historicorps, the Department completed the Capital Project to stabilize the Herrington/Soderberg ranch buildings at the Horsetooth Mountain Open Space.
 - i. Steve clarified the stone buildings just west of the trailhead were renovated. Meegan explained that Historicorps is the same group we partnered with to stabilize the historic buildings at Hermit Park OS last year. We've budgeted \$50,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan for historic structure work over a 5-year period and intend to reapply to Historicorps for a 2020 project to finish renovations at Horsetooth Mountain OS on the Herrington Chicken House and well house next year.
- d. Big Thompson Canyon parcel exchange with the City of Loveland – Justin
 - i. Plan is to convey the overlapping LC and City of Loveland parcel, to the City of Loveland, in exchange for a small parcel in Cedar Cove owned by Loveland.

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Sherri noted the last County Oil and Gas Task Force meeting was Oct. 30th, public comment period for Version 1 of O&G Regulations is Nov. 12th-Dec. 1st, Open Office Hours Day Nov. 21st at 200 W. Oak St. in Fort Collins. Daylan said DNR is working with internal county staff on regulations.
- b. Reminder that the OLAB site visit is still planned for tomorrow.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Agricultural Lands Strategy Overview – Daylan/Meegan
 - i. Daylan introduced the Agricultural Land Strategy as a planning effort to define what agriculture means to DNR in terms of conserving ag land and using best management practices on land that we have for best conservation outcomes.
 - ii. Bob asked about tools or strategies, Daylan said our two biggest sources of information and funding are CPW and NRCS with opportunities for grants mainly available to private landowners.
 - iii. K-Lynn asked about farm-to-table operations, it was noted funding is limited. Jason said the Ag Board advocates for diversity in practices and scale.
 - iv. Meegan gave an overview of our current land portfolio (31,000 acres or 2/3 of our current conserved lands are in agriculture; 60% fee, 40% CE) and conservation outcomes centered around soil and water health, habitat, and continuity with other conserved lands.

- v. Plan is to share this concept with other department boards (LSAB and PAB) as well as the County Ag Advisory Board and Environmental Sciences Advisory Board. An internal staff core team will brainstorm conservation outcomes and management practices with stakeholder groups.
- b. Restoration Strategy Overview – Daylan/Meegan
 - i. Daylan explained the purpose of the Restoration Strategy is similar to the Ag Strategy, goal is to define what restoration means to DNR, create guidelines for restoration, and track costs (35% of County sales tax goes to land acquisition and restoration). Meegan noted our department restoration team has completed and is currently working on numerous restoration projects. However, most of our properties are in excellent condition (a handful of our properties are used by NRCS as ecological reference sites) with relatively small-scale restoration needs.
 - ii. Discussion about weed control and using cattle grazing as a tool, some properties benefit from resting. Nancy asked if weed control is considered maintenance or restoration, Daylan answered the strategy aims to better define that. Jason asked about coordinating weed control with neighboring landowners, Meegan said the Weed District is a great tool for helping us address cross boundary weed management, something we've actively partnered to do in the case where we hold a CE with an adjacent landowner.
 - iii. Similar timeline to the Ag Strategy, presentation will be shared with technical experts on LSAB, then brought back to OLAB for recommendation.
- c. Electric motorized bike review and discussion – Daylan
 - i. Drafted a memo to summarize survey findings, literature review info from City of Boulder, and staff recommendations. LCDNR recommends continuing the recently adopted regulations that allow Class I and II e-bikes on paved, regional trails only. The draft memo can be found here: larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm.

8. ACTION ITEMS

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: December 19, 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. Dave moved to enter Executive Session, K-Lynn seconded, motion passed unanimously at 6:17 p.m.

12. ADJOURN – 6:29 p.m.