



LARIMER COUNTY OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 24, 2011, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Loveland Municipal Building, 500 E. 3rd St, Loveland, CO

The mission of the Larimer County Open Lands Program is to preserve and protect significant Open Space, natural areas, wildlife habitat, and develop parks and trails for present and future generations. These open lands provide opportunities for leisure, human renewal and protection of our natural and cultural resources.

Present:

Steve Vessey	At-large	Peter Kast	At-large
Hugh McKean	City of Loveland	Patricia Brennan	At-large
Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission	Gerry Horak	City of Fort Collins Rep
Suzan Fritchel	At-large	Mary Banken	At-large
John Ericson	Town of Estes Park	Don Griffith	At-large
Trudy Haines	At-Large	Jeff Hindman	Town of Berthoud

Staff Present:

Kerri Rollins	Open Lands Program Manager	Meegan Flenniken	Resource Program Manager
Tom Donnelly	County Commissioner	Travis Rollins	Open Lands Operations Manager
		Zach Cook	Ranger

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:14 pm.

REGULAR MEETING

- Approval of the meeting minutes for April 28, 2011. **Hugh McKean motioned and seconded by Nancy Wallace. Passed unanimously.**
- Review Agenda and enclosures

INFORMATION:

- *OLAB members are reminded that your attendance is needed at each meeting and to notify Zac if you are unable to attend. We've had difficulty maintaining a quorum in the past few meetings which hinders the ability for staff to move forward on projects as needed.*
- Department of Natural Resources 2010 Annual Report released
- The Education Pilot Project had its first meeting on 5/25 with the Advisory Committee
- At the request of GOCO, staff worked with City of Fort Collins & Timnath to put together information regarding river and trail corridor projects. GOCO will use this to develop a Request for Proposals for either a Fall 2011 or Spring 2012 cycle.
- In partnership with the Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps, we are submitting a grant as part of a new GOCO initiative to help fund youth corps state-wide, to complete 3 projects: Siberian elm removal at River Bluffs Open Space, buckthorn tree removal project at Lions' Open Space and trail maintenance.
- We've been awarded 3 new forest stewardship grants – 2 from the Colorado State Forest Service for Hermit Park Open Space (\$75,000) and Chimney Hollow Open Space (\$75,000) and 1 from FEMA for Hermit Park Open Space (\$58,000) all to be completed during 2011 and 2012.
- CJ Cullins, DNR Volunteer Coordinator, was recognized as the "Volunteer Coordinator of the Year" by the United Way and Director's of Volunteers in Agencies. Congratulations CJ!
- The Sylvan Dale Cedar Creek CE donation will likely close in June after approval is requested from the BOCC on 5/31. This 560 acre parcel adds to the 1060 acres already under easement at Sylvan Dale Ranch. It is a full donation; the County is only paying for transaction costs.



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- Department Volunteer Boards summer picnic – 8/24 at Horsetooth Reservoir South Bay Swim Beach
- Report from the Open Lands Operations Manager - See handout
- To sign up for Parks Advisory Board minutes go to <http://larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm> put in your email and click 'subscribe', then check "Parks Advisory Board" box
- Natural Resource Events for May. See website <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>

ACTION:

- River Bluffs Education Plan final review. **Moved to adopt as written by Trudy Haines and seconded by John Ericson. Passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Heron Lakes update: Partnership led by Berthoud and including Loveland and Larimer County. Phase I, 40 acres, is being appraised. GOCO Projects Committee has ranked it 2nd (of 7 projects recommended for funding) in the state and will vote officially June 14th.
- City 2010 spending reports received to date (Fort Collins, Loveland and Estes Park)
Estes Park Report: Presented by John Ericson - Focus has been on redevelopment of Bond Park which is scheduled to open soon.

Loveland Report: Hugh noted that there have been questions about how they are spending their dollars and that instead of spending their dollars this year on acquisitions they are looking at existing lands they hold and what uses they might provide for public access or other uses. Recently signed a contract with Agilent for ~140 acres along the river and incorporated into their trail system. Also looking at other properties within the river corridor but need to better understand augmentation issues related to them beforehand.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Update: Natural Resources Capital Development and Acquisition Summary 2010 – 2012 – No Updates

BOARD COMMENT: Items not on the agenda

PRESENTATION:

- Energy By Design – Megan Kram, The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has developed a unique approach to working with oil and gas companies on important landscapes and presented their Energy By Design approach that may be useful to Larimer County as oil and gas development pressures in Larimer County continue to climb.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Items not on the agenda None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (24-6-402(4)(a) C.R.S. Purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real or personal property interest. **Nancy Wallace moved to go into executive session and John Ericson seconded. Nancy moved to leave executive session and Suzan Fritchel seconded.** Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Next regular meeting: Thursday, June 23, 2011; Loveland Council Chambers, 500 E 3rd St., Loveland