



## LARIMER COUNTY OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 23, 2012 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Loveland Municipal Building, 500 E 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

Peter Kast	At-large	Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission
Suzan Fritchel	At-large	Mary Banken	At-large
Steve Vessey	At-large	Hugh McKean	City of Loveland
Jeff Hindman	Town of Berthoud	Trudy Haines	At-Large
Patricia Brennan	At-large		

Staff Present:

Kerri Rollins	Open Lands Manager	Gary Buffington	Director
Charlie Johnson	Land Agent	Travis Rollins	Open Lands Operations Manager
Meegan Flenniken	Resource Stewardship Manager	Zac Wiebe	Natural Resource Technician

Absent:

Gerry Horak	City of Fort Collins	Don Griffith	At-large
John Ericson	Town of Estes Park		

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

- Approval of the meeting minutes for  
**Steve motioned to approve the minutes, Jeff seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.**
- Review Agenda and enclosures

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on the agenda.**

Kathy Hartman invited the Board to the Design Workshop open house. The meeting is the first session to come up with the alternatives for the Agilent property. Another workshop will take place in a couple months. It's on Wednesday, February 29 from 6:30-8:30, more information is on the city of Loveland's website.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Jake Ficca, CSU student, is our newest intern. Jake is volunteering 400 hours. Jake introduced himself and gave a brief description of his education.

**INFORMATION:**

- Staff continues to work with our municipalities on the RFP for the Regional Study and hope to post it by the end of the month with proposals due by end of March. Peter will be the Board liaison on this project. Loveland, Ft. Collins and Berthoud will be using it to update master plans and Timnath will be using it to fill in gaps in their recently completed plan. Estes Park will also use it to inform future plans. Suzan offered to be more involved.
- Staff continues to work with Fort Collins, Timnath, Windsor and Greeley on the GOCO River Corridors Initiative grant application. The grant is due March 16. A site visit with the GOCO board will be 3/31 and a presentation to the Board is on 4/9. OLAB members are encouraged to join us on part of the site visit.



## LARIMER COUNTY OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- The Plug in to Nature project results will be rolled out to the public at a 3/7 event at the Courthouse from 5:30-7pm. OLAB members are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to [movak@larimer.org](mailto:movak@larimer.org) or 679-4561. An invitation has been included in the board packet.
- The equine campground grant for Hermit Park will be submitted 3/2. \$131,000 is requested from GOCO. The equine community has been very communicative with their support. Zac reminded the Board about the Kruger trailhead project grant that was submitted in November and will link to the equestrian campground if successful
- Slash pile prescription burns are taking place at Horsetooth and Carter this week.
- 16 Natural Resource volunteer board members attended the Eagles hockey game on 2/15. A good time was had by all!
- Report from the Open Lands Operations Manager - See handout
  - Attended regular Agricultural Advisory Board and Habitat Partnership Program meetings
  - Installed first automated pay station at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space, 113 passes sold electronically from 2/1 to 2/20. Steve clarified that the price of the vending machine is \$8100. Travis commented that the cost savings on staff time will be considerable.
  - Red Mountain Open Space hunting drawing will occur first week of March, there are 275 applicants as of 2/20.
  - Red Mountain OS will reopen on March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 85% of collared deer were recaptured in January and February as part of the CSU CWD research project, there are a total of 145 deer collared in the area of Red Mountain Open Space

### Patrol-

- Planning for Ranger Excellence School 2012, on line registration starts April 1<sup>st</sup>, training is May 14<sup>th</sup> through May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Thomas McKee 4H Building
- Report of two bison that were killed and quartered at Red Mountain Open Space, site was actually in Wyoming, incident being investigated by Laramie County Sheriff's Office and Wyoming Game and Fish
- Volunteer Ranger Assistant training hosted on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>,  
Twenty three participants for 2012

### Maintenance/Projects-

- Developing monthly safety trainings for departmental maintenance staff
- Agricultural leases at Long View farm and River Bluff's will go out to public bid in 2012
- Replaced upright logs on Eagle's Nest OS entry sign which broke due to high winds
- 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 March. See website <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

• Annual Reports from Cities and Towns – Town of Berthoud, Town of Estes Park, City of Loveland  
Tim Katers, planner for the Town of Berthoud, updated the Board on the uses of open space tax dollars. He presented a regional map to show potential projects. Tim pointed out the town's proposed GOCO project to connect the Little and Big Thompson rivers. Unfortunately they were not asked to submit a full application. Tim then showed a map of the Heron Lakes project and discussed the acquisition. In partnership with Loveland and Larimer County, Berthoud submitted a grant to GOCO for \$1.4 million that was funded, the project closed on December 28<sup>th</sup>. He complimented the Larimer County and Loveland staff on their contributions to the grant, both financially and expertise. Berthoud contributed approximately \$330k to phase I. They've been considering



## LARIMER COUNTY OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

a second phase and GOCO recommended waiting till the fall cycle. The CDOW is fine with waiting on their money for McNeil res. rights. Tim shifted gears to focus on a management plan for the phase 1 portion this afternoon. The land is held in fee simple, the conservation easement is held jointly by Larimer County and the City of Loveland. They are focused on getting to Ryan's gulch and the former Agilent property. Staff has also discussed with the Jaskowski, the city of Loveland just decided to not accept the property. Berthoud is considering accepting it. Jeff commented that it's been very exciting for Berthoud, it too bad that it'll use up all the open space dollars but it's a great project that will benefit them and the county. Peter asked when it's expected to be open to the public. Tim answered that the budget is challenging. Mike Hart has commented that it would be nice to open within 3 years but it's difficult to tell. Trudy asked if they were going to manage it itself. Tim: will lean on the neighbors a lot. Jeff feels that it makes a lot of sense to subcontract, partner with eh county. Tim commented that it would make sense to partner, especially if McNeil is acquired. Kerri mentioned the Lonetree lease. Jeff mentioned that they are considering approving a recreation district. They will lose 500k if they don't start constructing a recreation center. Jeff mentioned the town lake that may open for recreation. He also pointed out an area to the west of town that has potential for open space. Jeff also commented that they are in the process of updating the PORT plan.

Steve McFarland, the finance officer for Estes Park, presented then discussed out a handout. In 2011, Estes Park worked on the Bond Park planning. See Powerpoint. Steve commented that the plan was adopted in 2010 and recommends dividing the park in six possible phases of improvement. Trudy asked how much land there is and Steve answered 0.6 acres or so. After Steve's presentation Trudy asked what's next. Steve answered that there's about \$217k available but nothing is planned at the moment. It may be spent on additional open space purchases.

· Hermit Park Open Space, Draft Hunting Proposal – Chris Fleming, Park Manager  
Chris introduced Rick Spowart, District Wildlife Manager, and Larry Rogstadt, Area Wildlife Manager then went through the hunting proposal presentation, see Powerpoint. Dan added to the Outdoor Buddies (OB) slide by commenting that they did a site visit, were very excited and will be a good partner. Dan commented that there is no intention to allow off road use. He also mentioned the diversity of the properties that DNR manages and that hunting at HPOS will complement the diversity of uses. It's even different than the Red Mountain Open Space (RMOS) model. Kerri added that the size of RMOS distinguishes it as well. Rick commented that he's had a lot of experience with OB around Estes Park and their hunts are typically not of the highest quality. This proposal is a very controlled harvest. The group comes from all around the country with a variety of disabilities. Hunters are paired with an able buddy, it's strictly controlled, they have the proper certifications, permits, etc. If there is a wound the able buddy partner can "finish it" but Rick has only seen that happen once in twenty years. The safety issues are well controlled.  
Suzan would like to see a map with all the residences in the vicinity of HPOS. Chris showed the map and pointed out that the vast majority of homes are on the other side of 36, there are a couple on Meadowdale. Rick commented that there is hunting in the Meadowdale subdivision. Some people are used to it, some are opposed. Larry commented that the topography is conducive to safe shooting corridors. Trudy asked if there would be that much pressure with all the public lands around there for youth. Dan answered that he doesn't think there will be a lot of pushback from others wanting to hunt besides youth. Hugh agrees that there won't be a big push from non youth hunters. He commented that there is a plague of youth not using. There are other hunters that would like access but it will be easy to say no. Most hunters will. Larry, selfishly from DOW's perspective, they are funded by license fees which are declining and they are combating poor perceptions about safety. Statistically, hunting is safer than golfing. Mary commented that she has a hard time with the mixed use, it's a tough expectation and suggested shutting the park down while hunting is allowed. Hugh commented that he's hunted in mixed use areas with good success. Dan commented that he's had a lot of experience with programs



## LARIMER COUNTY OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

like this and it's a zoning issue and it is manageable to separate use. Hunting during a closure only is something that will be decided through this process, it's done successfully elsewhere and they are open to the best option. Travis commented that there have been no negative comments from the RMOS hunting program. Kerri pointed out the difference in trail density from RMOS to HPOS. Nancy asked if there has been any restriction, is it like eagles nest. Yes. And pointed out that people see hunters all the time, and are used to it. Dan has hunted there twice and seen no one. They have an open mind and will listen to the public. He wants to be careful about the dates; it needs to meet management objectives. Limiting the season could prevent that. There have been a lot that's changed with elk movements and we want to keep dates flexible. Rick commented that the effort to manage the elk herd coming out of RMNP. The first late season, in November, would be a good time. Kerri conveyed John Ericson's comments; make sure the BOCC, town of Estes Park board, and Meadowdale have seen this presentation. He has nothing against.....see email. Mary commented that it's important to do an assessment on the wetland area and the impacts to it. Also, in addition to sending out notices, talk to Art and Marsha French and the candy and jimsalsbachs. And Tom Beck, the 3 neighbors that will be the most affected. Trudy liked the youth component and the Sunday through Thursday option. Steve is glad to see the plan and how it enhances what we offer.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- Update: Natural Resources Capital Development and Acquisition Summary 2010 – 2012 – no updates

### **BOARD COMMENT: Items not on the agenda**

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Items not on the agenda**

See handout

**Nancy motioned, Steve seconded and the motion passes unanimously to move in to executive session**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (24-6-402(4)(a) C.R.S. Purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real or personal property interest.. **Steve motioned to adjourn, Hugh seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

*Next regular meeting: Thursday, March 22, 2012; Loveland Council Chambers, 500 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Loveland*