



OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

7:45-8:30 p.m.

Courthouse Offices Building, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins

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.

Members Present

Peter Kast - At-large
Carl Sorrentino - At-large
Suzan Fritchel - At-large
Mary Banken - At-large
Ladonna Lee - At-large
Hugh McKean - City of Loveland
Nancy Wallace - Planning Commission
Paul Alaback - Town of Berthoud

Staff Present

Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager
Zac Wiebe, Fund Development & Special Projects
Gary Buffington, Director of Natural Resources
Meegan Flenniken, Land Stewardship Program Manager

Members Absent

John Phipps - Town of Estes Park
Trudy Haines - At-large
Gerry Horak - City of Fort Collins
Steve Vessey - At-large

REGULAR MEETING

- Approval of the meeting minutes for October 24, 2013
- Review Agenda and enclosures

PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on the agenda. No public comment

INFORMATION:

- The Commissioners signed the technical assistance letter for The Trust for Public Land per OLAB's October recommendation.
- Natural Resources Boards Christmas Party 12/12/13 - 6:00 PM at Peter's – please RSVP by December 5 to Sandy.
- May need a short OLAB meeting on the reserved date of 12/19
- Staff met with Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) leaders to discuss potential funding for properties impacted by flood and rain events. Other local governments also attended. There was a lot of good information shared, especially from Estes Park. GOCO will dedicate funding to help flooded areas by diverting it from other grant cycles. Mary commented that Estes Park is submitting a GOCO application for trail planning. Kerri commented that GOCO will be much more flexible with their application requirements

for the flood cycle. Feedback from Fort Collins was that the city would prefer the funding to go to communities with a greater need.

- The public meeting regarding capacity issues at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space was held 10/28. Twenty-one people attended. Staff is compiling comments from attendees and those sent via email. Meegan commented that meeting attendees were mixed with neighbors and trail users. The technology components of the plan were popular. Following the meeting, staff received many comments from neighbors opposing the new trail component. After reviewing the menu of options, staff will move forward with most of the components but will continue to evaluate the trail through the open lands master plan update. The trail provides good connectivity and will be environmentally sustainable. There have also been positive e-mails from the neighbors. Staff will also meet with neighbors to discuss their issues. Staff will be back in January to give a report and ask for approval of recommended components.
- The Buckthorn Removal project at Lions Open Space on October 26 was a success. Over 30 volunteers attended the event and mountains of buckthorn were chipped. Improvements to the paved and crusher fine trails at Lions were also completed.
- Report from the Open Lands Operations Manager - See enclosure

Ladonna requested that language be changed in the discussion regarding the Trust for Public Land. Mary wanted to add that she attended by phone. **Nancy motioned to approve with the minutes with the recommended changes, Suzan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

PRESENTATION:

- “Life After the Flood” – short video summarizing the County’s flood response
Peter asked if the county will end up owning parcels in the Big Thompson canyon, similar to the results of the 1976 flood. Gary answered that it’s too soon to tell, there are still a lot of unknowns regarding how FEMA will handle the situation.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- No update to Natural Resources Capital Development and Acquisition Summary 2012 – 2014. Refer to latest report prepared 08-19-2013.

BOARD COMMENT: Items not on the agenda. No additional comments.