



# OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, August 28, 2014**

5:00- 8:00 PM

Civic Center Municipal Bldg • Council Chambers • 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.*

<b>Members Present</b>	
Carl Sorrentino	At-large
Mary Banken	At-large
Suzan Fritchel	At-large
Trudy Haines	At-large
Gerry Horak	City of Fort Collins
Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission
Paul Alaback	Town of Berthoud
Ward Nelson	Town of Estes Park
Ladonna Lee	At-large

<b>Staff Present</b>
Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager
Charlie Johnson, Senior Land Agent
Alex Castina, Land Agent
Meegan Flenniken, Resource Program Manager
Sandy Werkmeister, Department Specialist
Travis Rollins, Open Space Operations Manager
Timothy Meyer, Land Agent

<b>Members Absent</b>	
Hugh McKean	City of Loveland
Steve Vessey	At-Large
Peter Kast	At-large

1. CALL TO ORDER – Nancy Wallace called the meeting to order. Kerri re-introduced Timothy Meyer, originally hired as a temporary land agent for us, but pulled into flood recovery full time at the Engineering Dept. He will be presenting at Executive Session tonight.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None
3. AGENDA REVIEW – no changes
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES - Motion by Carl Sorrentino and second by Ladonna Lee to approve the July 24, 2014 meeting minutes as submitted in this month’s packet. Motion carried unanimously.
5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - a. On July 29, the BOCC accepted OLAB’s recommendation to extend the existing one-quarter cent sales and use tax for 25 years from 2019-2043. They voted unanimously to put it on the ballot this November. It was the first referred measure for the November election. The Humane Society and Jail tax extension have also been referred so there will be three County measures for this election. The Commissioners were enthusiastic, as they have been throughout the entire process. Kerri congratulated the Board.
  - b. The consultant has been selected for the Big Thompson Canyon Acquisition and Recreation Assessment (that we are partnering with the City of Loveland on) to look at conservation and recreation opportunities that might exist after the flood. The chosen consultant should be notified by next week.  
 In response to a question, Kerri said the types of consultants that submit a bid are planning/project firms in design. They all generally have sub-consultants that they partner with for certain pieces. For example, the same engineering company could be a sub-consultant for more than one. We received four (4) proposals for this particular Request for Proposal.

- c. [Horsetooth Mountain Open Space upper lot webcam](#) is up! Travis reported that the webcam is up and very, very well received. Many “Likes” on Facebook. Visitor comments have been “Should have done this sooner!” to “When are you going to install them at other locations?”. It is solar powered and wireless. Other over-capacity areas will benefit from a camera and there are tons of other applications to consider in the future as well.
- d. About 1000 adults & children visited our NewWest Fest booth over the weekend of August 16. Seventy-five percent of the visitors were on Saturday.
- e. At the Corn Roast Festival in Loveland on August 22-23 we saw about 400 people, with the majority of those (350) seen on Saturday. Sandy shared the expertise of Ranger Kirby working a booth. She never “gave away” the answers to anyone, but rather guided them to the map or brochures and gave clues to help the visitors find the answer for themselves.
- f. We worked with Colorado Lottery to promote LCNR at their County Fair booth. They featured several open lands properties such as Red Mountain Open Space.
- g. Devil's Backbone Mgmt Plan Open House held on 7/30; 17 citizens attended to give feedback.
- h. We have [tips at Flatiron Reservoir](#) available to reserve starting August 28.
- i. Planning for the September 27 [2014 NoCo Nature Festival](#) is in full swing. The event will be hosted at the Fort Collins Nix Farm.
- j. Volunteer Recognition Appreciation Picnic was postponed to September 10 due to rain. As volunteers, OLAB members are always invited.
- k. Agricultural Advisory Board meeting – also Wednesday, September 10, 2014 – from 12:30-3:00. The Boulder County Open Space Program Agricultural Division is presenting on their program at approximately 1:00 p.m. This would be a great prelude to the field trip tour with AAB on September 24 from 2:30 to 5:00. Attendees:  
Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) meeting, September Sept 10: NancyWallace, Paul Alaback & Gerry Horak.  
Boulder Ag Tour 1/ AAB - Sept 24, 2:30-5:00: Nancy Wallace, Paul Alaback, Suzan Fritchel, Trudi Haines, Mary Banken, Carl Sorrentino.
- l. The Larimer County Natural Resources Junior Ranger Guide is here! Each member received a copy to review & return or keep to share with a kid. This activity guide aims to connect children ages 7-12 to Larimer County properties. Activities include visiting parks and open spaces, attending guided hikes and programs, interviewing a ranger and more! We’ve had good feedback from the Rangers already. If you’d like more information, email Heather Young, Education Program Coordinator, at [hyoung@larimer.org](mailto:hyoung@larimer.org).
- m. Mark your calendars for the annual Boards & Commissions reception: Monday, October 27 - 4:30-6:00 p.m., The Ranch Bar & Grill at the Budweiser Event Center.
- n. Report from the Open Space Operations Manager
  - i. Travis answered questions about the recent 4-hour rescue on Horsetooth rock. The girl was scraped up with several fractures and breaks and lucky to survive. The story made it to Good Morning America.
  - ii. Trudy Haines wondered if Travis was partnering with the City of Fort Collins at all, regarding potential hunting at Soapstone. Travis responded that he has been working with them, offering for them to use our system to eliminate some duplication of efforts.
  - iii. Nancy Wallace wondered if the gate could be easier to open (at Eagles Nest) so the horseperson could open them from the horse. A mounting block could be an option too. Travis said they would look at it. It sounds like it might just be an older styled gate.
  - iv. Nancy Wallace also asked what might be happening north of Horsetooth, which we will check on. The answer may be in the Parks Board minutes from August 12, 2014.
- o. Sales Tax Report from prior month

6. DISCUSSION & UPDATES

- a. Devil's Backbone Management Plan Update – Meegan Flenniken presented an update on the 2014 Devils Backbone Management Plan. She went through a PowerPoint presentation (included in the meeting packet) showing:
- Schedule /Timeline /Process, noting that for this particular property, we have an intergovernmental agreement and will recommend the final plan to the city manager,
  - Input from the Devil's Backbone Mgmt Plan Open House held on 7/30,
  - Issues to be addressed with the updated management plan,
  - A map showing Rimrock Open Space down into Devils Backbone, as this management plan covers both of them,
  - Findings of property assessments,
  - A map showing new proposed trails & parking,
  - Document showing management concerns & potential solutions,
  - Document showing New Recreation opportunities that are planned.

The Board discussed in depth all of the findings, issues and proposed solutions.

Meegan reported that most people at the public meeting preferred the compact model of parking redesign (Site Concept 1) and the Board agreed. Also, educational signs for some of the historical items will probably be on the Wild Loop, so we don't create people stopping to read a sign on a mountain bike route.

Thanking the Board for their input, Meegan said the next public forum on the plan will be in October, reminding the Board that they can continue to give input on the Devil's Backbone Open Space Management Plan page.

She also reminded the Board that as a part of the response back to the public, everyone who attended a public meeting, submitted input via the web or otherwise requested updates, plus the neighboring communities, OLAB and the technical advisory group, will receive a list of all the concerns, issues & ideas with the response to each.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Loveland 57th Street acquisition partnership – Final Review
- Charlie Johnson went over the final review document for the property located at the NE corner of the intersection of West 57th Street and County Road 17, purchased by the City of Loveland for 1.5 million. This acquisition could enable the trail connection between Fort Collins and Loveland. After Board discussion, motion by Carl Sorrentino to recommend applying \$200,000 to an acquisition partnership with Loveland on the 57th Street property. Second by Paul Alabeck. Motion carried unanimously

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(a) for discussion regarding the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real, personal, or other property interest, Suzan Fritchel moved that the Board move into Executive Session. Second by Mary Banken. Motion carried unanimously.

9. ADJOURN