



OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 24, 2016

5:00- 8:00 PM

Civic Center Municipal Bldg • Council Chambers • 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.

Members Present	
Paul Alaback	Town of Berthoud
Mary Banken	At-large
Jason Brothers	At-large
Suzan Fritchel	At-large
Gerry Horak	City of Fort Collins
Pete Kelly	At-large
David Marvin	At-large
Ward Nelson	Town of Estes Park
Carl Sorrentino	At-large
Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission
Members Absent	
Hugh McKean	City of Loveland
Trudy Haines	At-large

Staff Present
Gary Buffington, Natural Resources Director
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, Red Mtn District Manager
Heather Young, Education Coordinator
Mark Caughlan, Horsetooth District Manager
Lori Smith, Sr Accountant
Dan Marotti, Education Program Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- a. Dan Marotti introduced himself. He the new Education Program Assistant. He is a graduate from CSU with a Fish Wildlife and Conservation Biology. He has a variety of work experience in forestry, fish, outdoor education and ski instructor.
- b. Marilyn Hilgenberg stopped by to acquaint herself more formerly with the Board and distribute an annual report. She has been with the City of Loveland for 26 years, formerly as the Business Finance Manager for Parks and Recreation Dept, and now the Open Lands and Trails Manager.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment

3. AGENDA REVIEW

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Carl Sorrentino and second by Paul Alaback to approve the *February 25, 2016 meeting minutes* as submitted in this month's packet. Motion carried unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- c. The Devil's Backbone Trailhead reopened to the public on Saturday, March 12 after being closed for 4½ weeks. Reviews are overwhelmingly positive!
- d. We submitted concept paper to GOCO for its Protect Initiative for land conservation. Rumore is there were ~25 concept papers. If we are asked to move forward to full application, we will have 4 weeks to put that together, with the award announced in June.
- e. Finished recruitment for 2016 Visual Artist with 7 applicants; committee met March 11 to pick the 2016 Artist of the Year. Dave Marvin reported it was fun. They selected an artist whose medium is acrylic and oil paints. They selected a second place in case needed.
- f. Casey Cisneros is the new Land Stewardship Manager for Larimer County! As many of you know, Casey has been the Parks and Open Lands Weed Specialist for the past 8 years.

- g. Working with Center for Collaborative Conservation students on a Story Map project (linked to GIS mapping) related to Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd that may be useful for our outreach materials.
- h. The 2015 [State of the Resource Report](#) is out! While this is mostly an online publication, each Board member received a print copy. Meegan reminded the Board the purpose of the report is to highlight projects that maybe don't get as much attention (notwithstanding the Bison Project this year.) Meegan highlighted the agriculture, conservation easement, and pasture restoration stories.
- i. The National Park Service (NPS) is trying to designate Rocky Mountain National Park as a Dark Sky Park Area. To do that they needed comparisons with landscapes down into the Front Range, which were conducted on the same day throughout Larimer and Boulder County. One of the amazing outcomes of the test is that Red Mountain and Soapstone Prairie meet the requirement to be designated as Dark Sky Parks! If accepted, they would be the first locally owned designation.
- j. Poudre River Stabilization project at Lions Open Space is on schedule. The boulder toe will be installed starting the week of March 14. The repairs will keep the parking lot and trailhead closed through April 22. The Pleasant Valley Trail will remain open with a temporary reroute away from the river.
- k. Heather Young reported that we will be hiring a 6-month seasonal employee to help with the 20th anniversary celebration events. This position will start in May.
- l. Volunteer Naturalist 9-week Training began on March 2 with 15 volunteer applicants.
- m. Larimer County co-hosted a Volunteer Ranger Assistant Training for 24 new volunteers. This is a shared program with the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department. Volunteer Ranger Assistants promote outdoor safety and awareness, respond to visitor's questions, monitor areas for safety and alert rangers to situations that require staffs attention. They are our extra eyes and ears out there.
- n. Trail Crew is met with Overland Mountain Bike Club to organize their April 9 volunteer day to help with new Hidden Valley Trail.
- o. Kicked off the River Bluffs Restoration and Resiliency Planning process with Anderson Consulting Engineers. Preliminary plans will be available this fall; final plan in November. (We received a TWC grant last year to help with this project and there are several partners involved, such as CPW, City of Greeley, CDOT and others.)
- p. Open Space Operations District Reports – Travis reported there were almost 700 applicants for the Red Mountain hunting draw. The Ranger Excellence School, hosted by Larimer County, is coming up in May. There are usually 70-80 rangers from around the State. This year they are expanding their efforts to make it a regional conference. They have a few attendees coming this year from Texas and even Washington. Most of the instruction is done in-house to keep the price low. Travis also told the Board that Long View farm lessee Harry Sauer passed away a couple of weeks ago. He expects the a couple of the sons will carry on the lease.
- q. A&D Summary sheet for March 24, 2016
- r. Sales Tax Reconciliation Report for 2015

6. DISCUSSION & UPDATES

- a. Horsetooth Area Information Center (HAIC) - Update & Interpretation signs Mark Caughlan & Heather Young--attached separately
 - Mark Caughlan, Horsetooth (Reservoir) District Manager showed the Board the location of the new building within South Bay, between the long term use (campgrounds) and day use areas (boat ramps, pavilion & swim beach), providing an excellent separator landmark for new staff and visitors. It will serve the whole Horsetooth area, not just the reservoir. He described the building which will offer spectacular views to the south and north. Part of the project is also a new maintenance shop for the construction and maintenance crew of the Horsetooth area and the Trail crew. Mark mentioned they had hoped to build for more growth, but that was cost prohibitive at this time. Move in date is expected around June 15.

- b. Heather showed an overview map of the outside and some of the interpretive features that will be out there, then walked the Board through the interpretive features to be included inside, including a mobile 3-way information stand that will have maps and current information close to the entry, lift panels for children. The CBT project will be highlighted as well as some department history. There will be a ~3’x6’ 3D topographical map table with buttons to “light” certain areas. Other panels will be about fishing, (e.g. what is different about reservoir fishing), Rangers and everything they do, and one about water and how/why/when it fluctuates.
- c. Interdepartmental Loan Recap – Gary (presentation attached)
- d. Devil’s Backbone Trailhead/Hidden Valley Trail improvements – final numbers (attached)

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. A&D Budget Information for Horsetooth Area Information Center – (attached) Board discussion ensued around timing and priority of budget information for sales tax dollars. Motion by Mary Banken and second by Suzan Fritchel to recommend allocating the additional \$640,594 needed to complete the Horsetooth Area Information Center and maintenance complex. Motion carried by a vote of 9 yes, 1 no and 2 comments. The subsequent required roll call vote:

Paul Alaback	Town of Berthoud	Yes
Mary Banken	At-large	Yes
Jason Brothers	At-large	Yes
Suzan Fritchel	At-large	Yes
Gerry Horak	City of Fort Collins	No
Pete Kelly	At-large	Yes and echoes the comment by Nancy Wallace
David Marvin	At-large	Yes
Ward Nelson	Town of Estes Park	Yes
Carl Sorrentino	At-large	Yes
Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission	Yes, with comment: “In the future any project or modification of a project requiring approval by the Board should be brought to the Board before the project construction starts.”

- b. Interdepartmental Loan – Motion by Suzan Fritchel that to recommend obtaining an interdepartmental loan from the Solid Waste Department for the purpose of acquiring property that is available today. Second by Ward Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Malchow Final Review – Motion by Paul Alaback and second by Suzan Fritchel to recommend purchase of the Malchow Farm property for 8.4 million to the Board of County Commissioners. 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 the Board moved into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

9. ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m