



OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 28, 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
Carl Sorrentino	At-large
Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission
Members Absent	
Hugh McKean	City of Loveland
Ward Nelson	Town of Estes Park
Trudy Haines	At-large

Staff Present
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
Chris Fleming, Open Space Operations Manager
Danielle Levine, Restoration Ecologist
Tim Meyer, Land Agent

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Meegan introduced Danielle Levine, who works on all of the conservation easement monitoring and some of the major restoration projects, such as the bank stabilization project at Lions Open Space and she is in the planning phase of a project to take the river back to a more natural state at River's Bluff Open Space.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Alaback made public comment about his recent experience hiking and observing the full parking lot and people still streaming in by foot to Horsetooth Mtn Open Space. Looking into the future and known demand, he feels a study is needed for social carrying capacity for trails, as he felt the trails could have accommodated more people without affecting their experience.

Second, he said he did not run for re-election in Berthoud, so Jeff Hindman will be replacing him on the Board. He relayed that he has really enjoyed the last four years working with everyone and learning what an amazing program Larimer County has. He will continue to work with the education program as he has the last four years.

3. AGENDA REVIEW – no changes

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Gerry Horak and second by Suzan Fritchel to approve the *March 24, 2016 meeting minutes* as submitted in this month's packet. Motion carried unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. We are one of four statewide applicants (out of 15 concept papers) invited to submit a full application to Great Outdoors Colorado, requesting funding through their Protect Initiative for land conservation. We will know their decision by June 13.

- b. Council Chambers is not available on May 26. OLAB meeting will be at the Courthouse Offices Building – 200 W Oak, 4th Floor, Fort Collins – Jewell Lake Room (495)
- c. Cameron Rhea is an intern starting in late May. Cameron will graduate from CSU in May with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Finance. He will assist with the education and outreach group planning for the 20th anniversary event, conservation easement monitoring, and many other things he is qualified to step into.
- d. Congratulations to Jeffrey Boring on his new position as the Executive Director of the Estes Valley Land Trust! During Jeffrey's 9 years with Larimer County Natural Resources, he played an integral role in funding, planning and putting priority regional trails on the ground, advancing our restoration work along the Poudre River and developing management plans for open space properties, among many other accomplishments!
- e. South Shore campground renovation has been slowed down to accommodate studies that are going to be needed to plan for infrastructure requirements.
- f. The first phase of the Poudre Stabilization Project at Lions Open Space is complete. The banks have been laid back and rock has been installed. Phase II will begin after spring runoff is complete. Meegan added that they have been able to use FEMA money from the flood damage and Jeffrey wrote a grant to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to match that money. Hopefully we will not need any further funding, as long as everything goes well with the high flows this spring.
- g. COSA conference will be held in Estes Park this year on Sept. 12-14. Kerri encouraged Board members to go. We will pick up the registration fees. Dave Marvin attended last year and said it really served a dual purpose of getting to know staff better and learn about ideas from all over the State,
- h. 2016 Visual Artist is Loveland-based oil painter Lyse Dzija. Learn more about her at www.lysedzija.com
- i. Larimer County has been asked to participate on the Rocky Mountain Greenway Steering Committee for a 9-mile section of trail being built between the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Rocky Flats, as a portion of the trail could travel on through Larimer County and into Rocky Mountain National Park.
- j. We secured sponsorship from REI for our Passport Program, part of our 20th anniversary celebration. The program is scheduled to launch yet this spring. Stay tuned at our [20th Anniversary web page](#).
- k. Working to fill the summer 2016 campground program schedule for interpretive projects.
- l. Rocky Mtn. Nature Association with help from the Trust for Public Land has closed the Cascade Cottages at Rocky Mountain National Park parcel. They were able to close two years early largely due to the contributions from us, EVLT and Town of Estes. Mary Banken said showing the variety of local stakeholders was very important to obtaining the federal funding to secure the project.
- m. Weed District is collaborating with Emerging Pest in Colorado (EPIC) committee regarding Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).
- n. Stewardship crew began revegetating and hydro mulching the Devil's Backbone Trailhead following construction.
- o. CDOT released one set of plans (Drake to Narrows). Staff is reviewing the plans from the department's standpoint, for those areas of the road around our pocket parks, thinking about future access, parking, etc.
- p. An update to the Parks Master Plan is beginning. The last update was in 2007. Ken Brink, our new Visitor Services Manager is leading the project and Meegan will support it from the public process standpoint. Logan Simpson is the consultant. We piggybacked the Request for Proposal (RFP) with the Fairgrounds so they can take advantage of our excellent track record/experience with management plans during some joint meetings. The Parks Master Plan focuses on the four reservoirs we manage with the Bureau of Reclamation. The process will take at least a year. The Parks Board will receive regular updates, and this Board can receive updates when requested.
- q. There are two Board members at the end of their second term: Mary Banken and Suzan Fritchel. Carl Sorrentino's term is also up and he has the option to request re-appointment. We have a new appointee

from Berthoud (Jeff Hindman) and may need new appointments from Loveland and the Planning Commission.

- r. Recall Phase 1 of the tire project clean-up at Robert's Ranch is done. The balance of the tires will be lumped into a second phase. This is a partnership between The Nature Conservancy, Robert's Ranch, CO Dept of Health & Environment, Larimer County departments of Natural Resources, Solid Waste and Health & Environment. Phase 2 will begin in July. Erosion is a big issue (the initial reason the tires were dropped in) so they will not be taking tires that are already more than half buried. , Phase 1 removed 21,000 tires, and barely scratched the surface. Estimates were more than 300,000 tires total. What happens to the tires after removal depends on who gets the bid. Contractor proposals receive extra points if the tires will be recycled into alternate use. Drones are used to survey the property.
- s. Open Space Operations District Reports – Chris reported she is working to fill the maintenance worker vacancy left by Dave Myers, a crucial position, particularly this time of year.
- t. A question came up about a Cat Conservancy request for funding. Meegan responded that they have come to us requesting some funding for operations, including some partial staff funding. We cannot fund other organizations to the degree they were requesting, and we directed them back to the Small Grants for Community Partnering Program.
- u. Sales Tax Report from prior month
- v. Sales Tax 2011-2015 Graph – We see the total from the previous year in March. This graph shows the overall trend we are on by full years.
- w. 2015-2018 CapDev&Acq Summary 4-28-16

6. DISCUSSION & UPDATES

- a. Meegan discussed trail construction in 2016 at Hermit Park Open Space and potential future trailheads, planned in the [Hermit Park Open Space Management Plan](#). After the flood in 2013 we were able to assign some of the money (\$381,000) from the parks that were damaged on the Big Thompson River to an alternative project at Hermit Park. We did this transfer of funding because timing with CDOT on the Big Thompson River/Hwy 34 would not have allowed us to spend it in time there. Much of the work will occur this summer and fall. We were awarded a Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) project for this fall. Meegan plugged the project. They are really, really fun with free camping on site and catering. Dates are October 14-15. They will likely complete about a mile of the trail.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Cottonwood Bend CE Final Review – This is part of wrapping up the GOCO grant for the Poudre River Trail. Since Windsor has never held a conservation easement before, we have been asked to co-hold a Third Party conservation easement with Windsor on the property. Alex went over the details and maps provided to the Board. Motion by Gerry Horak that we recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that we co-hold the conservation easement with Windsor on the Cottonwood Bend Conservation Easement. Motion by Gerry Horak to co-hold a third party easement with Windsor, for properties purchased by Greeley. 2nd by Pete Kelly. Motion carried unanimously.

8. OTHER BUSINESS – Gerry Horak requested an Other Business section on the regular agenda.

9. 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 6:20 p.m.

10. ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.