



# OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

## AGENDA

**DATE:** June 23, 2016

**TIME:** 5:00- 8:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Loveland City Council Chambers • Civic Center Municipal Bldg •500 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Loveland CO

*Please call 970-619-4592 if you are unable to attend a meeting. Votes require a quorum. Thanks!*

- 1) CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
- 2) PUBLIC COMMENT
- 3) AGENDA REVIEW
- 4) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
- 5) INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - a. The [Passport to Your Open Spaces](#) launched May 31. It has received lots of positive feedback. More than 2,000 were distributed in the first week alone, prompting a second printing.
  - b. Staff have participated in numerous Commissioner Citizen Outreach meetings around the County, touting the many activities and things to do this summer on our parks and open spaces.
  - c. The Berthoud Town Council voted on Tuesday June 14 to contribute \$100,000 towards the acquisition of the Malchow farm property. Thank you Berthoud!!
  - d. On June 13, the GOCO board awarded a \$4 million grant to Larimer County, in partnership with Ft. Collins Natural Areas, to conserve almost 2,300 acres on four properties in the foothills west of Ft. Collins.
  - e. Preparing application to the [International Dark-Sky Association](#) to designate Red Mountain Open Space and Soapstone as Dark Sky Parks
  - f. Soderberg horse trailer parking post-construction revegetation was completed May 13.
  - g. Teddy and Sandy met with IT department to discuss Natural Resources website overhaul, to be done in conjunction with new County website slated for early 2017
  - h. Started initial branding of new trail conditions webpage, to be called NoCo Trail Report
  - i. Staff met with City of Fort Collins Natural Areas and Squarei Technologies about Offero, the generic name for the City's Nature Tracker
  - j. Teddy participated in LC101: Public Works Night along with Gary and Ken
  - k. Completed school field trips for the spring season - 11 trips for 550 students
  - l. Zac Wiebe will be changing positions from Fund Development & Special Projects to Resource Specialist II. Congrats to Zac on his new role!
  - m. Open Space Operations District Reports
  - n. Sales Tax Report – delayed (may be available by meeting)
  - o. Natural Resources [events and registration](#) and [NR News](#)
- 6) DISCUSSION & UPDATES
  - a. Windy Gap Firming Reservoir update – Jeff Drager, Northern Water
- 7) BREAK – celebration for outgoing board member – Mary Banken
- 8) OTHER BUSINESS

## OLAB AGENDA

9) EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a) for discussion of the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real or personal property interest,

We will hold an Executive Session

10) ADJOURN

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***Included in PDF:***

- Agenda
- Minutes of last meeting
- Open Space Operations District Reports

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***Attached Separately:***

1. News articles



# OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 26, 2016

5:00- 8:00 PM

Courthouse Offices Building • 200 W Oak, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Fort Collins • Jewell Lake Room (495)

*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>	
Jeff Hindman	Town of Berthoud
Jason Brothers	At-large
Trudy Haines	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
<b>Members Absent</b>	
Hugh McKean	City of Loveland
Suzan Fritchel	At-large
Mary Banken	At-large

<b>Staff Present</b>
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, Open Space Operations Manager

### 1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Jeff Hindman is a newly re-elected trustee from Berthoud and will serve on the Board this year.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

### 3. AGENDA REVIEW

### 4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Carl Sorrentino and second by Dave Marvin to approve the *April 28, 2016 meeting minutes* as submitted in this month's packet. Motion carried unanimously.

### 5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Passport Program will kick off at the end of May. Commissioner Donnelly will lead a family passport hike at the Devil's Backbone on June 3 at 8:30am. Please sign up at [www.larimer.org/nrregistration](http://www.larimer.org/nrregistration). Kerri encouraged Board members or family to attend if possible. The Passport Program is 16 posts on eight different open spaces (one easy and one more difficult). If you do eight you receive a collapsible water bottle, for 12 you receive a t-shirt and if you complete all 16 you receive those prizes plus your name is put in the drawing for grand prizes. Passport booklets are available in all trail kiosks.
- b. [2015 Annual Reports](#) are out and Board members all received one in the mail.
- c. Landowner packets were recently updated. Alex Castino passed around a completed packet for the Board to see.
- d. Implemented fire scar restoration project with 22 volunteers assisting 7 staff members at Hermit Park Open Space. Treated 60 fire scars and revegetated the meadow across from the pavilion.
- e. Staff continue to work on water sharing agreement options as part of the Colorado Water Conservation Board grant. Multiple meetings with municipal water providers, as well as Northern Water continue to move this discussion further. They expect to receive some proposals soon.
- f. Awarded \$60,000 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to remove Russian-olive and tamarisk trees from flood damaged sites in the Big Thompson Watershed on City of Loveland Natural Areas.

- g. [Bison calves](#) - 2 born so far as part of the Laramie Foothills Conservation Herd on Red Mountain and Soapstone. The calves will be up there for about 2 years, until they are weaned and then sent to other conservation herds in the nation.
- h. The Hidden Valley Trail at the Devil’s Backbone is very close to done. On the weekend it opens, Overland Mountain Bike club will have a booth at the trailhead to help educate the public of the change in use. The Wild Loop Trail is hiking only. Biking and horses are moved to the new trail.
- i. The Parks Master Plan stakeholder kick-off meeting is set for June 1st. The process will take about 10 months. We are partnering with the Ranch as they update their master plan to potentially have joint meetints for cost savings and reaching an expanded audience. Public process will include stakeholder interviews and regular working meetings of the Parks Advisory Board.
- j. The Colorado Conservation Exchange stems out of CSU, and is now a non-profit group of people trying to figure out ways to get money funded from utilities or downstream water users to fund upsteam land stewardship activities. Northern Water and the CSFS are partnering to treat ~60-80 acres of forest on Ramsay-Shockey Open Space and the Pinewood State Land Board parcel as a pilot project for the exchange which seeks to create a market for stewardship on public/private lands that benefit downstream end users.
- k. City of Fort Collins Natural Areas is updating the Fossil Creek Area management plan which includes all city natural areas within the Fossil Creek basin, starting at the west with Cathy Fromme Prairie all the way east to Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area. Larimer County Natural Resources is a 50% owner of Fossil Creek Reservoir.
- l. Soderberg trailhead redesign Phase I is complete. The area was redesigned for safety and improved traffic flow by moving 7 horse trailer parking spots away from regular parking, to an adjacent area. Phase II will add 8 new standard parking spots within the existing parking footprint, providing a total of 37 parking spots at the trailhead.
- m. Kerri mentioned that we may be in touch with appointed members about how we are to send confidential email to each town/city. Ward reported that Estes Park uses “deliberative.”
- n. Open Space Operations District Report – Trudy wondered if we charge for search & rescue services. The response was no, that it is subsidized by hunting & fishing licenses. If medical services are called/used, those are charged to the patient.
- o. Sales Tax Report from prior month
- p. 2015-2018 CapDev&Acq Summary 05-26-16
- q. Natural Resources [events and registration](#) and [NR News](#)

6. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Alex presented on the 73 acre Ward Trust Property. Loveland is asking us to hold the easement and partner with them financially. The appraisal is 2.657 million, down from the preliminary appraisal of 2.75 million. The Board had discussed a partnership gift of \$250,000 at the time of preliminary appraisal. Motion by Trudy Haines to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) that we hold the conservation easement on the Ward Trust property being acquired by Loveland Natural Areas through a GOCO grant and that we give them \$250,000 toward the acquisition. Second by Dave Marvin. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Alex presented on the 34-acre Orr Property, a part of the GOCO funded Poudre River Trail partnership, for which we have been asked to co-hold third party conservation easements with the Town of Windsor for the City of Greeley. Motion by Pete Kelley and second by Trudy Haines to recommend to the BOCC that we co-hold the third party conservation easement with the Town of Windsor on the Orr property. Motion carried unanimously.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. The group wanting a large off-leash dog park have sent in a proposal for the County and City of Fort Collins to consider. The department has not reviewed the proposal in detail yet.

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 6:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

## Open Space Operations - Big Thompson District

### **General:**

Shane Fraser started as our new Maintenance Tech III on May 24. We are thrilled to have him and he has jumped right into the thick of things with his seasoned crew. Please welcome Shane to our Natural Resources family!

Another very successful RES (Ranger Excellence School) goes down in the books. Thank you to the rangers who all worked so hard to pull this off, especially Steve Gibson who was the project manager!

Annual Budget meeting

### **HPOS:**



Wildflowers are really starting to pop! something different is in bloom every day and staff is loving the Wildflower books the volunteer and ed team put out!



Lots of these guys hanging around this month! We have 4 bulls and a cow that have been enjoying all

## Open Space Operations - Big Thompson District

things Hermit Park. They are quickly becoming habituated to our visitors, which is allowing for some great photo ops but making rangers very nervous. Possible hazing plans if they don't start acting more like moose.



Maintenance was finally able to solve the problem on our upper well. Water is once again available at the pavilion and campgrounds.

Moving forward on the caretaker residence renovation project. County Facilities will be project managing and Delehoey Construction is the contractor. With all of the hazmat testing and permitting that will need to take place, demo and construction is tentatively planned for early August.

The snow has finally melted so that the EAs (environmental assessments) for the new trailhead(s) can be completed. AVI is currently working on a preliminary budget so decisions can be made on how to prioritize the individual trailheads. More to come ...

Maintenance staff and Pam led a volunteer project to rebuild the volleyball court up at the pavilion that was severely damaged after the floods.

Very busy- lot's of weddings and the campgrounds have been full every weekend and remain busy throughout the week. We have been having a hard time keeping enough firewood on hand!

### **Big T Canyon:**

Chris met with Engineering on a possible partnership regarding access from Narrows Park for a bridge installation project and some rehab work on the property in exchange. We're hoping timing with FEMA works out.

Sleepy Hollow has been super busy being the only park left in the canyon. It has been at or over capacity every nice weekend.

## Open Space Operations - Big Thompson District

### DBBOS:



Trail work on the new Hidden Valley Trail was completed and staff is working to finish the final details on the trailhead expansion project. Still to come: parking lot webcam and a new drinking fountain with a dog bowl! Mostly rave reviews and the parking lot is functioning so much better now. Tweaking signage and trying to balance all of the demands on the trail system is still challenging.

Photos of the volunteer trail building day with some of our stakeholders- huge success!



The annual Crazy Legs 10k took place on May 22 with 89 runners.

## Open Space Operations - Big Thompson District



Some of the ranger staff took advantage of an private education tour of the DBB from our very own Dan! Wonderful info they will now be confident in sharing with our visitors. Huge thanks to Dan, Cindy and Heather for setting this up for us!

### **General Ranger Calls of Note:**

**Drowning** - Pinewood Springs - 2 young boys were playing in a swimming area near the Big Thompson River. High water levels, swift currents and cold water caused the two boys to become stuck under water. Multiple efforts to revive the boys were unsuccessful.