



OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 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	
Jason Brothers	At-large
Suzan Fritchel	At-large
Trudy Haines	At-large
Pete Kelly	At-large
David Marvin	At-large
Ward Nelson	Town of Estes Park
Carl Sorrentino	At-large
Sherri Valentine	At-large
Jeff Hindman	Town of Berthoud
Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission
Members Absent	
Hugh McKean	City of Loveland
Gerry Horak	City of Fort Collins

Staff Present
Gary Buffington, Natural Resources Director
Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager
Meegan Flenniken, Resource Program Manager
Charlie Johnson, Senior Land Agent
Alex Castino, Land Agent
Zac Wiebe, Resource Specialist
Danielle Levine, Restoration Ecologist
Sandy Werkmeister, Department Specialist
Steve Gibson, Red Mountain District Manager
Commissioner Tom Donnelly

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- a. Suzan Fritchel called the meeting to order. Kerri introduced Sherri Valentine, newly appointed at large Board member, filling the vacancy left by the end of Mary Banken’s term. Sherri said she is interested in environmental issues and has had some experience in her career with wetlands and environmental policy. She retains her law degree but is not practicing at this time. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

3. AGENDA REVIEW – no changes

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Suzan Fritchel and second by Trudy Haines to approve the *June 23, 2016 meeting minutes* as submitted in this month’s packet. Motion carried unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. September OLAB meeting time and place change - meeting will be starting at 7pm, after the 20th anniversary celebration, at the new Horsetooth Area Information Center building.
- b. 20th anniversary celebration will be 4pm-7pm on 9/22/16. Watch for your invitation.
- c. Parks and Open Lands (POL) stewardship crew held a volunteer project removing musk thistle and common mullein at Blue Sky Trail on June 17 as a part of the 20th Anniversary celebration.
- d. Pinewood: All of the signage is complete and the scopes have been installed and it all came out pretty amazing. It was awarded the Colorado’s Lottery’s Starburst Award!
- e. Roberts Ranch tire cleanup project is moving forward with a \$495,000 grant from Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE). Cleanup will begin Aug 1 and is expected to be completed in November. This is a partnership with Roberts Ranch, The Nature Conservancy, Larimer County Solid Waste, Larimer County Health, and CDPHE.

- f. Awarded \$10,620 from the Colorado Department of Agriculture to fund the Poudre River Invasive Species Partnership. The partnership has involved contracting LC Stewardship staff to control weeds in the vicinity of the confluence of the main stem of the Poudre River and N Fork for several years.
- g. Started construction on the new Hermit Park trails. Our goal this summer is to complete the portion of trail connecting Kruger Rock Trail to Homestead Meadows on USFS. There has been great help from Fort Collins and Estes Park mountain biking clubs.
- h. In partnership with the greenback recovery team of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, yearling and young of the year greenback cutthroat trout (the Colorado state fish that is listed as Threatened) are being reintroduced into Sand Creek at Red Mountain Open Space as a conservation population. Staff assisted CPW on July 21st with initial stocking efforts. Photos and video were shown.
- i. Open Space Operations District Reports – Steve highlighted a few items. He also offered Board members the opportunity to “ride along” for a time if they would like to see first-hand what the operations side does day to day. Contact Steve by email if you want to schedule: gibsonsj@co.larimer.co.us
- j. Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report – no questions
- k. 2015-2018 CapDev&Acq Summary 07-28-16 – no questions

6. DISCUSSION & UPDATES

- a. Danielle Levine presented on the River Bluffs Open Space Restoration and Resiliency river project that is currently in the planning phase. Making rivers more resilient is repeatedly (in the 2010 management plan, the Open Lands Master Plan and the HPOS tax extension) identified as a need and the Cache le Poudre river and its corridor a priority area. In the section of the Poudre River within River Bluffs Open Space, the channel is so deep it was not even affected by the 2013 flood! Since the late 1950s, the banks have eaten away the depth to groundwater.

Channelized means restricting the sides. Straightened means straightened.

Both are often done at the same time.

The area to be restored is about 32 acres total and will result in bringing the depth to ground water closer together. The entire project could cost upwards of 2 million dollars. Phase 1 could encompass the red circled items. Colorado Parks & Wildlife has made some money available and we have applied for \$432,367. The grant requires a 50% match, for which she may be coming back to the Board next month with a budget request. They will continue to look for and apply for other grants as they become available. Presentation is attached.

Question/Answer -

How will these changes affect public access? This is an area that is ‘hike in only’ by fisherman at certain times of the year, which will continue. The farming that occurs next to this area is aware of the upcoming changes and is okay with them.

Will we address the slope and velocity as we are adjusting the banks so the problem does not reemerge? Yes, it is part of the overall plan.

Partners? There is a technical advisory committee, the Town of Windsor and CDOT are involved.

Financial Partners? Why isn't Windsor helping? Good idea that we request partnership money from Windsor.

- b. Malchow property update – We have been following the rule making process initiated by Northern Water (because of our project), encouraging them to leave as many aspects of these creative water sharing agreements--with their water--up to negotiations on a case by case basis. They published the rules in May and extended the public comment time due the amount of public comment and interest. The [final Northern Water Rule-Making on interruptible supplies](#) are out and Alex highlighted some of the positive outcomes.
 - Jeff Hindman and Sherri Valentine asked for copies of the water scenarios we were looking at earlier in the process.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Board elections – Nominations were made to retain Nancy Wallace as Chair and Suzan Fritchel as Vice Chair. Motion to accept these nominations carried unanimously.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

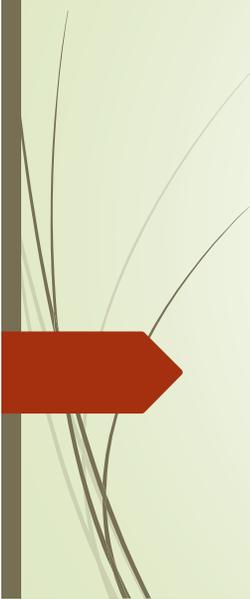
- a. Commissioner Donnelly reported to OLAB that the Commissioners just found out they have been successful in getting a \$15 million grant for expansion of I25. The bridge that goes over the Poudre River will be replaced during the process and should help with discussions about the Poudre River Trail and designs to go under the Interstate there. Gerry Horak indicated that if everything stays on schedule, building should begin next fall. Gerry asked for an update next month if possible to make sure everyone is lined up. There should be a trail going under I25 in 4 years or less.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:40 PM, 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, motion by Suzan Fritchel to move into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



Poudre River Restoration – River Bluffs Open Space



Open Lands Advisory Board

July 28, 2016

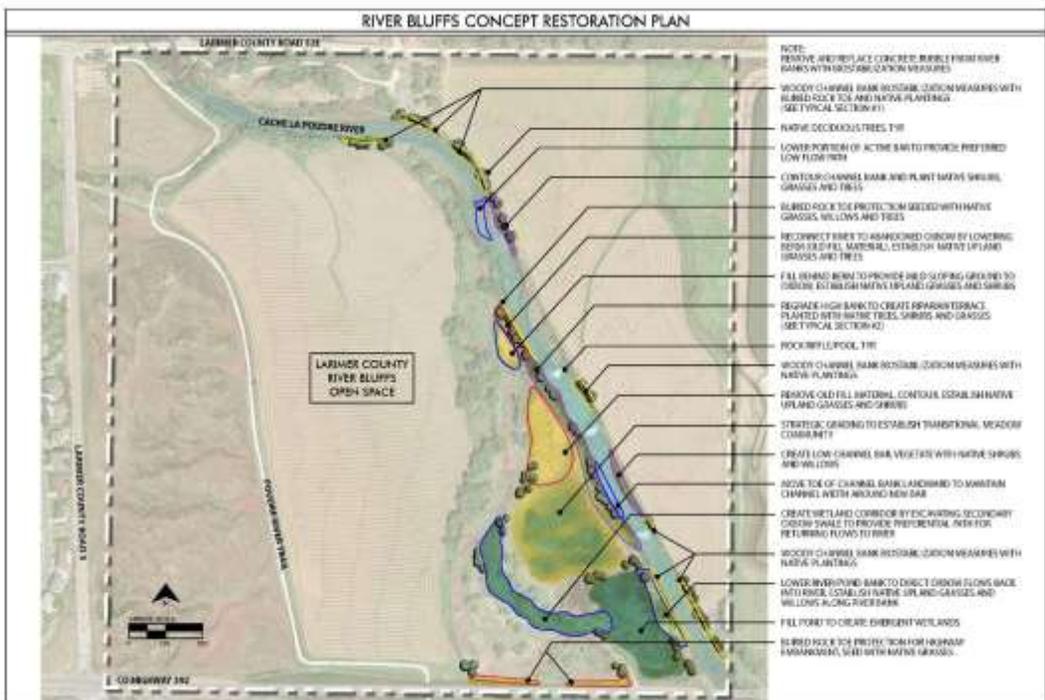


Background

- River Bluffs Open Space
 - 2005 acquisition
- RBOS Management Plan
 - 2010
- DOLA planning grant
 - 2015 (underway)



Actively Eroding Channel Banks and Existing Concrete Rubble Bank Treatment



RIVER BLUFFS CONCEPT RIVER CROSS SECTIONS



TYPICAL SECTION 1 - LOOKING DOWNSTREAM



TYPICAL SECTION 2 - LOOKING DOWNSTREAM

Budget

- Total Project Cost
 - \$ 2.1 million
- Phase 1 cost
 - \$ 864,804

Implementation

- CPW Wetlands for Wildlife grant
 - \$ 432,367
 - Submitted – June 2016
- GOCO Habitat Restoration grant
 - Fall 2016
- Pursue other funding sources.....

