

## LARIMER COUNTY OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD

*The mission of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.*

### MINUTES

**Date:** June 25, 2020

**Time:** 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom Webinar

**Contact:** Please contact Sidney at [smichl@larimer.org](mailto:smichl@larimer.org) or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend

Members		Staff	Guests	
Bob Hewson	x	Daylan Figgs	x	2 members of the public
David Marvin	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	
Jason Brothers		Ken Brink	x	
K-Lynn Cameron	x	Charlie Johnson	x	
Ken Zornes		Justin Core	x	
Linda Stanley		Tim Meyer	x	
Mark DeGregorio		Steve Gibson	x	
Nancy Wallace	x	*Thomas Donnelly		
Peter Kelly	x	Sidney Michl (minutes)	x	
Rick Brent	x			
Sherri Valentine	x			
Tom Shoemaker	x			

x = present

\*County Commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:02 p.m.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
  - a. Dave moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Tom seconded, motion passed unanimously.

## 5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Natural Resources events for this month: [larimer.org/naturalresources](http://larimer.org/naturalresources).
- b. To sign up for Open Lands Advisory Board updates, go to [apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm](https://apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm), enter your email, click “Subscribe,” and check the “Open Lands Advisory Board” box.
- c. Larimer County Natural Resources was awarded a GOCO Special Opportunity Open Space grant for \$812,475 towards conservation of additional lands in the Laramie Foothills priority area.
  - i. Meegan updated the grant is \$822,475. Nancy asked if that’s what we applied for, Meegan said the grant is less than requested. We anticipate the total project cost around \$5M, DNR estimated it would pay \$2.5M and the City of Fort Collins and GOCO would each pay \$1.25M. Daylan added our cash reserves are healthy and we are not slowing down on land acquisition. Meegan said the OLAB site visit has been tentatively rescheduled for September.
- d. Roundhouse Wind project in Wyoming is in construction
  - i. Meegan explained the Roundhouse Wind Project was permitted in 2019 in Wyoming, north of Red Mountain Open Space and Soapstone Prairie Natural Area. The full build out anticipates 120 wind towers with construction completed by the end of 2020. Platte River Power Authority is a purchaser in the project, the idea is to help meet the City of Fort Collins’ climate action goals for renewable energy. The towers are visible from only a few areas within the open space, the County and Fort Collins provided comment to minimize impacts to our conservation lands in Colorado. DNR hopes the visibility of the wind towers can serve as an educational opportunity for visitors.
  - ii. Bob commented windmill presence might be viewed favorably. Meegan and Daylan noted most carbon-based energy is hidden and windmills are a visible reminder of the transition to renewable energy.

## 6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Help Preserve Open Space Sales tax revenue and budget update – Daylan
  - i. We are beginning to receive projections from the finance team, they expect an 8% reduction in revenue from sales tax YTD (total revenue \$8.2M in 2020 and \$8.1M in 2021). DNR is budgeting for a 16% reduction (total revenue ~\$7M). Daylan noted our budget is fine in both scenarios due to cash reserves from old sales tax dollars (\$2M remaining). In anticipation of operating reductions, we’ve delayed some projects to shift capital funds from 2020 to 2021 and plan to evaluate again next year. With user fee revenues, boat launches are over double from last year and day use has seen an estimated 30-40% increase YTD. A similar strategy with capital funds will be applied. Lottery funds (~\$3M) are also available for capital costs.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Chimney Hollow IGA update/Recreation Lease

- i. Meegan gave a brief overview of Chimney Hollow Open Space. LCDNR and Northern Water (NW) purchased their respective ownerships (the County acquired 1,800 acres and NW owns 1,600 acres) in 2004. At the time of purchase, LC entered an IGA with NW with the intent of Larimer County managing recreation on NW's future reservoir. Meegan noted the current IGA expires August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 and a new IGA and recreation lease are being finalized. We are looking for discussion tonight and a recommendation to the BOCC for adoption of these documents.
- ii. Tim added the goal is to have final documents before Northern Water's board meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The 2004 IGA focused more on pre-construction management of the area and the new IGA will address long-term management, road repair, and access. The recreation lease will define ownership, maintenance, and services.
- iii. Dave asked about the term of the lease and associated fees, Tim said the lease is effective for 35 years with the option to extend for an additional 25 years. There are no fees and LCDNR has the right to retain all revenue collected from recreation. Meegan clarified the 35-year recreation lease will be signed with the new IGA and is intended to provide a window between reservoir construction and public access.
- iv. Nancy asked about NWs' development costs, Tim said NW is constructing the road from County Road 18E as well as a bridge required to cross USBR's penstock. Meegan noted they are grading the parking areas and performing all earthwork (~\$750k), however the remainder of recreation facilities will be the county's responsibility and she has estimated it in the CIP at \$3.5M.
- v. Dave asked if other boards are providing recommendation to the BOCC and which funds will be used, Meegan said it will be presented to PAB in July and we anticipate charging user fees to offset costs. Daylan said the project is budgeted in 2024 under the CIP and that they've taken Meegan's \$3.5M estimate and matched for inflation totaling \$4.2M. \$300k of the new sales tax will be spent in 2024 and \$3.2M for major facility construction will be spent in 2025. Public opening is anticipated in late 2026 or 2027.
- vi. We will also be seeking a perpetual road easement on the to be constructed future public/main access road off CR18E. Tim noted that while NW will be responsible to construct the road, it would be the county's responsibility to pave it if we choose to do so. It was noted that specific future recreational uses and other similar decisions will be determined by public input, cost analysis, and resource protections during the management planning process.
- vii. Meegan added the parameters on allowed uses are predicated on NW's concern for water quality (day use, wakeless boating, no camping, etc.). Bob asked about trail mileage, Meegan said it will be decided in late 2023-early 2024 with the management plan relative to protecting conservation values and providing quality user experience.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Chimney Hollow IGA update/Recreation Lease recommendation to BOCC
  - i. Nancy asked for a motion to recommend to the BOCC approval of the IGA update and the recreation lease. Dave asked if we need to add approval for the road easement, it was noted this language is included in the IGA. Rick moved to recommend to the BOCC approval of the Chimney Hollow IGA update and recreation lease, Bob seconded, motion passed unanimously.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: July 23, 2020 via Zoom Webinar.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest. Dave moved to enter Executive Session, K-Lynn seconded, motion passed unanimously at 5:55 p.m.

12. ADJOURN – 6:24 p.m.