

# AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

## Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2011

Members present: David Bee, Curtis Bridges, Lew Grant, Jason Kraft, Minerva Lee, Val Manning, Brett Markham, Richard Seaworth, Jon Slutsky, and George Wallace. Others present: Karen Crumbaker (Extension), Charles Gindler (Larimer County DNR), and Linda Hoffmann (Staff liaison, Larimer County Planning & Building Division). Guest: Bill Spencer, Russell Legg, Jennifer Bornhoft, and Ernie Marx.

Members absent: Justin Discoe, Dennis Goeltl, LuAnn Goodyear, and Gail Meisner.

I. Val Manning called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

II. The July 13, 2011 AAB Meeting Minutes were reviewed. An amendment to the minutes should include the “members absent”. Once amended, the Minutes were approved.

III. Coordination with other Larimer County Advisory Boards.

- Ernie Marx, Larimer County Land Stewardship Advisory Board (LSAB) member, addressed the AAB. The LSAB is considering expanding the Larimer County Weed District boundary to include the entire county. He asked for support for a mill levy to expand the boundary, stating a large numbers of calls the Weed District receives are from residents outside the current boundary. Currently, the Weed District boundary only covers the Front Range portion of Larimer County.
- Linda Hoffmann relayed a message from the Larimer County Rural Land Use Advisory Board. She asked the AAB if they would be interested in having a speaker come in and address the well permit issue. The majority of the AAB agreed this is a concern and would like to invite someone to speak on this issue. Linda asked if the Board would be interested in having a joint public meeting to include a larger audience. The Board agreed this would be useful.

- On another matter, Linda Hoffmann asked if there was an interest in having a speaker address the Board on the State Water Supply Initiative (SWSI). The Board agreed it would be helpful to have someone from the Water Availability Task Force speak at the November meeting.

IV. Mountain View Feeders. Jon Slutsky updated the AAB on the outcome of a visit to the Mountain View Feeders by Shawn Archibeque, Assistant Professor at Colorado State University, and himself on July 26, 2011. Professor Archibeque sent a letter to the Larimer County Commissioners with his findings during the visit. His overall opinion was the facility was being properly managed with only minor areas for improvements in regard to the potential for generation of odorous emissions.

V. Opinion letter to the Larimer County Commissioners regarding Save the Poudre Facts about Farming paper. The Larimer County Commissioners asked the AAB to comment on the Save the Poudre Facts about Farming paper. A subcommittee was created and drafted an opinion letter to the Commissioners. A motion was presented and seconded to approve the opinion letter.

George Wallace presented a Proposed Minority Opinion Letter. There was a great deal of discussion as to how and when the Proposed Minority Opinion Letter would be submitted to the Commissioners. It was decided the Minority Opinion Letter would be submitted as a supplement to the Opinion Letter to the Commissioners by October 1, 2011.

The AAB thanked the subcommittee for their time in completing the requested Opinion Letter.

VI. Discussion of the booth at the Larimer County Fair. LuAnn Goodyear coordinated the efforts of the AAB to have a booth at the Larimer County Fair. LuAnn sent a written report to the meeting since she was unable to attend. Her report noted that the booth was well received and thanked the members of the AAB who participated or contributed to the booth. She also volunteered to coordinate a booth at the 2012 fair, if the AAB had an interest. Several AAB members commented that the booth was a good idea, but they were concerned about its location. Several expressed an interest in doing another booth next year at the fair and having more information about the role of the AAB as part of the handout materials.

VII. Consideration of small solar applications amendments in the Land Use Code. Russell Legg informed the AAB that planning staff were requested to solicit comments and suggestions to the amendment to the land use code regarding accessory solar energy systems and small solar energy facilities. Russell asked for comments or feedback from the Board: “Do the proposed regulations appear to adequately address the potential impacts?” “Are there additional issues or concerns that should be addressed in the regulations?” There was limited input on the proposed code amendments from the AAB because there appeared to be general agreement that the planning staff proposed language was adequate. There was a comment that the language should be carefully crafted so as to not preclude the installation of relatively large capacity systems that could be used seasonally to power irrigation pumps.

VIII. Announcements. There will be a Commissioners Reception for Advisory Board members on September 26, 2011, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Hearing Room at the Courthouse.

Charlie Gindler updated the AAB on the three grazing leases the Department of Natural Resources manages. Previously, leases were year-to-year, however, leases in the future will be five years leases. Lessees are the same individuals as last year.

Linda Hoffmann reminded AAB members whose term will expire at the end of the year to reapply or recommend others to apply for vacant seats.

IX. The next AAB meeting will be held on November 9, 2011 at 12:30 p.m. at the CSU Larimer County Extension office.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.