

## LARIMER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2012

Members present: David Bee, Curtis Bridges, Lew Gaiter, LuAnn Goodyear, Lew Grant, Jason Kraft, Minerva Lee, Val Manning, Gail Meisner, John Rankin, George Reed, Mike Salaz, Jon Slutsky, and George Wallace. Others present: Karen Crumbaker (CSU Extension) and Brenda Gimeson (Staff liaison, Larimer County Planning & Building Division). Guest: Charles Gindler, Jennifer Bornhoft (CSU, ARDEC), Bill Spencer, Detective James Woods, Kerri Rollins, and Undersheriff Bill Nelson.

Members absent: Brett Markham, Richard Seaworth.

- I. Val Manning called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.
- II. Introductions were made.
- III. The September 12, 2012 AAB Meeting Minutes were approved.
- IV. James Woods, Investigator for the Larimer County Sheriff's office, gave a presentation on agricultural thefts in Larimer County. There was an increase in metal thefts over the past four years, however, metal theft increased greatly in 2011 and 2012. Copper, stainless steel, steel and platinum are the thefts most common. In 2011, the number of copper thefts reported was 40; in 2012 to date, there have been 35 copper thefts reported. In agriculture, copper and aluminum are the most common metals stolen. The best methods to protect assets from theft are through surveillance systems, to remove the commodity metals, hire a private security company or check pivots and laterals daily.

V. Kerri Rollins, Program Manager for Open Lands, provided information “Our Lands, Our Future: Process”. Our Lands, Our Future is a grassroots process to determine the next generation’s vision for the critical landscapes and outdoor recreational opportunities in Larimer County. To gather information from the public on future projects, 7,500 surveys were randomly sent out. The website can be accessed at: [www.larimer.org/ourlands\\_ourfuture](http://www.larimer.org/ourlands_ourfuture). The concern mentioned by the AAB is there needs to be more information on agriculture added to the survey. Lew Grant and George Wallace represent the AAB on the Advisory Board for this initiative. It was agreed that the AAB should take an active role and be an active voice throughout the information gathering period.

VI. Undersheriff Bill Nelson provided information to the AAB on fire restrictions implemented on agriculture, especially ditch burning. He shared the Ordinance No. 007-01, the Resolution Declaring Fire Restrictions in Larimer County, and Appendix F criteria for restrictions and bans with the group. Undersheriff Nelson mentioned that if called, the Sheriff’s office can make a site visit to a farm and give an exemption in the case of a total burn restriction. There was discussion by the AAB that if they wanted to change the ordinance regarding ditch burning, a letter should be composed to the Sheriff and County Commissioners. There will be discussion at the January meeting about whether or not the AAB will compose a letter.

VII. Announcements. Mike Salaz mentioned the inheritance tax will change in 2013. Gail Meisner told the group that the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union will hold its annual convention on November 15-17, 2012 at the Embassy Suites in Loveland, Colorado

VIII. The next AAB meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the CSU Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.