

LARIMER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2020

Present: Lynnet Bannion, Jennifer Bornhoft (liaison), Timothy Clouse, Beth Conrey, Jenn Cram (liaison), Karen Crumbaker, Franklyn Garry, Travis Horton, John Kefalas, Gail Meisner, Paula Petroff (Extension), Kristin Ramey, Travis Rollins (liaison), Zach Thode, George Wallace, and Natalie Yoder.

Absent: Sam Adams, Jason Brothers, Nic Koontz, Greg Schreiner and Jon Slutsky.

Guests: Doug Coatsworth, Daylan Figgs, Meegan Flenniken, Don Threewitt, Lesli Ellis, and Courtland Kelly

I. Meeting called to order and introduction of guests. Chairman Zach Thode called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. Guests introduced themselves to members.

II. Consideration of minutes from November 13, 2019 meeting. The November 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes were approved and accepted as prepared.

III. Interaction with Commissioner Kefalas on Ag and Community related issues. Commissioner Kefalas shared the following:

- There is a joint work session with the Planning Commission concerning the Oil and Gas Regulations tonight, January 8, 2020.
- The La Porte Community Conversation will be held on January 11, 2020, from 8:30 am to 10:00 am at Me Oh My Pie, 3310 W County Rd 54G, Laporte, CO.
- The Waverly Community Conversation will be held on January 22, 2020, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Leeper Center, 3800 Wilson Ave., Wellington, CO.
- The Red Feather Lakes Community Conversation will be held on January 23, 2020, from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm at Red Feather Lakes Community Library, 71 Fire House Ln., Red Feather Lakes, CO.
- Sallie Clark, State Director for USDA Rural Development, will be at the Waverly and Red Feather Lakes meetings discussing rural economic/community development and broadband federal resources and opportunities. Also featured will be Pam Marcus-Bause, Larimer Broadband Strategic Initiative Manager, with an update on the Larimer Broadband strategic initiative.
- The Board of County Commissioners voted to appoint District 2 Commissioner Steve Johnson to serve as Chair for 2020, and John Kefalas will serve as Chair Pro-Tem for 2020. District 3 Commissioner Tom Donnelly served as Chair of the Board for 2019.
- Reminded the Board that there are currently two openings on the Ag Board.

IV. Rural Mental Health/Suicide – Presentation by Doug Coatsworth, Director, CSU Prevention Research Center. Doug Coatsworth gave an informative presentation on rural mental health and rural resilience with the following being addressed:

- The rates of suicide in rural areas have increased by 25% in recent years.
- Fifty percent of rural residents report increased stress in their lives due to various determinants.
- Barriers to services to aid those suffering can be self and community stigmas.
- Stigmas need to change to a language of recovery and resilience.
- Resilience does not lie within the individual, but within the community.
- Changing stigma builds resilience.
- Social networks are key to a resilience epidemic
- Resources: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org>; <https://www.farmaid.org>; <https://www.fb.org/programs/rural-resilience>
- What can Larimer County do to create a menu of best practices to help our rural area residents? (Jenn)
- Storytelling project for rural residents and can some of the money approved by voters be used toward it (Commissioner Kefalas).

V. LUC 2020 Update – Jenn Cram. Agriculture in Larimer County public open house meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2020. The AAB will be meeting with the consultants from Clarion Associates from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. The public open house is scheduled from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Zach asked members to share any personal examples they may have during time with the consultants. Jenn will be following up with a flyer to AAB members that they can distribute throughout community and with shareholders such as LCFA, Growing Project, etc.

VI. Officer Elections 2020. Officer elections for the 2020 year were conducted with the following results: Zach Thode will continue as Chairman of the AAB. George Wallace will serve as Vice Chairman and Natalie Yoder will serve as Secretary.

VII. 2019/2020 Task Force Presentation Updates – 5 Minutes Each.

- Ag Districts – George suggested giving consultants overview of ag districts in other parts of the country, the criteria for mapping one out, and what would incentives look like (taxes and fees) within districts.
- Hemp – Group will share presentation at the March meeting. Will include the issues with cross pollination
- Food Systems and Legacy/New Farmers – Natalie shared that she is still working on the PowerPoint presentation and will have the draft ready for the AAB meeting in March. Lynnet was added to this task force.

VIII. Discussion with Daylan Figgs and Meegan Flenniken from the Natural Resources Department. The following topics were discussed with the AAB:

- Ag conservation initiatives and easements in Waverly and Buckeye
- Open Lands Advisory Board and relationship advising Board of County Commissioners and Natural Resources on suggested land to acquire.
- Great Outdoors Colorado grants.

- Partnering with City on conservation between Fort Collins and Wellington.
- IGA with Wellington.
- IGA with Timnath.
- Vulnerability with annexation.
- 1041 State legislation.
- Source of budget for Natural Resources Department.
- Land banking ideas.
- Diversified local food economy within Larimer County.
- Water sharing and streamlining water courts.

IX. Right to Farm Signage Update – Jenn. Jenn shared that the choices of locations to place signs needs to be reduced to 10 total signs, 5-7 in North Larimer County and 3-5 in South Larimer County. The process for completion of the project will be a presentation to Public Works, the Board of County Commissioners and then fabrication/installation of the signs.

X. Announcements. Larimer County Farmers Alliance (LCFA) will be having a Tri-County Summit on Sunday, January 26, 2020 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm at Raisin’ Roots Farm, 2229 W. Vine Dr., Fort Collins, CO. The Colorado Farm Show is scheduled for January 28 through January 30, 2020. For more information see: <https://www.coloradofarmshow.com/>. The High Plains Organic Gardening Conference in Cheyenne, WY is scheduled for February 27, 2020. For more information see: <http://www.lcmg.org/event/high-plains-organic-conference/>.

XI. The next AAB meeting will be held on May 13, 2020, at 12:30 p.m. at the CSU Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO.

XII. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.