

LARIMER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2020

Present: Sam Adams, Lynnet Bannion, Timothy Clouse, Jenn Cram (liaison), Karen Crumbaker, Franklyn Garry, Travis Horton, John Kefalas, Gail Meisner, Paula Petroff (Extension), Kristin Ramey, Travis Rollins (liaison), Greg Schreiner, Jon Slutsky, Zach Thode, George Wallace, and Natalie Yoder.

Absent: Jennifer Bornhoft (liaison) and Beth Conrey.

Guests: Donnie Dustin, Tara Muller, and Alysa Martin.

I. Meeting called to order and introduction of guests. Chairman Zach Thode called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. Guests introduced themselves to members.

II. Consideration of minutes from January 8, 2020 meeting. The January 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved and accepted with one correction.

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

- NISP 1041 – John noted that the NISP project would follow the 1041 process. No Boards or Commissions will be asked to comment.
- Larimer County Oil and Gas Regulations – Amendments to the Larimer County Land Use Code regarding Oil and Gas Regulations have been adopted with changes and will be presented at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on March 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
- Arise Festival – At the Public Hearing on Monday, March 9, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners denied a permit submitted by the Arise Festival to host a music and arts festival from July 30 to August 3, 2020. The proposed site of the festival is owned by the Ackerman Family Farm near Buckeye. The Larimer County Sheriff's Office opposed the festival over safety concerns. Neighbors near the proposed location raised issues concerning lack of infrastructure on the property; impact to county roads; noise; impacts to livestock and the environment; and potential criminal activity at the festival. The proposal did not meet the requirements of the County's Land Use Code.

IV. Agriculture and the Halligan Reservoir Discussion with guests Donnie Dustin and Eileen Dornfest. Eileen Dornfest was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Donnie Dustin, City of Fort Collins Water Resources Manager, gave an informative presentation on the status of the Halligan Reservoir project and shared the following:

- Halligan is an existing reservoir 25 miles northwest of Fort Collins on the North Fork of the Poudre River.

- The goal is to expand the reservoir from about 6,400 acre-feet to roughly 14,500 acre-feet by increasing the height of the existing 70-foot dam by 25 feet, providing approximately 8,100 acre-feet of additional water storage.
- By enlarging the reservoir, a storage reserve for emergency water supply will be provided, as well as increasing drought security and improving water system reliability and flexibility.
- Benefits of the project would ensure year-round flows on the North Fork of the river, reconnecting 22 miles of the river, improving water temperatures and rehabilitating the aging dam.
- Costs could vary between \$100 million and \$150 million, depending on the final project design, schedule and requirements. The project is primarily funded by water fees assessed on new development and redevelopments. Costs are based on information known to date and will continue to be refined as the project progresses.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in November 2019. The Corps will develop a final EIS before making a permitting decision on if Halligan Reservoir can be expanded. See <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16021coll7/id/12799> to view the full EIS.
- For current information on the Halligan Water Supply Project, please visit www.fcgov.com/halligan.
- Zach asked Commissioner Kefalas if he would support the AAB continuing conversations about water sharing with the City of Fort Collins and Commissioner Kefalas said yes he would

V. 2019/2020 Task Force Presentation Updates (20 minutes each). Greg Schreiner gave the Industrial Hemp presentation to the AAB with the following points:

- Differences between hemp and marijuana.
- Hemp uses.
- Types of Industrial Hemp.
- Hemp growing opportunities for farmers.
- Hemp production obstacles.
- Extraction and sale of hemp.
- Hemp pricing in 2019.
- 2020 regulatory concerns and objectives.
- Production concerns for 2020.

VI. 2019/2020 Task Force Presentation Updates Food Systems. Natalie Yoder gave the Larimer County Food System presentation to the Board with the following points:

- Larimer County current agriculture sales to local consumers.
- Issues facing farmers in Larimer County.
- Current organizations existing in agriculture in the County.
- Perceptions of agriculture in the area.

VII. LUC2020 Update – This item will be continued to the next meeting.

VIII. Announcements: There were no announcements. I didn't have any, did you?

IX. 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.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.