

LARIMER COUNTY LAND STEWARDSHIP 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: February 18, 2021

Time: 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Webinar

Contact: Please contact Sidney at smichl@larimer.org or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

Members		Staff		Guests
Bryan Kraft	x	Casey Cisneros	x	
Ed Redente	x	Daylan Figgs	x	
Josh Wenz	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	
Kraig Peel	x	Maxine Guill	x	
Richard (Hitch) McCulloch		Jody Shadduck-McNally*	x	
Ronald Harris	x	Sidney Michl (minutes)	x	
Tasha Carr	x			

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:01 p.m.
 - a. Welcomed Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally and new board members, Joshua Wenz, Robert (Bryan) Kraft, and Kraig Peel.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

3. AGENDA REVIEW

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Tasha moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Ron seconded, motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Natural Resources events for this month: larimer.org/naturalresources.
- b. To sign up for Land Stewardship Advisory Board updates, go to apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm, enter your email, click "Subscribe," and check the "Land Stewardship Advisory Board" box.
- c. No increase in 2021 Enterprise Rates – Casey Cisneros
 - i. Casey provided an overview of the 1998 resolution passed by the BOCC that allowed the Weed Control Enterprise Program to perform work for hire. In 2018, the program identified their expenses were exceeding revenue and asked the BOCC for a 16% increase to fee structure. The commissioners also granted the DNR director the ability to increase rates based on the local consumer price index. No increase was applied to rates this year as the CPI rose <1%.
 - ii. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked for the current rate, Casey will send rates to the board.

6. UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. 2020 Quarter 4 Board Report – Daylan Figgs
 - i. Daylan highlighted a few stories:
 1. DNR's involvement in wildfire season
 2. Sky View Campground received \$475k in grant funding from GOCO
 3. Steputis 884-acre conservation easement was finalized, also in partnership with GOCO
 4. Restoration project at RBOS
 5. Additional YTD Operating Expenses category added to the Financial Summary
 - ii. Ron asked about trail restoration at Kruger Rock, Meegan said trail widening was due to increased use in 2020. DNR's full-time trail crew maintains all 98 miles of trails in our system and prioritizes trail work based on resource protections, amount of visitation, and safety. Additional maintenance on Kruger Rock Trail is planned for next year.
 - iii. Tasha asked about year-end expenses. Daylan said 2020 revenue totaled \$20.8M and operating costs totaled \$16.5M with ~\$3.5M in cash reserves. Similar trends are expected in 2021. It was noted DNR receives <2% of General Fund (\$60k-\$100k) and our main revenue source is citizen initiated bills and fees. Tasha commented it would be helpful to include all sources of income for transparency. Daylan agreed and said this information is presented annually by DNR's Financial Services Manager, Lori Smith.
 - iv. Josh asked about the economic value of weed suppression per acre. Casey said treatment costs vary based on how feasibly a weed can be identified and eradicated. The cost of return also varies based on location and rate of spread.
- b. LSP Annual Executive Summary – Casey Cisneros
 - i. Casey provided an overview of the program. The LSP operates on DNR lands and countywide, focusing on long-term stewardship, weed management, forestry, disaster recovery, and ecological restoration. \$1.7M in operating is budgeted for

2021; funding sources include Help Preserve Open Space sales tax, Parks revenue, Pest District mill levy, Enterprise revenue, and General Fund. The Weed District encompasses the eastern 1/6 of the county and provides a cost-share program, site visits, herbicide sales, printed materials, etc.

- ii. Josh asked about the Cameron Peak Fire and the percentage of the burn scar on USFS land, Casey said ~90%. Tasha commented its large-scale disturbance will help restore landscape heterogeneity.
- iii. Discussion of Executive Summary.
- c. Compliance and EDRR Data Discussion – Maxine Guill
 - i. Compliance procedures can be found in the [Noxious Weed Management Plan](#) on page 8.
 - ii. 503 compliance case inspections; 326 follow-ups from 2019 and 177 new. Several cases were inspected more than once for a total of 718 inspections; 468 were in-district, 82 were in Estes Valley. Sent 80 courtesy letters; 68 were in-district, 3 were in Estes Valley. Sent 67 grant letters; 7 were in-district, 1 was in Estes Valley. Sent 64 enforcement letters. Only 10 required right-of-entry and 5 enforcements were done; 1 was in-district, 1 was in Estes Valley. Overall, 81% of landowners responded to noxious weed letters which was higher than average. Of the 81%, 41% accepted additional services (site visit, grant, herbicides).
 - iii. Targeted areas/EDRR species were:
 - 1. Big Thompson Canyon, oxeye daisy
 - 2. Laramie River Valley
 - 3. Storm Mountain subdivision, spotted knapweed, plumeless thistle
 - 4. Absinth wormwood
 - 5. Black henbane
 - 6. Chinese clematis
 - 7. Common tansy
 - 8. Cypress spurge
 - 9. Hairy willow-herb
 - 10. Japanese knotweed
 - 11. Mediterranean sage
 - 12. Myrtle spurge
 - 13. Orange hawkweed
 - 14. Purpose loosestrife
 - 15. Yellow starthistle
 - 16. Yellow toadflax
 - 17. Dalmatian toadflax hybrid

7. ACTION ITEMS

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 5/20/2021 via Zoom Webinar

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.
Public can view agenda and minutes at:
<https://www.larimer.org/boards/land-stewardship-advisory-board/minutes>



10. 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.
11. ADJOURN – 6:30 p.m.

