

LARIMER COUNTY | ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

P.O. Box 1190, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522-1190, 970.498.5738, Larimer.org

The role of the Advisory Board is to advise the Board of County Commissioners and appropriate departments on environmental and science-related issues that affect Larimer County.

MINUTES

Date: July 14th, 2020

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual by Zoom

Contact: Shelley Bayard de Volo, sbayard@larimer.org or 970.498.5738

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Rodger Ames	X	John Kefalas*	X	
Daniel Beveridge	X	Shelley Bayard de Volo [¥]	X	
John Bleem	X			
Jim Gerek - <i>Chair</i>	X			
David Lehman – <i>Vice-Chair</i>	X			
Allyson Little				
Kirk Longstein	X			
George Rinker	X			
Travis Rounsaville	X			
Catriona Smith	X			
Katrina Winborn-Miller	X			
Chris Wood	X			

X = present; * = Commissioner Liaison; † = Speaker; ¥ = ESAB Liaison; § = Larimer County Department of Health and Environment

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

- 1. Amendments or additions to the agenda** – There were none
- 2. Introduction of members, staff, and guests** – Jim noted recent changes in Board membership and welcomed new members. All board members introduced themselves, and provided some background, interests, and expertise.
- 3. Public Comment** – none
- 4. Discussion Items**
 - a. Greenfields** – Jim provided some background on the ESAB’s involvement with the new Oil and Gas regulations and participation on the task force. Jim noted that there had been a last-minute addition to the regulations of the term “greenfield” in the applicability section. In subsequent discussions Commissioner Kefalas asked for clarification on how the term “greenfield” is generally defined.





Then Jim showed the June 3 M. Lafferty memo, which was released to public June 15th, with recommended guidance that staff put together for the BoCC.

The BoCC accepted the definition, and development review staff will use this as guidance until the County's entire oil and gas regulations are reviewed next year in response to the changes to the State regulations. Jim noted that the State's process might change this direction if they propose a different definition.

Commissioner Kefalas asked the ESAB to look at and provide comments on the greenfield definition. Several members noted that this definition is not the normal interpretation in the O&G industry, which typically describes a greenfield as an area that lacks any development (no structures at all). Concerns were raised that at best this would cause confusion, and at worst it was an effort to circumvent applicability of the County regulations.

Shelley pointed out that she believed any expansion project would have to go through State COGCC permitting and County Planning staff would be alerted to any oil and gas development applications submitted to the COGCC. Therefore, they would be aware of the planned development and could coordinate with the applicant to inform them of the need to also work with the County. Commissioner Kefalas asked that Shelley follow up with Matt Lafferty on the questions posed and get back to the ESAB at their next meeting.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – Daniel moved to approve the June minutes, and George seconded. The June minutes were approved by acclamation. New members abstained from the vote.

6. **Updates and Round Table**

- a. Environmental Stewardship Awards – Shelley provided a summary of the status of the awards. She provided notifications and scheduled the Awards ceremony for August 10th during the BoCC Land Use Hearing. Logistics for the ceremony include limiting attendance to 10 people, so only one person per awardee will attend. One awardee has requested they be able to attend via Zoom. Interested ESAB members were encouraged to watch the County internet broadcast.
- b. Halligan Reservoir expansion project– Jim and David provided some background on the Project's goals and how the ESAB participated in reviewing the project's draft EIS. David informed the new ESAB members how the Board approaches projects like these in terms of environmental review and the fact that they do not get involved with reviewing the 1041 permitting. David indicated that the ESAB reviewed the draft EIS and discussed several concerns, which were summarized into a memo and presented to the BoCC, who then passed those comments onto the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps is reviewing the public comments on the draft and FC expects the final EIS this year.

Rodger asked whether the ESAB will review and comment on the final EIS. David noted that the Board works on behalf of the commissioners, but his opinion was that it would seem appropriate that the ESAB would look at it and provide the BoCC follow-up analysis and advise. Shelley noted that in the past, the board has at minimum looked at whether the ESAB comments were addressed in the final EIS.

Travis noted that his firm was involved with the modelling portion of the EIS, so in the future he will recuse himself from board comments and decisions. David said that the ESAB is on hold until the final EIS is made public, however he noted that



there are other evaluations going on and those need to be incorporated into how we think about the process. Jim showed the City's webpage for Halligan and its summary of the public comments. The ESAB might want to look at how the City has addressed the comments, and Kirk noted he could arrange to have someone from the City team come and discuss the project and the comments with the board.

- c. Climate Smart Larimer County – Jim provided some background on the CSLC project and explained that Shelley and Kirk have been significantly involved in the process. Kirk provided the new members some background on what the County has been doing in terms of strategic planning, which includes the objective to update the County's environmental responsibility policy and develop and implement internal operations sustainability plan. When commissioner Kefalas came to the BoCC, he set a commitment to climate action planning for the community as a priority. Being the ESAB commissioner liaison, he looked to work with the ESAB as well as working with county staff, with Lori Hodges taking a lead and facilitating a group of senior level staff who are developing the framework. The goal has been to address climate action at the County level.

Covid has impacted the process, however despite this Lori Hodges has worked to keep it moving forward. The goal is to get the framework finished and present it to the BoCC and ask for buy-in on the public engagement piece.

Kirk explained the framework drafts and editing process that has taken place since May, when the ESAB was presented with a very rough draft that they sent back without full review because of the need for improvements.

The drafting group is still meeting, and it is an open group, so if any other ESAB members want to participate, let Kirk know and he will bring you up to speed.

Jim reiterated that if members want to get involved, they should let him and/or Kirk know.

- d. Issue coordinator assignments – Jim shared the Issue Index on the screen so everyone could see it and reminded members of the Issue Coordinator role within the ESAB. Jim explained how the board has lost some key issue coordinators with the outgoing members and pointed out which issues need new coordinators. Jim asked all members to consider adding Issue Coordinator assignments and requested that they contact him if interested. John Bleem said that he would like to participate with the Climate Change Issue. He will coordinate with Kirk on that. George expressed interest in working on water issues such as NISP and Halligan.
- e. Commissioner Update – Commissioner Kefalas provided an update on timelines for NISP 1041 with both the Planning Commission and the BoCC. Regarding the proposed behavioral health facility, he noted that there is an upcoming virtual open house to provide the community an opportunity to learn more about that project. There will also be further discussions with FoCo and Loveland.

One of the County initiatives that is part of the strategic plan is accessibility to high speed broadband and increasing connectivity throughout the county. The County is currently undertaking a speed test for the more rural areas. Finally,



Commissioner Kefalas noted the creation for a new public “dashboard” used to summarize key information on COVID-19 in our community.

7. **Issue Index** – The updates from tonight’s meeting will be incorporated.
8. **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – TBD
9. **Adjourn** – George moved to adjourn the meeting with Chris seconding. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.