

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: June 9th, 2020

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual by Zoom

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

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Richard Alper	X	John Kefalas*	X	
Daniel Beveridge	X	Shelley Bayard de Volo [¥]	X	
Rich Conant	X	Shaun May [§]		
Jim Gerek - <i>Chair</i>	X			
Michael Jones	X			
Evelyn King				
David Lehman – <i>Vice-Chair</i>	X			
Allyson Little	X			
Kirk Longstein	X			
George Rinker	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: 6:10 p.m.

1. **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – the order of topics were adjusted to accommodate speaker availability
2. **Introduction of members, staff and guests** – All present introduced themselves as several individuals were observing on-line
3. **Public Comment** – none was received prior to the meeting
4. **Discussion Items**
 - a. **Environmental Stewardship Awards** – Ally Little presented a summary of the Stewardship Awards nominees and the subcommittee’s ranking and other comments.

Award Recommendations:





- Wildland Restoration Volunteers – restoring trails and riparian habitat
- Kids in Nature -fostering environmental awareness in young people.
- Xanterra Travel Collection - installing off grid solar array at the Trail Ridge Store, RMNP

Suggested Award Recommendation

- City of Fort Collins Water Treatment Facility – installing microhydro electric generator

Not Recommended for Award:

- Jess Arnold - Environmental Specialist, Thompson School District. The board discussed that the application did not discuss any activities that that Ms Arnold might be doing that are *above and beyond* her primary job activities.

Vote on whether to include the City of Fort Collins Water Treatment Facility project in with the recommended projects. Kirk recused himself because he works for the City of Fort Collins. The Board voted 7:2 to recommend the project.

Vote on recommending the four projects - Chris moved to recommend the four project to the BoCC for the awards, and Rich seconded. The motion passed 9:0

5. **Approval of Minutes** – George moved to approve the March minutes, and David seconded. The March minutes were approved by acclamation.

6. **Updates and Round Table**

- a. Climate Smart Larimer County – Lori Hodges circulated the draft document internally prior to the disruption caused by the Corona Virus. However, shortly after that Lori was pulled away to respond to the epidemic and as a result the CSLC process was temporarily placed on hold. Kirk forwarded that early draft to the ESAB, and David Lehman provided some well-developed comments that highlighted the fact that the document still needed a lot of work. Jim noted that both he and another ESAB member had also identified multiple shortcomings. When time allows, staff will work on appropriate revisions and the document will come back to the ESAB at a later date.
- b. Board memberships – Jim and the rest of the Board recognized the outgoing members (June 30) and thanked them for their service. Each outgoing member was presented a certificate of appreciation signed by the Board leadership. Outgoing members are: Richard Alper, Richard Conant, Evelyn King and Michael Lee Jones. Jim noted that interviews for the openings had been conducted and excellent candidates had been recommended to the BoCC for appointment.
- c. State Air Quality Rules – Jim provided a quick presentation on the State’s current air quality rulemakings. Some rulemakings of interest include Regulation 22 - greenhouse gas reporting and emission reduction requirements. This is an altogether new rule and it deals primarily with propellants in consumer products and refrigerants. This regulation will be effective in July 2020. Regulation 7 - Control of ozone via ozone precursors and control of hydrocarbons in O&G emissions. This regulation was amended to cover O&G flowback tanks, underground injection facilities, and natural gas fired engines (including older grandfathered-in engines). COGCC 900 series rulemaking – very extensive set of updates for environmental impact prevention. These rules will likely impact the



County's new oil and gas regulations. COGCC 1200 series rulemaking protection of wildlife resources. The ESAB has not been specifically asked to review these new rules, but Jim recommended that we continue to stay up to date and track the State's progress. Chris noted that for Reg. 22, the State will make the data available to local governments, so the County would have access to the reporting for use in planning purposes.

- d. Commissioner Update – Commissioner Kefalas provided some background on his request for staff to develop a definition of “Greenfields” to be used in the new Oil and Gas regulations. The Planning department has provided a memo that will be presented to the BoCC June 15 in work session. (Once the memo is made public, it can be shared with the ESAB.) That definition will probably become policy. After the COGCC finishes its rulemaking in the Fall, the definition of Greenfields will be revisited along with all aspects of the County's O&G land use rules.

COMMISSIONER KEFALAS LEFT THE MEETING

Back to the Discussion items – NISP 1041 Permit

Jim provided a little background on the ESAB's review activities over the years. He noted that the 1041 permit application was made earlier this year, and while the Corps of Engineers NEPA review and Environmental Impact Statement covered a wide range of issues pertaining to this project, they did not include everything – namely the ranch road access with the re-routing of 287, the conveyance pipeline, and recreation development around the reservoir. The intent of the ESAB's review focused on the 1041 permit application document pertaining to these three “ancillary” items.

Michael noted the technical memos submitted with the application, and he had asked George and David to focus on 5 of them: Wetlands mitigation plan, wildlife conservation plan, floodplains, hydrologic and hydraulics modeling report, groundwater modeling report, and air quality report. They found no major issues with any of those five reports. George also looked at the recreation report and raised some concerns with it. George also questioned the geology adjacent to the proposed dam location.

Jim noted that the BOCC would NOT be asking the ESAB to provide comments on the 1041 Permit, and that our work here was purely voluntary. He reminded the Board of why the County Advisory Boards are not included in the 1041 process as outlined by a memo provided by Lesli Ellis on April 15. He also reminded everyone that they are free to provide individual comments to the Planning Commission and the BOCC during upcoming public hearings.

7. **Issue Index** – The updates from tonight's meeting will be incorporated.
8. **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – TBD, four new incoming Board members will start July 1.
9. **Adjourn** – Michael moved to adjourn the meeting with George seconding. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM.