

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: October 13th, 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
Rodger Ames	X	John Kefalas*	X	
Daniel Beveridge		Shelley Bayard de Volo [¥]	X	
John Bleem	X	Thomas Butts [§]		
Jim Gerek - <i>Chair</i>	X			
David Lehman – <i>Vice-Chair</i>	X	Student Intern		
Allyson Little	X	Cailea Eisenberg		
Kirk Longstein	X			
George Rinker	X	Planning Department		
Travis Rounsaville	X	Eric Fried		
Catriona Smith	X	Lesli Ellis		
Katrina Winborn-Miller	X			
Chris Wood	X			

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

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

1. **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – Daniel Beveridge is not in attendance, so the FACE update will be postponed
2. **Introduction of members, staff, and guests** – Jim noted that there were several attendees that were not observable, but present and listening into the zoom webinar.
3. **Public Comment** – none
4. **Discussion Items**
 - a. Climate Smart Larimer County –David provided process information on how the board will review the comments. Kirk then provided some background on the development of the framework document. He noted that the ESAB was asked to provide some formal comment, but also that the document is a living document and there will be additional opportunities for input. Using the best, most available science and data for Larimer County, the framework is an assessment of the risks and hazards to the County from a changing climate. The first sections





address the problem that the framework is trying to solve. The feedback that would be most valuable includes major themes, gaps in the data, glaring issues. Prior to tonight's meeting, Kirk and Shelley went through the spreadsheet and made recommendations as to which comments should be incorporated. County staff will look at those recommendations and address them. Wordsmithing, sentence structure, typos have been captured in the spreadsheet, and Cailea will address those changes.

Kirk noted that once comments are addressed, the framework document will then go to the contractor, who will develop a three-page brief that will be presented to BoCC for a Nov. 10th worksession, which will also be attended by the commissioners elect. Kirk then opened-up the discussion to the members.

There was discussion on the pros and cons of whether the framework should discuss the causes of climate change. Ally noted that the topic can be divisive, and perhaps just focus on adaptation. Comm. Kefalas noted that if we do not recognize that humans are causing climate change, then we cannot effectively implement strategies to mitigate our GHG emissions. Travis discussed the need for content clarity between the two GHG sections (VI and VII.G). John asked whether it was recommended that an annual GHG inventory be completed, and whether that work be completed either by a staff position, or a contractor? There was discussion of human vs lightning caused wildfires. Both occur and data are not adequate to clarify which cause is more prevalent in Larimer County. John noted that there should be some recognition in the document of the commitment by Colorado's utilities to a target of 100% renewables by 2040. This will change the emissions profiles for the County.

In the end the Board expressed their comfort with the overall comments, and they will be promptly provided in spreadsheet form to the CSLC staff team.

- b. Land Use Code 2020 – Jim provided a little background on the update process. Jim had noted in a previous meeting the other sections, and that the ESAB would not commit time to those. However, the Development Standards section is most relevant to the ESAB. Jim selected relevant sections and recommended the ESAB members review those. He received member's comments and summarized them into a 2-pg draft memo that will be submitted to Matt Lafferty, Planning Department. The ESAB agreed that the updates are an improvement, but there is also room for more. Members had comments on the fire districts, wetland protection, hazard areas, green infrastructure for stormwater, exterior lighting, air quality, definitions of terms, post-construction water quality treatment for new developments, transfer of development rights as a means to conserve high hazard-risk areas as well as areas that mitigate risk, affordable housing, open space and conservation buffers, and solar ready buildings.

Kirk moved to adopt the draft memo as written by Jim, John seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

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



6. Updates and Round Table

- a. Colorado Greenhouse Gas Reduction Roadmap – Katrina provided some background on the State’s process, which is led by the Colorado Energy Office, CDPHE, Dept of Transportation and the Dept. of Natural Resources, and Dept of Agriculture. The Sept. 30 Public Draft is now out for comment for the month of October and the State will host a Zoom public listening session October 20th and anyone can register on the website. The road map was developed to facilitate the State’s goal of 100% renewables by 2040 as a result of HB 19-1261, which establishes statewide GHG reductions of 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030 and 90% by 2040, all compared to a 2005 baseline. The roadmap is intended to establish the 2005 baseline, set policy and strategies, and guide initiatives. Goals are divided into what can be done in the near term and what should be considered for the long term.
- b. Other State level Issues that the ESAB might follow – There was discussion on other state level regulations, rules and initiatives that the ESAB might take up. There have not been formal requests from the BCC or staff on several issues happening at the state like air quality regulations, the GHG reductions roadmap, clean energy goals, etc. Commissioner Kefalas noted that with the election coming up soon and the transition to a new BCC, there has not been direction because it’s hard to say what the new commissioners will identify as important. He can say that he would like the ESAB to formally track and review the new oil and gas regulations and compare those new rules with the County’s current regulations. As well, the greenhouse gas roadmap is something that ties in with what the County is doing in terms of the Climate Smart initiative, so that is certainly of interest. As far as air quality, he is not sure how closely Tom Butts is monitoring the state’s regulatory updates, but Tom Gonzales sits on the State Air Quality Control Commission, and that is certainly important. Commissioner Kefalas also noted that he would welcome the ESAB suggesting issues that they feel are important for the County’s residents. He does not always have his thumb on the pulse of everything that is going on.

Jim made some announcements for upcoming meetings – Nov. 10th Climate Smart LC, and Land Use Code virtual open house, Oct. 22nd. Shelley will post all meetings to the ESAB Google calendar.

- c. Follow-up to the Oil/Gas Greenfield definition and policy guidance – Shelley provided the response from Matt Lafferty to some of the Board’s questions that were asked at the July meeting. To the questions of:
 - i. Did Planning reach out to industry on the definition? His answer was no, they did not.
 - ii. Did he see the potential for situations where oil/gas development might unintentionally go unpermitted because when the regulations are reviewed, one would assume the regulations do not apply to their expansion development? His answer was no, because he receives, regardless of the nature of the application, all COGCC applications for new drilling and associated activities on existing and proposed sites.
 - iii. Has Planning considered making available the policy memo on the website so it’s clear how the County defines and applies the term? Matt answered that he could post it on the web, but he did not think that it would provide clear



direction. He will be adding the definition to the regulations as part of the Land Use Code update this year so it will be addressed soon.

- d. **Commissioner Update** – Commissioner Kefalas noted the Community Survey is now open. Shelley provided the link in the chat. Second, the BCC will be finalizing the 2021 budget, and that budget dictates what the County does in terms of capital projects. There is a build your own budget tool on the county website at: <https://www.larimer.org/budget/Build-Your-Own-Budget> and he encouraged members to take a look at that and provide feedback on what they feel is important to fund. The County is dealing with two additional issues
 - i. Covid-19: the data dashboard includes 8 indicators; some are heading in the wrong direction and some are in the red. This can push the County from a level 1 to a level 2, which can impact business operations.
 - ii. Wildfires: The Cameron Peak Fire is 57% contained. Fire response costs are high, and the County will also incur costs associated with the recovery, including funding watershed protections. The recent snows were helpful in helping firefighting efforts. The Mullen Fire has grown as well. It appears now that the fires will not be contained until November sometime. The Cameron Peak and Mullen fires were likely human caused, while the Pine Gulch fire is confirmed lightning caused.
 - e. **Last minute updates** - Kirk provided some additional updates on 1) Platte River Power Authority's Distributed Energy Resources; a link to the webpage is at <https://www.prpa.org/der>. He encouraged those interested in the alternative energy issues to look at the website. 2) The City of Fort Collins is completing the Horsetooth Outlet Project which involves improvements at the Soldier Canyon Dam and led to temporary watering restrictions for Fort Collins residents.
7. **Issue Index** – member sign-up for issues were as follows:
- a. John Bleem - Climate Change, Wind Energy, Solar Energy, and Alternate Energy
 - b. Cat Smith - O&G, Solid Waste, MS4, and Emerging Contaminants
 - c. George Rinker - NISP and Halligan
 - d. Rodger Ames - NISP, Halligan, Ozone, Climate Change and Alternative Energy
8. **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – There will be a November meeting, topics will include the FACE and other items TBD.
9. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.