

LARIMER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD  
Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2019

Present: Timothy Clouse, Beth Conrey, 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: Sam Adams, Jennifer Bornhoft (liaison), Jason Brothers, Valerie Clark, and Nic Koontz.

I. Meeting called to order and introduction of guests. Chairman Zach Thode called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. Guests Kerri Rollins, Director of Larimer County Extension Office and Alyssa Stephens, Colorado State University, introduced themselves to members.

II. Consideration of minutes from July 10, 2019 meeting. The July 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes were approved and accepted after one correction.

III. Interaction with Commissioner Kefalas on Ag and Community related issues. Commissioner Kefalas shared details of the Larimer County proposed 20-year half-penny sales tax that will be on the ballot this coming November. The proceeds from this tax will pay for regional transportation projects and facilities upgrades to address human services, veteran services and criminal justice needs. If approved, the increase would generate \$32 million per year and would sunset after 20 years. For further information please see: [Larimer.org/halfpenny4larimer](http://Larimer.org/halfpenny4larimer).

Commissioner Kefalas also shared that there will be ballot measure in November's election asking voters if they'd like to see a mill levy override (MLO) which would provide the following:

- Increasing first-year teacher salaries to a competitive level beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.
- Restructuring to a competitive teacher salary schedule to recruit and retain high-quality teachers and maintaining competitive wages for support staff.
- Supporting our students' mental health by increasing mental health professional positions, such as counselors.
- Enhancing school safety and security.

Members of the Board and Commissioner Kefalas also discussed Ag Mediation:

- How does the Ag Advisory Board align with Ag Mediation concerning urban and farming issues?
- Should there be a formal plan in place?
- Is there an alternative dispute resource through the courts?
- There has been one in the past through the AAB's Right to Farm document (Jon Slutsky).
- Look at City of Fort Collins to see what they offer.
- Are statistics kept on Ag complaints?

- Jenn will research what the current policy for mediation is.

IV. Larimer County CSU Extension Community Needs Assessment information and discussion – Kerri Rollins. Kerri Rollins introduced Alyssa Stevens, Research Project Coordinator with Colorado State University’s Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRISS). The Extension office is working with IRISS on a Community Needs Assessment and gave an overview of the process. Kerri asked what more can the Extension office do to have an even greater impact and how do we channel our resources to the Ag community. A series of questions were presented to the AAB members and discussion followed. The questions presented were:

- What challenges are unique to agricultural audiences in Larimer County?
- What do you think the agricultural community needs more of?
- What does the agricultural community had enough of?
- What is one thing you wish Larimer County Extension knew?
- What is the best way to reach out to the agricultural community in Larimer County?

V. 2018 Task Force Presentations to BCC – Updates. Members and Commissioner Kefalas discussed the following about the LESA presentation:

- Could it be used as a tool by the Assessor’s Office?
- Is there a formula to determine the value of agriculture land?
- Can the presentation be placed on the Agricultural Advisory Board’s website?
- Should we invite the Larimer County Assessor to an AAB meeting in the future?

VI. 2019 Task Force Presentations – Presentations on Statement of Intent.

- Presentations will be done in February through March, 2020.
- Task force members gave updates on status of their presentations and provided outlines.

VIII. AAB Representatives on the Larimer County Land Use Code Update (on progress so far).

- The Clarion Group has asked the AAB to nominate member to sit on their board.
- Board nominates Kristin Ramey and she accepted.
- Jenn will forward information with priorities to Kristin.

**IX.** Oil and Gas Task Force Update – Jon. Here’s a link on what the task force has done, etc. [https://www.larimer.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2019/lc\\_oil\\_and\\_gas\\_regulation\\_posters\\_september\\_2019.pdf](https://www.larimer.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2019/lc_oil_and_gas_regulation_posters_september_2019.pdf)

- We need to keep in mind that the mission now is health, safety, wildlife, etc.
- Open house on September 12, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the Hearing Room at 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins.
- Three meetings with two more to go.

X. Right to Farm Signage – Proposed locations in Southern Larimer County Field Trip. Jenn, Beth and Kristin discussed their availability to tour Southern Larimer County for possible locations for Right to Farm signs.

XI. Announcements. None

XII. The next AAB meeting will be held on November 13, 2019, at 12:30 p.m. at the CSU Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.