

# 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:** January 12th, 2021

**Time:** 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual by Zoom

**Contact:** Shelley Bayard de Volo, [sbayard@larimer.org](mailto:sbayard@larimer.org) or 970.498.5738

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

X = present; \* = Commissioner Liaison; † = Speaker; ¥ = ESAB Liaison; § = Larimer County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Call to Order: 6:05 p.m.

1. **Amendments or additions to the agenda** – None.
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**
  - **Climate Equity Framework at the State of Colorado** – Jim introduced Lauren McDonell, Climate Change Outreach Planner with the CDPHE Air Pollution Control Division. As part of the State’s greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution reduction goals, and as directed in House Bill 19-1261, climate equity is an important component of the State’s Climate Action Plan. Climate change has disproportional impacts on lower-income populations and communities of color as compared to most Coloradoans. And GHG reduction strategies can either worsen those disparities or





they can improve racial equity and economic justice. Therefore, as the State moves forward with their action plan, it is working to build equity and justice principles into its climate strategies through relevant discussions with affected communities. They recognize the need to have these conversations early in the development of all rules, policies, and actions.

The Climate Equity Framework is a guidance document for GHG reduction rulemakings and includes the following steps and considerations:

1. Climate Equity Principles
2. Community Outreach and Engagement
3. Advisory Groups
4. Data Mapping
5. Evaluate Potential Impacts
6. Recommendations

Lauren then went through each step in more detail and several Board members asked questions. Kirk asked about the difference between equity and equality? Equality is the idea that everyone is treated the same, given the same opportunities, whereas equity is the idea that everyone is given equal footing – has access to the same opportunities. What access looks like can be different among communities. How does the Climate Equity Framework compare to the EPA's Environmental Justice framework? There are similarities, but the State's Climate Equity Framework is specific to rulemakings made by the Air Quality Control Commission.

Laura noted she would be interested to learn more about the CSLC framework and would be happy to assist the County as Staff move forward in their process.

The State's Climate Equity Framework will be out for public review in February 2021 and should be finalized in March. To find updates and more information go to:

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/air-pollution/climate-change>

Jim provided a brief background on the CSLC framework and introduced some of the staff that were attendees on the Zoom meeting, including Steven Decatur, OEM, who will be leading the project moving forward. Commissioner Kefalas asked about how the State is addressing the urban rural divide in terms of climate equity, especially in terms of natural resources and agriculture. Lauren noted she will share a fact sheet on best practices when doing engagement and outreach in marginalized communities. She also noted that she can certainly be a resource for the County, as can other members of the Climate Change Action Unit and other staff at CDPHE. In terms of the urban rural divide, it is important to realize and account for the negative impacts that GHG reduction strategies and rules can have on rural communities as they transition away from GHG emitting industries. It is also important to ensure rural communities have access to the process and have



opportunities to be engaged. David noted that transparency is important when meeting with the community whether the goal of the meeting is to inform or engage. Members of the public often come to a meeting assuming they can have a say in the matter and can become disillusioned when the intent of the meeting is to simply inform. Lastly, Commissioner Kefalas noted the work of the Colorado Health Institute, and Lauren confirmed that they are working closely with them.

- Annual Report, 2021 Workplan – Jim discussed the annual report and workplan, noting that the goal of the report is to present the body of work that the board accomplished throughout the year. It is not to report on the work of individuals, but rather the overall work accomplished as a board. Since the December meeting, there were a few editorial changes. Kirk asked whether the Climate Smart Larimer County (CSLC) document should be included in addition to the table of recommendations that the Board provided to County Staff. The consensus was that although Kirk wrote the greenhouse gas section, because the CSLC document was primarily written by County staff, that it would not be appropriate to include it as an attachment in the Appendix.

Several members noted that it was informative to see the body of work that the Board accomplished prior to their appointment in July, especially in such a weird year. Jim asked for a motion to approve the annual report and workplan, and John so moved, with Chris seconding the motion. The report/workplan was approved by acclamation. Shelley will distribute it to County leadership.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – David moved to approve the November minutes, and Catriona seconded. The November minutes were approved by acclamation. Rodger moved to approve the December minutes, as edited for one typo, and Travis seconded. The December minutes were approved by acclamation.

6. **Updates and Round Table**

- Board Member Recruitment and Strategy for Diversity – The board discussed the need to reach out to diverse communities when recruiting board members. They discussed possible science clubs at local universities, and the need to think about not only traditional demographic diversity, but also diversity in age, and region of residence within Larimer County. With virtual meetings now available, the board should consider the continued use of that meeting format, which can increase accessibility to more potential members. Jim asked board members to begin thinking about new potential members for later this Spring, and to begin talking to their personal networks about participation.
- Environmental Stewardship Awards Preparations – Jim briefly noted the board's involvement in these annual County awards. Shelley noted that applications for the awards will open soon, and that she is coordinating with the Commissioner's office on the schedule. She will provide an update at the February meeting. Again, Jim asked board members to begin thinking about potential nominees.
- Commissioner Update – Commissioner Kefalas noted that two new County Commissioners had been sworn in, and that he would be continuing as the BoCC liaison for the ESAB in 2021. He noted the current status of the Covid-19 response



and situation in Larimer County. The Commissioner indicated that plans were being made to take the CSLC Framework to public engagement in the first quarter. And he indicated that a wide-ranging Recovery Collaborative had begun working on the aftermath of the Cameron Peak Fire.

7. **Issue Index** – Was updated with tonight’s discussion.
8. **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings** – Next meeting is February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Topics include Cameron Peak BAER report, and other topics TBD.
9. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.