

## LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

*The mission of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.*

### MINUTES

**Date:** April 6, 2021

**Time:** 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom Webinar

**Contact:** Please contact Sidney at [smichl@larimer.org](mailto:smichl@larimer.org) or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

Members		Staff		Guests
Deborah Shulman	x	Chris Fleming	x	Jeff Stahla (Northern Water)
Jill Wuertz	x	Daylan Figgs	x	2 members of the public
Kathy Maher	x	Dan Rieves	x	
Kristina Kachur	x	Mark Caughlan	x	
Mandy Peters	x	Angela Borland	x	
Pete Blume		Julie Enderby	x	
Robert Harris	x	Jenn Almstead	x	
Russell Fruits	x	*John Kefalas	x	
Ruthie Rollins	x	Sidney Michl (minutes)	x	
Spencer Clark	x			
Steve Ambrose	x			

**x = present**

**\*commissioner**

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:31 p.m.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
  - a. A member of the public commented on the paddlecraft only zone at Satanka Bay.
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
  - a. Deborah moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Steve seconded, motion passed unanimously.

## 5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Natural Resource events for this month: [larimer.org/naturalresources](http://larimer.org/naturalresources).
- b. To sign up for Parks Advisory Board updates, go to [apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm](https://apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm), enter your email, click "Subscribe," and check the "Parks Advisory Board" box.

## 6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Park District updates – Dan/Mark
  - i. Dan – warm weather over the weekend was a preview of summer visitation, staff will be very busy leading up to Memorial Day. Boating opened April 1<sup>st</sup> and ANS shelters are on the ground. Still working on hiring seasonal positions, applications were low this year due to late hiring dates and complications with new software system. Annual work plan was approved by USBOR and projects are moving forward. Ranger Excellence School was approved by the County Health Department and will be held mid-May.
  - ii. Mark – staff have been busy prepping for boating season and ANS shelters will hopefully be complete next week. Repairing ice and snow damage at the Marina before it opens. Similar challenges in filling seasonal ANS/ranger positions. Four rangers responded to a suicide call at Duncan's Ridge yesterday and successfully maintained visitor safety. Staff continue to train and prepare as these incidents rise.
  - iii. Daylan circled back to the paddlecraft only zone on the west side of Satanka Bay. The new separation of paddlecraft use from motorized boating was implemented in response to record visitation in 2020 and the exponential rise in paddlecraft concentration at HT. The zone will ensure greater safety of all visitors on the water.
    1. Mark explained Satanka is the most popular area for paddlecraft at HT because the cove is easily accessible. Crowding and paddler rescues have been ongoing issues.
    2. Commissioner Kefalas asked about public involvement in the decision. Daylan noted public safety challenges and explained the decision was ultimately led by management.
    3. Deborah advocated for the public safety component and mentioned it still allows fishing via paddlecraft.
    4. Kathy asked if there is a similar zone at Carter Lake, Dan said the west side of the lake is a designated wakeless area.
    5. Mandy asked if there will be more decisions to separate user groups in coming years. Daylan said not on the reservoirs but the HTMOS Management Plan update will allow user groups to ask for specific trail opportunities. DNR aims to provide multipurpose trails/bodies of water but population growth, technology changes, etc. create management challenges. The goal is to approach these decisions with an inclusive lens.
    6. Ruthie asked if the zone is permanent, Mark affirmed and said it's one component of many that will increase safety and accessibility at

Satanka. Other plans include adding a turn-lane, constructing a 60-vehicle parking lot, and installing more parking signs.

7. Jill asked about DNR's plan to increase visitor education and water/boating etiquette. Mark explained the marinas/paddleboard concessionaires are utilized as education tools and rangers perform boat patrol. Education and Volunteer staff are also working on direct messaging.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a. Volunteer Engagement – Julie/Angela

- i. Julie introduced herself to the board as DNR's Education and Volunteer Specialist and provided an overview of the volunteer engagement program.
- ii. Volunteers assist staff to meet our department needs in various ways. A few examples:
  1. Trail and facility maintenance projects (litter clean-up, cabin prep, campsite refurbishment, tree planting and watering, etc.)
  2. Public and school education programs
  3. Ranger assistance (VRA program, parking assistance, etc.)
  4. Campground hosts
- iii. Staff and volunteer support:
  1. 1 full-time volunteer coordinator equivalent; 18 staff liaisons
  2. 200 individual on-going volunteers
  3. 35 annual group volunteer projects
- iv. Volunteer efforts:
  1. Annual average volunteer hours (2017-2019): 19,583
  2. 2020 annual volunteer hours: 16,113 (small decrease due to cancellation of group activities to follow COVID health and safety guidelines)

### b. Grants/Partnerships overview – Jenn

- i. Jenn provided an overview of funding sources from the last 3 years, totaling \$16.1M. Between all these projects, 63 cents of every dollar spent was leveraged through grants, partnerships, and donations.
  1. Landowner donations – \$605k (4%)
    - a. Steputis CE – \$300k
    - b. Pittington CE – \$300k
    - c. Rimrock OS mineral rights – \$5k
  2. Partnerships – \$2.9M (18%)
    - a. City of Fort Collins – \$2.84M (96%)
    - b. Northern Water – \$116k (4%)
    - c. Friends of Larimer County – \$8.5k (<1%)
  3. Grants – \$12.5M (78%)
    - a. Capital improvements – \$9.9M (64%)
      - i. HT and CL Reservoir infrastructure project

1. Central Federal Lands Highway Administration (FLAP grant) – \$8.6M (74%)
2. LCDNR – \$3M (26%)
- ii. Sky View Campground at CL
  1. GOCO – \$475k (25%)
  2. Friends of LC – \$2k (<1%)
  3. LCDNR – \$1.4M (75%)
- iii. Poudre River Regional Trail Initiative
  1. GOCO – \$432k (20%)
  2. CDOT – \$399k (19%)
  3. LCDNR – \$1.3M (61%)
  4. Friends of LC – \$3k (<1%)
  5. CPW (pending) – \$250k (TBD)
- b. Restoration – \$1.5M (10%)
  - i. Poudre River Restoration and Resiliency project at RBOS
    1. CO Dept. of Local Affairs – \$974k (78%)
    2. GOCO – \$100k (8%)
    3. CPW – \$153k (12%)
    4. LCDNR – \$29k (2%)
- c. Acquisition – \$3.6M (23%)
  - i. RMOS inholding acquisitions (Gallegos)
    1. City of Fort Collins – \$1.1M (50%)
    2. LCDNR – \$1.1M (50%)
  - ii. Laramie Foothills Mountains to Plains 2020 expansion project
    1. City of Fort Collins – \$1.7M (30%)
    2. GOCO – \$812k (14%)
    3. Friends of LC – \$3.5k (<1%)
    4. LCDNR – \$3.2M (56%)
- d. Forestry – \$260k (2%)
  - i. Colorado State Forest Service – \$144k (44%)
  - ii. Northern Water – \$116k (36%)
  - iii. LCDNR – \$66.5k (20%)
- e. Weed management – \$120k (1%)
  - i. LC Early Detection Rapid Response crew
    1. CO Dept. of Agriculture – \$129k (53%)
    2. LCDNR – \$107k (47%)
- ii. Ruthie asked about the Friends of Larimer County, Jenn explained they are a small, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting our parks and open lands through fundraising and select projects.
- iii. Jill asked about future grant opportunities. Jenn said some are TBD, the department continues to seek opportunities for grants that align with capital projects. Daylan mentioned funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

8. ACTION ITEMS

9. US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE – Jeff Stahla

- a. 2021 water levels will be comparable to 2018 levels (slightly below average). Horsetooth Reservoir will continue to fill for the next few weeks. Lake Granby continues to deliver clean water through the system.
- b. The IGA between Northern Water and Larimer County to allow for transfer of the C-BT share for Sky View Campground was approved. The agreement will also include water for Chimney Hollow and the Eastern CO Area Office.
- c. Northern’s Board is supporting a bill that will increase ANS inspections for ports of entry.

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

11. DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Daylan Figgs

- a. Overview of budget presentations scheduled for upcoming meetings.

12. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 5/4/2021 via Zoom Webinar

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest.

14. ADJOURN – 7:03 p.m.