

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Larimer County has initiated a Water Master Plan development process (project) to take further steps on strategic goals to:

- improve long-term planning for water supply in unincorporated areas,
- promote water-sharing and water conservation strategies to preserve agriculture and sustain water supplies,
- identify and address risks and sustainability, and
- prepare responsive land use policies and standards.

The Water Master Plan will become an element of the Larimer County Comprehensive Plan and will help bolster Larimer County's strategic planning for water, stormwater, and environmental flows.

Larimer County is committed to creating opportunities for public engagement throughout the development of the Water Master Plan with technical water resources experts, stakeholders in water management, parties interested in water use and conservation, elected and appointed officials, Board and Commission members, and Larimer County residents and community members. Larimer County's objectives are to build and maintain positive relationships and develop a robust Larimer County Water Master Plan that addresses a wide range of concerns and expectations in support of sustainable water management in Larimer County.

The goals of public engagement for the Water Master Plan are to

1. provide the public with information to assist them in understanding the Water Master Plan and the project as a whole,
2. allow for meaningful participation of interested parties and subject matter experts in the Water Master Plan development process, and
3. obtain and respond to public feedback throughout the Water Master Plan process and for the draft before the plan is approved.

The Water Master Plan will include a robust public engagement process. Staff and consultants will keep the public informed and provide opportunities for public input and comment throughout the process. Larimer County staff and SWCA Environmental Consultants will collaborate with a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) made up of water managers and staff from Larimer County and larger municipalities and will also involve a Water Advisory Group (WAG) made up of other interested parties. In addition, the public engagement process will gather input from members of the public who are interested in, and potentially affected by, water management and policy in Larimer County and the region to help shape the final plan. The project team will use several strategies to maintain a transparent and open process with the public to encourage participation and provide the community with meaningful opportunities to engage, which includes the following:

- Public workshops and open house events.
- Periodic meetings and workshops with boards and commissions.
- A webpage that will be updated throughout the development of the Water Master Plan and will include questionnaires and interactive components. Available at: <https://www.larimer.gov/planning/water>

Planning in person, online, or hybrid events in which the public are invited to participate are provided in Table 1. Timeframes for these events may change as the project progresses, and Larimer County will advertise these events on the website, through social media, and at other in-person events.

Table 1. Tentative Public Engagement Meeting Schedule for the Larimer County Water Master Plan (dates subject to change)

Meeting	Meeting Information	Platform	Anticipated Timeframe
WAG meeting #1: Kickoff, Review Vision and Goals	Purpose: WAG kickoff meeting. Larimer County will introduce the project and work with the WAG to identify related, ongoing efforts in the County or region and to solicit feedback on a tiered set of goals for the Plan. This online event will be open to the public to listen in and learn how to participate in the development of the Water Master Plan.	Webinar	October 2023
Public Meeting #1: Vision and Goals Workshop	Purpose: Share information about the overall project and issues the county faces related to water use and conservation. Attendee participation: Following a presentation, attendees will be invited to participate in a facilitated discussion to discuss a vision statement and goals for the Larimer County Water Master Plan.	In-person workshop	November 2023
BOCC/PC Meeting #1	The County Core Team will host a work session with the BOCC and PC to share an update on project status and gather feedback on the Water Master Plan vision and goals.	In-person	November 2023
WAG meeting #2 (optional): Mapping and Analysis	Purpose: Larimer County will discuss the mapping and analysis project phase to share information and get feedback from the WAG. This online event will be open to the public to listen in and learn how to participate in the development of the Water Master Plan.	Webinar	January 2024
WAG meeting #3: Risk Assessment	Purpose: Share the weighting and ranking criteria for selected datasets and receive feedback for consideration in development of the risk model with the WAG. This online event will be open to the public to listen in and learn how to participate in the development of the Water Master Plan.	Webinar	March 2024
Public Meeting #2: Information and Data Gaps Open House	Purpose: Provide project information and information on relevant data, documents, and planning efforts and provide an opportunity for attendees to discuss the project with project staff and to provide their input to the process. Attendee participation: Project information will be posted throughout the room to view. Project staff will be available to answer questions and comment forms or questionnaires will be provided so attendees can leave comments to inform the process.	In-person open house	April 2024
BOCC/PC Meeting #2	The County Core Team will host a work session with the BOCC and PC to share an update on project status and gather feedback on risks and vulnerabilities and begin to discuss potential strategies.	In-person	April 2024
WAG meeting #4: Mitigation Strategies and Action Plans	Purpose: Review the risk results and solicit mitigation and improvement strategies	Webinar	May 2024
Public Meeting #3: Risk Results and Action Plan Workshop	Purpose: A facilitated workshop to discuss risks to water resources and associated mitigation strategies. Attendee participation: Attendees will be provided with a project presentation overview and relevant background information. They will then be invited to participate in a facilitated discussion to inform the process.	In-person workshop	July 2024
BOCC/PC Meeting #3	The County Core Team will host a work session with the BOCC and PC to share an update and gather feedback on mitigation strategies.	In-person	July 2024

WAG meeting #5: Water Master Plan Draft Review	Purpose: Review and gather input on the draft Water Master Plan.	Webinar	September 2024
Public Meeting #4: Draft Water Master Plan Open House	Purpose: Introduce the Draft Water Master Plan. Provide an opportunity for attendees to discuss the project with project staff and to provide their input to the Water Master Plan. Attendee participation: Project information will be posted throughout the room to view. Project staff will be available to answer questions, and comment forms or questionnaires will be provided so attendees can leave comments to inform the process.	In-person open house	October 2024
BOCC/PC Meeting #4	The County Core Team will host a work session with the BOCC to share an update and gather feedback on the draft plan prior to adoption hearings.	In-person	November 2024

Note: Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and Planning Commission (PC)