



Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: Hybrid - In-Person: Lake Estes, 3rd Floor, 200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins or Virtual, Zoom Link: https://larimer-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i8-Z_4qCSzGq6j2f_6y6eQ

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

The Larimer County Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) met in Lake Estes as well as virtually by Zoom video at 12:30 p.m., on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at which time the following business was transacted.

Board Members Present: Zach Thode (Chairperson), Franklin Gary, John Cravens, Amber Graves, Beth Conrey, Martha Sullins, and Brad Justice.

Staff Present: John Kefalas, County Commissioner; Lesli Ellis, CPIR; Rebecca Everette, Community Development Director; Matt Lafferty, Principal Planner; and Christina Scrutchins, Recording Secretary.

Guests Present: Cary Weiner

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Moved Discussion Items No. 1 - Cooperative Extension Staffing & Meet New Director Cary Weiner above Updates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 11, 2023, AND MARCH 8, 2023

The January minutes were tabled to the July 12, 2023, meeting.

Member Gary moved, and member Graves seconded the motion to approve the March 8, 2023, minutes of the Larimer County Agricultural Advisory Board as presented with amendments.

The Minutes for March 8, 2023, were unanimously approved.

COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

INTERACTION WITH COMMISSIONER KEFALAS ON AGRICULTURAL AND COMMUNITY RELATED ISSUES

Commissioner Kefalas mentioned the 2024 Legislative session ended on Monday, May 8, 2023, which includes around 612 bills being introduced. One of the Bills that passed will have a lot of implications on the County regarding the property tax issue evaluations. The Water Symposium Series will possibly start in the month of August, September, or October. The Water Symposium Series is to align with the County's efforts around developing a Water Master Plan and to integrate more with the Land Use Plan. Larimer County will be undertaking a process to look at the next iteration of the five-year Strategic Plan. Larimer County will be offering a community survey in July of 2023, to receive feedback for any key issues/concerns from the community.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Cooperative Extension Staffing & Meet New Director Cary Weiner
 - The Extension job posting is anticipated to be posted by Friday, May 12, 2023, with a candidate started as soon as August. They will be looking for a candidate that will have more background in Agriculture in hopes of also having a background in Natural Resources. The position does not have a residency requirement but does say that the

primary office location is the Larmor County Extension Office. It also allows for a hybrid work arrangement. Mr. Weiner will forward the job description for the AAB Committee to review.

UPDATES

1. Staff Updates
 - Introduction of the new Community Development Director, Rebecca Everette.
2. Building Permit Info for Web
 - Larimer County has updated the Building Code Requirement for Agricultural Buildings which can be found at <https://www.larimer.gov/building>.
3. Farmer Markets Policy
 - Reminder of the discussion from the May 10, 2023, meeting regarding whether or not to extend the policy to allow Farmer's Markets on small or large acreage properties subject to set standards.
4. Water Plan Project
 - Interviews for consultants are being completed and the County will be moving forward with the selection to begin the plan project in the distant future.
5. Pollinator Policy
 - The Board of County Commissioners would like for the Policy to have more time spent on it to have it ready for adoption in June 2023.

DISCUSSION ITEMS CONTINUED

2. By-Laws (Attachment B – Existing, Attachment C – Proposed Changes in 2020)
 - Staff will send to the Agricultural Advisory Board the Policy and Procedure 101 to review and compare with the By-Laws.
 - Staff and the Agricultural Advisory Board will review and update the By-Laws by the end of the year 2023 with the adoption at the beginning of the year 2024.
3. Right to Farm Policy – Livestock Guarding Dogs (Attachment D)
 - The Right to Farm and Ranch Policy states that "People need to be aware that children and adults are exposed to different hazards in the country than in an urban or suburban setting". The statement is followed by stating "territorial farm dogs" followed by "present real threats to children and adults."
 - Staff can reach out to the County Attorney for clarification of additions or changes that the Agricultural Advisory Board would like to make. Staff will then present the changes or additions to the Board of County Commissioners for approval or denial.
 - Chair Thode would like Member Ramey to clarify more in detail their concerns or additions they would like to add.

WORK PLAN AND TASK GROUPS

1. Climate Action Plan

- A video presented at the previous Climate Action Plan meeting regarding why the Stockholders are involved, what they are hoping to get out of the involvement as well as the development of the community.
- Member Graves will share the video with staff to share with the Agricultural Advisory Board.
- Commissioner Kefalas wanted to mention that the Climate Action Plan website is now interactive where members of the community can place suggestions or concerns with a certain area.

2. Voluntary AG

- The Voluntary Ag is in phase 2 of a 3-phase approach to understanding how agricultural districts can be developed and implemented in Colorado.
- One issue is finding incentives, or a package of incentives, first at the State level and then setting up enabling legislation, and for counties to that they would be able to perhaps develop their own incentives.
- Phase 2 also includes reaching out to stakeholders and collecting data from other states and understanding what strategies Colorado could use.

3. Local Food Systems (Kristen/Maureen)

- This was not discussed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Member Conrey gave an update regarding the legislative session. The Pesticide Application Act was subject to Sunset Review this year, and it was passed with some minor amendments and changes to it, but essentially intact. Environment Colorado put together a Neonicotinoid Pesticide Consumer Ban Bill with substantial signatures across the State, it moved forward through the Committee House, and Committee Senate and is now being reviewed by the Governor. A Bill relating to pollinators, with respect to homeowners' associations and allowing non-turf/garden areas on front sides and backyards in homeowners associations also moved forward through the Committee House, Committee Senate and is now being reviewed by the Governor.
- Members discussed the importance of high school students interested in agricultural education and would like to reach out to Agricultural Director to attend an Agricultural Advisory Board meeting to discuss and ask questions on how to close the gap between the Agricultural Work Force and high school students.
- Members discussed how Biogas heating would be beneficial to help throughout the County. Wood chips would be fed through a gas burner to produce clean gas that could heat a building. They also discussed the challenges that would be involved in pursuing a biogas option.
- John Cravens and Travis Horton have resigned from the Agriculture Advisory Board.
- Chair Thode will reach out to members Andrew Pineda and Greg Schreiner regarding their terms.
- Staff mentioned the Board and Commissions Event in June to honor all Board and Committees.

- The Farmers Market starts at the end of May.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.