

**MINUTES
CITY OF FORT COLLINS
LAND CONSERVATION & STEWARDSHIP BOARD**

**Regular Meeting
March 8, 2017
1745 Hoffman Mill Road
5:30 p.m.**

Council Liaison:
Gerry Horak 420-7398

For Reference:
Edward Reifsnyder, Chair 817-821-4644
David Tweedale, Vice Chair 970-219-2422
Raymond Watts, Communications 970-690-4250
Daylan Figgs, Staff Liaison 970-416-2814

Board Members Present: Kelly Ohlson, Vicky McLane, Joe Piesman, Edward Reifsnyder, David Tweedale, Andrea Elson, Mike Weber

Excused: Marcia Patton-Mallory, Raymond Watts

NAD Staff: Daylan Figgs, Mark Sears, John Stokes, Rick Bachand

Public Attendees: Greg Kernohan, Ducks Unlimited
Lucy Harrington, Westervelt Ecological Services

Call meeting to order: 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Review: Ed announced he would have to leave the meeting early to attend a previously scheduled activity.

Daylan requested moving the Wetland Mitigation/Wetland Bank agenda item prior to the black-footed ferret management update so Ed could participate in the discussion and presentation.

Introductions: None

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Page 3, in the text box, Ed suggested reversing the names of the two groups in the sentence to read "*Marcia Patton-Mallory made a motion to re-appoint Joe Piesman as Liaison to the Bicycle Committee to the Land Conservation & Stewardship Board.*"

Joe Piesman made a motion to approve the February 2017 LCSB meeting minutes as amended.

Andrea Elson seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Communication and Board Matters:

The board reviewed the 2017 LCSB Draft Agenda Calendar. Board members had no comments or suggestions. Daylan explained that the calendar reflects anticipated topics for the board but will likely change throughout the year. Items listed as “Topics for Future Meeting” could be considered as future agenda items. Many of the topics have been carried forward from 2016.

Kelly mentioned that the downtown project is moving forward and will need City Council approval. Kelly would like the board to be notified when topics go before City Council and the outcomes of those topics. Daylan offered to invite Parks Planning to attend a future meeting to update board members on the downtown project. Kelly would also like an update on CDOT’s request to purchase NAD land, in Arapaho Bend, for additional parking to the Bustang Park & Ride lot.

Edward reminded members that any and all e-mail discussion amongst board members would be reflected in the minutes. The City Attorney’s Office, gave direction to the board that if there are three or more board members engaged in e-mail conversations, the content of those emails must be mentioned in the minutes.

Vicky highlighted the memorandum drafted by Raymond Watts outlining the email communications amongst board members regarding the Running Deer Natural Area land sale.

Kelly requested that a board contact information sheet be distributed to board members. Kelly requested an organized field trip, informally, to one of the natural areas.

Daylan suggested board members send date options for a field trip to Soapstone Prairie Natural Area in April.

Discussion Items:

Wetland Mitigation/Wetland Bank – Rick Bachand, Environmental Program Manager described the development of a Wetland Mitigation Bank as a means to accomplish large-scale ecological restoration at Running Deer, Prospect Ponds, and Cottonwood Hollow. A public-private partnership model is proposed to realize the restoration in this 200 acre complex. Rick explained the process, how the wetland bank would work, the pros and cons and provided examples of restoration opportunities.

Daylan mentioned the e-mails from both Raymond Watts, LCSB member and Gary Wockner; Save the Poudre, offering their comments on the Wetland Mitigation/Wetland Bank. Those memos are attached to these minutes for reference.

David Tweedale read an e-mail from Gary Wockner asking board members to consider the consequences of a wetland mitigation bank and consider the repercussions for unintended consequences.

Discussion:

Some board members viewed mitigation banking as an “easy-out” for land developers; others were uncomfortable with the Army Corps of Engineers who would be responsible for issuing the permits. Some board members indicated that they felt this was a process to enable the destruction of wetlands. Also board members felt the topic was a new issue to the board and that they needed more time and definitely more information to make a decision or recommendation. Board members expressed the need to see examples of an agreement. Kelly pointed out that there are general fund dollars, grants, Keep Fort Collins Great and other avenues to fund more habitat restoration versus the development of a wetland mitigation bank.

Update on Black-footed Ferret Management – Daylan Figgs, NAD Environmental Program Manager provided an update on black-footed ferret management efforts at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area and Meadow Springs Ranch. Daylan explained the three current ferret colonies and gave a description of how each is doing. Overall, he explained that most of the colonies have not changed much from last year. He did point out that we need at least 1,500 acres to have a functioning prairie dog complex suitable for ferret reintroduction. One colony, in particular, had been heavily impacted by plague. Interestingly this particular colony has also been part of a research project for Sylvatic Plague, in partnership with USGS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The colony had been dusted with DeltaDust (deltamethrine), which typically has about a 9 month efficacy rate. With the decline in the efficacy of DeltaDust plague came through and basically eliminated prairie dogs from the dusted colonies. The portion of the colony treated saw less of a reduction in prairie dogs and seemed to better withstand the plague challenge. From a research standpoint the timing was really good with the Sylvatic Plague research being conducted on site. Daylan continued with an update on the additional two colonies and will keep the board posted on future activities of the ferrets.

The Land Conservation Stewardship Board commenced an Executive Session at 7:19 p.m.

Attendees: David Tweedale, Mike Weber, Joe Piesman, Andrea Elson, Kelly Ohlson, Vicky McLane, Daylan Figgs and Mark Sears.

Executive Session adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Approved:

Edward Beatty Chair 4/12/17 Date

Michelle Vattano, Secretary

Michelle Vattano