

MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



Land Conservation & Stewardship Board

Regular Meeting

Larimer County Courthouse

200 W. Oak Street, Lake Loveland Room

November 14, 2-18

1. CALL TO ORDER

6:45 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Joseph Piesman, Kelly Ohlson, Raymond Watts, David Tweedale, Mike Weber

Excused: Vicky McLane, Andrea Elson, Marcia Patton- Mallory,

NAD Staff: Daylan Figgs, Mark Sears, John Stokes, Norine Duchane, Dave Myers

AGENDA REVIEW

Joe announced that with minimal agenda items for the December meeting and given the holidays, the Board was leaning towards cancelling the December meeting.

Joe suggested a field trip to Soapstone Prairie Natural Area to view the bison. Daylan suggested Board members send him potential dates that would work for them.

Joe suggested December 8th

3. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Public Attendees: Cole Cramer, Jeremy Call, Logan Simpson; Christine Mikel, Roundhouse Renewable Energy; Ryan Fitzpatrick, Nextera Energy ; Kevin Henry, Fort Collins Sustainability Group.

Jeremy with Logan Simpson, spoke to the support and approval that Logan Simpson is giving the Natural Areas Department and Roundhouse Renewable Energy on their work and partnership.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Tweedale made a motion to approve the LCSB October minutes.

Raymond Watts seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0

4. COMMUNICATION AND BOARD MATTERS

NONE

5. NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEM

Meadow Springs Ranch above ground transmission line easement request. Daylan Figgs, Planning Program provided an update on the mitigation strategy to offset the impacts from the project, describing the alignment, pole design and perch deterrents.

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Another large piece of the project is Compensatory Mitigation. Daylan explained the value of ecological goods and services are represented in the scientific literature, but less understood is how to calculate a reduction in value associated with a project impact. This loss of value can be used to determine compensatory mitigation.

Joe noted that Board members have been working a memorandum to City Council regarding the Board's position on the project and asked what the next steps would be. Daylan summarized a timeline:

- The proposed MSR transmission line has gone before the NRAB and the Energy Board. Both boards have unanimously approved the process used for the alignment.
- November 27th is a Work Session with City Council to go through the information for the alignment.
- December 20th is the date the Water Board will consider the easement.
- January 15th is the first reading at City Council for the approval of the easement

Discussion:

Board members discussed several issues including prairie dog and black footed ferret management, protection of wildlife species and resource management and transmission line maintenance. Surface impacts and historical resources that might be found on the sight were of concern. Daylan assured the Board that all those resources have been well thought out and he feels confident that continued efforts will ensure proper mitigation takes place for all impacts.

MEADOW SPRINGS TRANSMISSION LINE MEMORANDUM TO CITY COUNCIL

Board members overall were opposed to any type of resource disturbance but agreed a memo could be sent to City Council, if some changes were made.

Joe led discussion on the memorandum. Board members agreed on the following memorandum changes:

- Replacing the term “renewable” with “clean energy”, in paragraph 5.
- Replacing “Utilities and Natural Areas” with the term “city organization” in paragraph 4.
- Include “Fort Collins” in the second to the last sentence in the last paragraph.....`export environmental damage to Wyoming and Fort Collins’.

There was discussion that the memo's language was too strong in terms of how NAD might acquire Meadow Springs in the future. John recommended instead highlighting the interest in maintaining a relationship with the Utilities Department to protect the property. John agreed to review the memo and make changes.

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Kelly is in opposition to the Meadow Springs Transmission Line. He does, however support the memorandum and its general content. Joe reiterated the memo just expresses the Board's concerns and doesn't necessarily say the Board is in support of the transmission line.

David Tweedale made a motion to approve the Memorandum to City Council supporting the conservation of Meadow Springs Ranch with the above four amendments.

Mike Weber seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0

The Board agrees that Utilities and Natural Areas have done a good job of environmental analysis for the transmission alignment and are in support of future land acquisition or conservation of Meadow Springs by NAD.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Approved:

 _____, Chair 1/9/19 _____ Date

_____, Secretary

Michelle Vattano

