

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

**Regular Meeting
1745 Hoffman Mill Road
March 8, 2018
5:30 p.m.**

Council Liaison:
Gerry Horak 420-7398

For Reference:
Joseph Piesman, Chair 970-691-6697
Raymond Watts, Vice Chair 970-223-6293
Daylan Figgs, Staff Liaison 970-416-2814

Board Members Present: Mike Weber, Raymond Watts, Marcia Patton-Mallory, Kelly Ohlson, Andrea Elson, Joseph Piesman, Vicky McLane, Edward Reifsnyder, David Tweedale

NAD Staff: Daylan Figgs, Dan Gully, Mark Sears, John Stokes, Jennifer Shanahan

Public Attendees:

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

Introductions: None

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes:

Vicky McLane made a motion to approve the February LCSB meeting minutes.

Andrea Elson seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved

Communication and Board Matters

Joe expressed his personal thanks to both Ed and David for their leadership of the board as Chair and Vice Chair, over the last year.

Joe reported that he and Ray will institute a meeting every 4th Wednesday of the month to go over the upcoming LCSB agenda. This will allow board members an opportunity to either add

items to the agenda or provide feedback. If any board member has anything to be added to the agenda, contact Ray or Joe before the end of the month.

Joe reported some board members felt the meetings were going too long. Joe would like to honor board members' time but also doesn't want to micromanage the time set aside for each agenda item. Joe suggested letting the meeting flow as is and then at 8:30 we look at the agenda.

Joe suggested asking presenters if they would rather hold questions until the end of the presentation or be interrupted during the presentation.

Joe suggested adopting a Standard Operating Procedure for submitting memorandums, from the Board, to City Council. There are two types of memos that are typically submitted to Council. One type of memorandum would be a basic recommendation coming from one of the Board's agenda Action Items. A second type of memorandum might be a memorandum that Ray would draft to provide specific feedback about a certain agenda or discussion item. Joe suggested that all final memos be sent to Daylan and Michelle indicating that it is a final copy. Michelle will then send to the City Manager's office, with a copy to Daylan and Joe and Ray indicating that it is the final copy and has gone to the City Manager's Office to then be sent to City Council.

Marcia reported back from the Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting that she and Joe attended February 27th. The Transportation Board asked the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) to make a recommendation on how to handle pedal assisted bikes. There was a discussion and Marcia gave them a copy of the LCSB's draft memo on the topic. She would then submit a final copy as soon as it was finalized. The BAC is planning on having a recommendation at the end of the month. Marcia felt the Committee's recommendation was focused on educating riders on the e-bike issue and providing demos to allow experience on the bikes. Mark reported the Hageman Earth Cycle lease agreement was signed and complete.

Daylan provided an update to the proposed power line through Meadow Springs. Daylan will continue to work with Enyo to analyze options, but will concentrate on the area west of the railroad tracks, along the I-25 corridor. Daylan reported that alignment options had not been proposed, but that NAD was willing to look at and consider all potential options. We're a long way away from making any decisions. He confirmed this would be a long process and was certainly not going to happen in the next few months.

Vicky reported an upcoming joint meeting, April 19, with the Water and Energy Board to specifically address the proposed transmission line on Meadow Springs. Daylan indicated he would be attending that meeting.

Daylan reported on the Pelican Marsh boundary dispute. The property is owned by an organization that is in Denver. They are being difficult to deal with and they see some leverage points there, so the easement may change. The impact would be smaller on Pelican Marsh. Daylan will bring it back next month or discuss briefly tonight, if there is time.

Joe thought it would be better to address in the April board meeting since the agenda is a little lighter.

Jennifer provided an update on NISP. The Natural Areas Department anticipates the final environmental statement to be released in late May, early June. In the Fall there will be a parallel process of water quality certification and that will be released in September. The Water Quality staff will be evaluating that.

As staff we are discussing how we can improve our outcomes and what our options are.

Action Items

Appropriation of Grant Revenues

Jennifer Shanahan, Natural Resource Watershed Planner, reminded the board of the 2017 River Health Report Card for the Cache la Poudre River. The Report Card reported that the two poorest conditions on the river were aquatic habitat connectivity and the population of native fish.

Jennifer is requesting to appropriate a recently awarded grant totaling \$200,000 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to support work to improve the health of the fisheries in the Poudre River. The grant would fund two projects involving fish passage. The first at Timnath Inlet Ditch diversion dam. The dam is a major barrier to aquatic habitat connectivity on the Poudre. The grant would fund design of a fish passage on this structure. The second project would fund a fish movement monitoring program to better understand the effectiveness of and need for fish passage structures in the river.

David Tweedale made a motion that City Council appropriate the recently awarded grant funds of \$200,000 into the Natural Areas Budget for use towards two projects that work to improve the health of Poudre River fish communities. The LCSB would like to commend NAD staff for seeking grant funding for this important project.

Marcia Patton-Mallory seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Electric Bikes Memorandum

In discussion of the memorandum that was drafted to City Council on e-bikes, Ray reported that the memorandum has been reviewed by a number of people and modified several times. He felt the memo was close to what represents the Board's discussion on e-bikes. We need to finalize it with everyone's consent and communicate to the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Kelly thought the current wording does not put enough stress specifically on the bullet stating that 'no e-bikes should be allowed on paved or non-paved trails in natural areas, except as required by ADA'. Ray thought the memorandum just needed to be reviewed for consistency in language and terms. Ray suggested going through another electronic review process.

Discussion:

Kelly felt one more review of the memorandum would be a good idea and offered some suggestions. He personally felt the current memo was leaned towards being pro e-bike. He suggested that the memo clarify the Board's opposition to e-bikes beyond federal requirements on recreational trails, paved or non-paved. Our main concern should be the natural areas. Other board members were concerned about recreation versus transportation trails and clarifying the use for both with regards to e-bikes. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Ray would redraft the memorandum and send out to the Board members. Several board members made suggestions to better clarify the Board's opinion of e-bikes and their use in natural areas.

Discussion Items

Easement Request for Interstate Right of Way across Arapaho Bend Natural Area
Daylan Figgs, Environmental Program Manager and Dan Gully, Real Estate Specialist, provided an update on CDOT's request for permanent right of way, temporary construction easement and a quit claim deed on Arapaho Bend Natural Area. CDOT is requesting two permanent easements, one temporary construction easement and a quit claim to CDOT for a triangle strip of land on Arapaho Bend Natural Area. Daylan explained that because this project is in an area heavily affected by traffic and noise associated with the interstate, impacts are expected to be minimal. Daylan demonstrated, on a map, the areas of discussion. Daylan will come back to the Board in April with specific recommendations for City Council on the project.

Budgeting for Outcomes 2019-2020

John Stokes, Natural Areas Director, provided background information on Budgeting for Outcomes which included is a timeline of when offers will be developed and submitted for consideration. John offered a quick overview of the Budget Cycles and Offers and how the Budget Offer process works. NAD is putting together our draft offers right now and will come

back in April and provide a high-level overview of the offers that we are planning to put in. These offers are not due until the end of April.

Land Conservation Update


Mark Sears, NAD Manager, provided an update on land conservation.

Meeting adjourned: 7:57 pm

Approved:

 _____, Chair Date 4/11/18

Joe Piesman

 _____, Secretary

Michelle Vattano

