

LARIMER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD  
Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2019

Present: Timothy Clouse, Jenn Cram (liaison), Karen Crumbaker (liaison), Travis Horton, Gail Meisner, Paula Petroff (Extension), Travis Rollins (liaison), Greg Schreiner, Jon Slutsky, Zach Thode, George Wallace, and Natalie Yoder.

Absent: Jennifer Bornhoft (liaison), Jason Brothers, Beth Conrey, John Kefalas, Nic Koontz, and Bill Spencer (liaison)

I. Meeting called to order, introduction of guests, and chair report. Chairman Zach Thode called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m. and introduced guests Lesli Ellis, Gretchen Reuning and Daniel Bowker.

II. Consideration of minutes from November 14, 2018 meeting. The November 14, 2018 AAB Meeting Minutes were approved and accepted.

III. Interaction with new Commissioner on Ag and Community related issues. Due to overlapping commitments, Commissioner Kefalas was not able to attend this meeting.

IV. Officer Elections. Zach Thode and Nic Koontz both offered to continue in their positions as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the AAB. Gail Meisner nominated Natalie Yoder as Secretary. All nominations were seconded and approved.

V. Larimer County Water Projects Working Group Update – Greg Schreiner. Lesli Ellis, Larimer County Director of Community Development, and Greg Schreiner shared the following with the Board members:

- All five of the Working Group meetings have been conducted.
- Five alternative plans from the City of Thornton's original plan are being presented to Board of County Commissioners.
- On December 17, 2018, the City of Thornton gave a supplemental proposal to the County and a staff analysis was completed.
- The public hearing date is scheduled for January 28, 2019, with at least five groups signed up to give testimonies.
- Discussion about location of pipelines with Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) and Glade Reservoir.
- IGA must be modified since it falls under the 1041 permit requirements. Should AAB request to speak about this at the January 28 meeting?

- Discussion on Board presenting thoughts on the parcels of land along the I-25 corridor.
- Gail will forward the Thornton counter-proposal/members to AAB members for review
- Ag Advisory Board to meet with City of Thornton in February.

VI. Comp Plan Update – Gail Meisner. Discussion was held regarding the following:

- The process is moving quickly. There is one meeting remaining next month and will then be submitted to the Planning Commission.
- Larimer County Land Use Framework Map and Gail will forward to AAB members.
- Inviting Matt Lafferty to March meeting or schedule a special meeting.
- Mulberry Street and Interstate 25 annexation plans.

VII. Timber and Forest Health. Zach Thode invited Gretchen Reuning, Conservation Forester with Fort Collins Conservation District (FCCD) and Daniel Bowker, Forest and Fire Project Manager with Colorado Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) to speak to the AAB. Ms. Reuning and Mr. Bowker shared the following:

- Overview of partnership between Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and various local conservation districts to educate, give technical experience and funding to private landowners living on forest land. The partnership addresses concerns ranging from wildfire hazards, water quality, erosion control, wildlife diversity, etc.
- In 2018, the FCCD and CPRW were able to thin and restore 800 acres of forest land, with a goal of 1200 acres for 2019.
- Is there a market for recycling the materials that are taken off the forest land such as pine beetle kill, wood pellets, Biochar, etc.
- Should there be a fee included for mountain homeowners through the Mountain Resilience Plan of the Larimer County Master Plan to subsidize these endeavors.
- Zach suggested including these topics in a workshop sometime in 2019 after the AAB has met with Commissioner Kefalas.

VIII. Right to Farm/Agricultural Signs in Larimer County Update. Jenn Cram shared the following:

- On December 19, 2018, Travis Rollins, Jenn Cram, Zach Thode, Jon Slutsky and Travis Horton looked at ten possible public land sites in the northern part of the County for sign placement.
- One item that will be flushed out is whether or not the signs can be made in the County sign shop, or if they will need to be made by a private sign company. It is the hope that the signs can be installed and maintained by the County Road and Bridge Department.
- The possibility of placing the Larimer.org website information on the signs will be considered
- Lesli Ellis and Jenn will meet to prepare a complete presentation for the pilot program to Engineering/Road and Bridge and then the Board of County Commissioners.
- Private farm owners will eventually be educated about the program and the possibility of purchasing signs to place on their land.

IX. The Rural Mental Health Crisis presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is scheduled for Monday, March 25 at 11 am in the Commissioners' conference room. The proposed updates to the LESA document are currently being reviewed by the Natural Resources staff. A meeting will be scheduled AAB members, Natural Resources staff and the new Director of Natural Resources, Daylan Figgs, to review the document before taking it to the Open Lands Advisory Board (OLAB). Once everyone is comfortable with the updates a presentation to the BCC will be scheduled, tentatively in April. The Manure presentation was emailed to everyone and will be discussed at the next meeting in March and then scheduled for a BCC presentation. Jenn is coordinating all BCC presentation with Brenda Gimeson.

X. Upcoming Workshop Series – Win-Win Water Deals with Ag and Water Providers – Zach Thode. Zach shared that the 2019 Poudre Pub Talks series began on January 5 and will continue through March, with the Poudre Pour scheduled for March 30, 2019. Zach will email members the full schedule and further information.

The Poudre River Forum is scheduled for February 1, 2019, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Drake Center, 802 W. Drake Rd., Fort Collins. For more information see: <http://prti.colostate.edu/>

XI. Announcements. Upcoming events:

- Rocky Mountain High School will be hosting an Agriculture and Food Production career expo on February 21. Jenn will send an email to AAB members with further information.
- The Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture is scheduled for February 27, 2019. For more information see: <http://www.governorsagforum.com/>.
- The Colorado Farm Show is scheduled for January 29 through January 31 in Greeley. For more information see: <https://www.coloradofarmshow.com/>.
- The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual High Plains No-Till Conference is scheduled on February 5 and 6, 2019 at the Burlington Community Center. For more information see: [http://highplainsnotill.com/about/about\\_ccta.html](http://highplainsnotill.com/about/about_ccta.html).

XII. The next AAB meeting will be held on March 13, 2019, at 12:30 p.m. at the CSU Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.