

LARIMER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Approved Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2017

Present: Jennifer Bornhoft (liaison), Jason Brothers, Tim Clouse, Beth Conrey, Karen Crumbaker (liaison), Brenda Gimeson (liaison), Nic Koontz, Paula Petroff (Extension), Travis Rollins (liaison), Greg Schreiner, Richard Seaworth, Jon Slutsky, Zach Thode, and George Wallace. Guest: Sams Adams, NRCS.

Absent: Lew Gaiter, Minerva Lee, Val Manning, Gail Meisner, Bill Spencer (liaison), Ted Swanson.

I. Greg Schreiner called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

II. The July 12, 2017, AAB Meeting Minutes were approved and accepted, with one minor correction.

III. Interactions with Commissioner Gaiter on Ag and Community related issues. Commissioner Gaiter was not in attendance at this meeting.

IV. Current Ag. Commodity Prices. Greg provided a hand-out of current ag prices and members discussed them.

V. Discussion on AAB Bylaws Regarding Attendance (Honorary Member). Members reviewed proposed Larimer County Agricultural Advisory Board By-laws changes that were provided to them in Brenda's e-mail on August 9, 2017. Approval was given on the changes/additions made to Section III MEMBERS AND QUORUM and now read:

- *“Emeritus membership status may be granted by the Board of County Commissioners. The Agricultural Advisory Board may make recommendations for such appointments to the Board by a majority vote of the members.”* Section III (E).
- *“Emeritus”* was added to Section III (F)(1) and (3).
- *“Emeritus and ex-officio members may participate in discussions and matters of the Board.”* Section III (F)(2).
- Section III (H) has been modified to read: *“A quorum for transaction of business at any regular or special meeting shall be greater than fifty percent of the appointed board members (not including emeritus and/or ex-officio members). Neither attendance nor voting by proxy is allowed.”*

There was brief discussion about adding definitions of the words “ex-officio” and “emeritus” to the By-laws. Brenda noted this and will follow-up with the Board.

VI. Presentation from Kerri Rollins, Larimer County Open Lands Program Manager. Kerri Rollins gave an update on the Larimer County purchase of the 211-acre Berthoud-area Malchow Farm. The sale was completed approximately six months ago for \$8.4 million and consists of 188 irrigated, 18 pasture, and 5 farmstead acres. The water rights to the property were part of the transaction and consist of 240 units of Colorado-Big Thompson, 16 shares of Handy Ditch and 20 shares of Dry Creek Lateral Ditch water. Kerri introduced Alex Castino, Land Agent with Larimer County National Resources and Engineering. Alex gave an informative presentation to the Board entitled “Conserving Irrigated Farming Through Water Sharing”. In Alex’s presentation she shared detailed facts of the Malchow Farm sale, future options for the property, and the importance of the transaction in terms of alternative transfer methods (ATM’s).

VII. Presentation from Representative Jeni Arndt. Jeni Arndt was unable to attend the meeting, but she will be invited to a future meeting to present to the Board.

VIII. 2017 Task Force Working Sessions. Members broke out into their task force groups to review their goals in preparation for presenting to the Board of Commissioners in February 2018. Greg brought up if the topic of beginning farmers programs could be incorporated into any of the task force areas.

IX. Announcements. Zach will be going to Washington, D.C. and Florida with the Colorado Agriculture Leadership Program next week to present about a groundwater futures trading market.

On September 6, 2017, George, Richard, Zach and Jon attended a working summit to discuss the Foothills/Mountain Resilience Plan and the creation of an agricultural and ranching district. George shared that an agricultural district element should be included in the updated Master Plan. A summary of the discussion was prepared and provided to Board members for review.

Jon and George attended Commissioner Steve Johnson's monthly listening session on September 6, 2017 in La Porte. They presented the immigration report and it was well received.

Brenda advised board members that Larimer County is going paperless for boards and commissions. All applications and reapplications must now be completed and submitted online. Brenda provided an information sheet to members with directives on account registration instructions.

Brenda shared that she will be attending her last meeting with the AAB in November and her replacement will be in place and attending meetings thereafter.

X. The next AAB meeting will be held on November 8, 2017, at 12:30 p.m. at the CSU Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO.

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.