

LARIMER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD  
Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2018

Present: Jennifer Bornhoft (liaison), Jason Brothers, Timothy Clouse, Jenn Cram (liaison), Nic Koontz, Gail Meisner, Paula Petroff (Extension), Travis Rollins (liaison), Greg Schreiner, Jon Slutsky, Bill Spencer (liaison), Zach Thode, George Wallace, and Natalie Yoder.

Absent: Beth Conrey, Karen Crumbaker (liaison), Lew Gaiter, Travis Horton, and Richard Seaworth.

- I. Meeting called to order, introduction of guests, and chair report. Chairman Zach Thode called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. and introduced Casey Cisneros from the Larimer County Weed District. Zach shared an update on Lew Gaiter's health status and discussed circulating a card for AAB members to sign and send to Lew.
- II. Consideration of minutes from July 11, 2018 meeting. The July 11, 2018 AAB Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.
- III. Larimer County Noxious Weed Management Plan – Casey Cisneros. Mr. Cisneros is the Land Stewardship Manager with the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources Weed District. He gave an overview of the functions of the Weed District and draft copies of the recently-created Larimer County Weed Management Plan were distributed. Discussion was held regarding the following:
  - o The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDOA) administers the Colorado Noxious Weed Act (CNWA). Species of noxious weeds are categorized and mandated management plans are then followed by municipalities and counties throughout Colorado.
  - o The Weed Management Plan has been re-written from an earlier version into a narrative format. Upon completion, the plan will be web-based with hyperlinks to the CDA website and will include fact sheets and photos to assist the public with weed identification.
  - o The Weed District conducted a work session with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and invites the AAB to make comments/recommendations by October 1, 2018 for an additional work session in the future.
  - o Landowners are responsible for management of noxious weeds on their property.
  - o Larimer County must maintain noxious weeds in right-of-ways and public lands within county boundaries. (Organic farms can ask for “no spray requests” to right-of-ways).

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is responsible for maintaining State highways and right-of-ways.
  - Federal lands have an exemption from the CNWA. Larimer County is not responsible for enforcement on federal or municipal lands within the county.
  - Services the Weed District can provide to landowners.
  - Noxious weed compliance procedure.
  - Tim Clouse suggested adding the word “agriculture” to the Introduction paragraph of the Weed Management Plan (sentence three after the word “economy”).
- IV. Larimer County Water Projects Working Group Update – Jenn Cram. An invitation has been extended to the AAB to participate in the Working Group and discussion was held regarding the following:
- At the August 1, 2018 meeting, the BOCC tabled the City of Thornton’s 1041 pipeline application until December 17, 2018.
  - The Working Group will consist of 25 stakeholders and an independent facilitator.
  - Five scheduled meetings, with the first on September 18, 2018.
  - Greg Schreiner and Bill Spencer will be representing the AAB.
  - Any thoughts should be sent to Greg and Bill to address at the meeting.
  - There is need to educate all interested parties.
  - Desire to see discussion not only based on the route of the pipeline, but other public benefits that may exist as well.
  - Mitigation of negative impacts (i.e. open space/conservation easement).
  - Greg will provide update at the November 14, 2018 AAB meeting.
- V. Comp Plan Update – Gail Meisner. Discussion was held regarding the following:
- Handout provided with thoughts on suggested edits.
  - Concerns about agriculture needing to be brought back into the Plan.
  - October 10, 2018 meeting scheduled for AAB to meet with Matt Lafferty and Logan Simpson consultants at 12:30 p.m.
  - Missing elements to include prior to the October 10, 2018 meeting. (Get thoughts to Gail Meisner prior to meeting).
  - Open Lands’ sub-committee to be invited to meeting as well.
- VI. Right to Farm/Agricultural Signs in Larimer County Continued. Discussion was held regarding the following:
- Narrowing down the colors, graphics and language on signs.
  - Ten signs suggested for the pilot program instead of five.
  - Getting permission to place signs on State roads is difficult to do.
  - Permission must be obtained from Larimer County to place signs in right-of-ways.
  - Farmers could buy signs personally and locate on private land.
  - Exploring press release to refer other farmers to purchase sign(s).
- VII. Review/Comments on Rural Health Crisis and LESA Presentations. Discussion was held regarding the following:
- Rural Health Crisis – Gail Meisner
- Presentation for BOCC is completed.

- Asked AAB members to review.
- Major crisis in rural communities.
- Take away is crisis awareness to BOCC.
- Desire for resources to be on Larimer County website.
- If statistics are available, amend suicide rates for Larimer County.
- Jenn will schedule to present to BOCC in November.

LESA – George Wallace

- Values of water rights section to be refined with assistance from Jason Brothers.
  - Table 1 has been modified.
  - Review of various sections to document.
  - Emergency services section into existing or new section.
- VIII. Water Sharing Education – Zach Thode. Discussion about a possible conference in the Fall.
- IX. Announcements. None.
- X. The next AAB meeting will be held on November 14, 2018, 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.