

LARIMER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2019

Present: Sam Adams (liaison), Jason Brothers, Timothy Clouse, Beth Conrey, Jenn Cram (liaison), Karen Crumbaker (liaison), Frank Garry, John Kefalas (Commissioner liaison), Nic Koontz, Gail Meisner, Travis Rollins (liaison), Greg Schreiner, Jon Slutsky, Zach Thode, George Wallace, and Natalie Yoder.

Guests: James Thompson, Lesli Ellis, Matt Lafferty, Greg Dewey, Eric Brown and Brad Wind

Absent: Jennifer Bornhoft (liaison), Valerie Clark, Travis Horton, Paula Petroff (Extension), Bill Spencer (Ex-Officio), Brittany Stebbins

I. Meeting called to order, introduction of guests, and chair report. Chairman Zach Thode called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and introduced guests James Thompson, Lesli Ellis, Matt Lafferty, Greg Dewey, Eric Brown and Brad Wind.

II. Consideration of minutes from January 9, 2019 meeting. The January 9, 2019 AAB Meeting Minutes were approved with one grammatical correction under item III and then accepted.

III. Interaction with new Commissioner on Ag and Community related issues. Commissioner Kefalas shared a little on his background and interests related to agriculture. He also noted that the next Community Conversation would be on Wednesday, May 22 from 6 to 7:30 pm at the Waverly Fire Station.

IV. Oil and Gas Liaison. Lesli Ellis provided some background on the purpose of the Oil and Gas Task Force. There will be five months of meetings with the final schedule TBD. Appointees to the task force will be voting members and liaisons will not. The AAB nominated Jon Slutsky to represent the AAB. The BCC will select Task Force appointees and liaisons in the coming days.

V. 2019 Task Force Presentation Ideas/Discussion. Topics were discussed, prioritized and groups formed as noted below. Zach would like each group to have a clear definition of what the group would like to accomplish for the next meeting.

Ag Districts (incl. Ag Waivers and Emergency Planning) - Zach, George, Frank and Jenn

Hemp - Greg, Jon, Travis Rollins and Jason

Food/Ag Tech - Tim, Valerie and Travis Horton

Food Systems and Legacy/New Farmers - Natalie, Nic and Beth

Timber/Forest Management - Zach, Sam and Gail

VI. Comp Plan Update. Matt Lafferty provided an update on where the Comp Plan update is in the process. The public review/comment period will go through May. The Comp Plan will go before the BCC in July. Additional topics related to the Comp Plan update discussed include:

- Annexation – Timnath, defend planning that has gone on along 1-25 that supports agriculture. Matt noted that the County is in discussions with Timnath.
- How to educate communities on the value of IGA/GMA, especially as it relates to preserving agriculture
- Water Taps – Cost is going to drive development affordability
- Ag District along E. Mulberry – Lesli noted that the City of Fort Collins is doing a full analysis and they are aware of the importance of this area to the Ag community in Larimer County
- Land Use Code Update to follow – AAB will be a stakeholder group

VII. 2018 Task Force Presentations. Jenn provided an update on the 2018 Task Force Presentations. The Rural Mental Health Crisis was presented to the BCC on February 25. The LESA Update was discussed with Natural Resources Staff on February 22 and will be presented to OLAB on May 23. Once OLAB has blessed the updates they can be shared with the BCC. Jenn asked if there were any final comments on the Manure plan. Jenn will reach to Brenda to get available dates to present the LESA Updates and Manure to the BCC.

VIII. Water Secure Program related to NISP. Greg Dewey, Eric Brown and Brad Wind shared a presentation on the Northern Colorado Integrated Supply project and how it is striving to meet future water needs. They discussed the conservation efforts proposed as part of it. “WaterSecure” is a key element of the NISP project for the future of Northern Colorado communities, farms and ranches. Handouts were shared to help educate the public.

IX. Announcements. Upcoming events. There were no announcements.

X. The next AAB meeting will be held on July 10, 2019, 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.