

LARIMER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2014

Present: David Bee, Karen Crumbaker (liaison), Brenda Gimeson (liaison), Charles Gindler (liaison), Debra Herston, Minerva Lee, Val Manning, John Rankin, Brad Rhoda, Greg Schreiner, Richard Seaworth, Zach Thode, and George Wallace. Guests: Tim D'Amato, Larimer County Weed District, Amanda McGee, Nancy Wallace, Zac Wiebe, Kerri Rollins, Department of Natural Resources, Open Lands Manager, and Meghan Huffman, Boulder County Parks & Open Space.

Absent: Nic Koontz, Gail Meisner, Jon Slutsky, and Ted Swanson.

I. George Wallace called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. Introductions were made. George recognized the contribution Brenda Gimeson has made to the Ag. Advisory Board and Amanda McGee, Greg Schreiner's assistant, who coordinated the AAB display at the Larimer County Fair.

II. Meghan Huffman, Boulder County Parks & Open Space, presented an outline of the history of the Boulder County Parks & Open Space program that leases land owned by Boulder County to agricultural producers. Meghan's presentation was in preparation for the AAB and Larimer County Parks and Open Lands tour on September 24, 2014, of Boulder County Parks & Open Space land that is leased to agricultural producers.

III. Tim D'Amato, Manager of the Larimer County Weed District, spoke with the AAB about the services offered to residents within the Larimer County Weed District area. The Weed District helps landowners identify and control weeds on their property, as well as enforcing noxious weed control on private lands. Tim mentioned the Weed District has a cost-share program of 20-15% discount on herbicides for residents within the weed district boundary. Tim went on to inform the AAB that following the fire, the amount of noxious weeds in Larimer County increased dramatically. Finally, the Larimer County Weed District provides over 300

site visits per year; education and outreach about noxious weeds is the key to the success of their program.

IV. The July 9, 2014, AAB Meeting Minutes were approved, with minor corrections.

V. Committee Reports.

- Water Resources Committee - George Wallace discussed the Poudre Basin Water Sharing working group's exploration of alternatives transfer methods (ATMs) to the buying of agriculture water and the drying up of farms and ranches. The group has, (a) developed descriptions of mechanisms that allow utilities access to ag. water without water leaving agriculture through short-term leases, longer term decree swaps, and longer term interruptible supply agreements; (b) is compiling a basin-wide database on water entities, infrastructure, ownership, service areas, use agreements, etc.; (c) surveyed irrigators about their perceptions of the different ATMs and the likelihood of their participation in water sharing in the future; (d) developed some prototype agreements for several ATMs for possible use in the basin and elsewhere.

There will be a public meeting on September 17, 2014, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Fort Collins Senior Center to allow citizens in the South Platte Basin to provide feedback to the Colorado Water Plan.

- Legislative Committee - No updates at this time.
- Education Committee - Greg Schreiner reported that he did not believe having the AAB booth part of the CSU ag. section at the Larimer County Fair was beneficial. There was discussion among the board members if the AAB should participate in the Larimer County Fair in 2015. Hosting a farm tour was suggested as a possible outreach activity.
- Land Preservation Committee - Zach Thode suggested the AAB collaborate with the Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Board at their board meeting. Zach also suggested that someone from the Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Board sit on the AAB and someone from the AAB sit on the Parks and Open Lands Board.

VI. Announcements/New Business:

- John Rankin would like for the AAB to present an action plan to the County Commissioners. He requested that Gail Meisner meet with Lew Gaiter following each AAB meeting to advise him of the discussions at the meeting and then report back to the AAB at the following meeting.

- The annual Larimer County Boards & Commissions recognition will take place at The Ranch on October 27, 2014, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. All members of the AAB are invited to attend.
- There was discussion of the role the AAB holds in Larimer County, but it was decided to address this at the November meeting.

VII. The next AAB meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 , at 12:30 p.m. at the CSU Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.