



**Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
AGENDA**

August 27, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Virtual meeting

Suggested Timetable

6:30 Call to Order

6:30 Approval of the June 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes
ACTION REQUESTED: Minutes Approval

Presentations

6:35 Niwot Ditch Diversion Project
ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only
PRESENTER: Sarah Heerhartz, Planner II & Jeff Moline, Planning Manager

7:05 Left Hand Outdoor Challenge 2019-2020 Season
ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only
PRESENTER: Sarah Andrews (Caribou Ranch Resident Ranger), John Queen (Hall Ranch Resident Ranger), Kevin Grady (Heil Ranch Resident Ranger), Avery Scheuch (LHOC Mentor), & Raquel Robles (Resource Management Admin Tech)

7:35 Director's Update

7:45 Adjourn

DRAFT

**Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

June 25, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by James Krug

Members:

Scott Miller
Kira Pasquesi
Heather Williams
James Krug
Jenn Archuleta
Paula Fitzgerald
Steven Meyrich
Trace Baker
Ann Obenchain

Staff:

Eric Lane
Therese Glowacki
Nik Brockman
Vivienne Jannatpour
Renata Frye
Tina Burghardt
Wesley Loetz

Approval of the May 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ACTION REQUESTED: Minutes Approval

Approved with one correction: Remove Sue Anderson from attendance.

ACTION: Fitzgerald moved approval of item. Williams seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Pasquesi, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Meyrich, Baker, Obenchain

Presentations

CMN-Kirch-2020 Town of Erie Taking

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC

PRESENTER: Wesley C. Loetz, Land Officer

ACTION: Fitzgerald moved approval of item. Pasquesi seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Pasquesi, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Meyrich, Baker, Obenchain

Attachment: June 25 Minutes Draft (3942 : Approval of the June 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes)

Hodgson-Harris Reservoir-2020 Town of Superior Taking

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC

PRESENTER: Wesley C. Loetz, Land Officer

ACTION: Baker moved approval of item. Archuleta seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Pasquesi, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Meyrich, Baker, Obenchain

Resource Management Summary

ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only

PRESENTER: Therese Glowacki, Manager

Public Comment:

Mike Smith, 4596 Tally Ho Trail, Boulder. He spoke about the current conditions and problems at Twin Lakes.

POSAC Bylaws Update and Approval

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC

PRESENTER: Eric Lane, Director

ACTION: Miller moved approval of item. Archuleta seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Pasquesi, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Meyrich, Baker, Obenchain

Director's Update

In the good news department:

Great Outdoors Colorado has awarded the county a \$1,250,000 grant to support the acquisition of the Tucker property west of Nederland. This is the largest acquisition grant that the county has ever received from GOCO, and our first acquisition grant in 14 years. Sandy Duff led that effort.

GOCO also awarded BCPOS a \$23,000 grant through CPW to fund ½ of the elk hunt coordinator, Jenny Dalton.

In the COVID-19 be damned department: the Cultural and Natural History volunteer training has gone virtual! During the lockdown, staff have transferred much of the volunteer training to on-line manuals and video tutorials.

Mad Ag has helped farmers plant several warm season trial crops, including white sorghum and buckwheat, five types of edible dry beans, and inter-seeding of clover into standing corn. We are planning the first of three field days on July 6/7 but it will be restricted to just a small number of participants due to COVID-19.

With regard to the five-year demonstration project with CSU on carbon sequestration, the cropland demonstration at the Quicksilver property is in triticale for certified seed. It will be harvested in a couple of weeks and then go immediately into a clover cover crop to keep a living root in the soil as long as possible.

The Buildings and Historic Preservation team is completing exterior repairs and painting of the historic farmhouse at the Agricultural Heritage Center.

The Trails team has started building the Skills Loop at Heil 2 and they are replacing steps and improving the “wall section” at Walker Ranch.

Yesterday, Mary Jo Langstraat and Mel Stonebraker completed the closing on the remainder of the Canino-7M Ranch property south of Longmont. Also, in the same area, I wanted to let you know that the condemnation effort that you may know about on Panama Reservoir has been voluntarily withdrawn by the metro district in Weld County.

To improve and ensure public safety, the Department is increasing trailhead staffing, especially on weekends, by employing former Boulder County Youth Corps Team Leaders as Trailhead Ambassadors. These new staff are helping make the visitor experience better by addressing parking issues, encouraging visitors to wear masks (and providing ones if visitors forget), and directing them to less busy trailheads if a parking area is full. As the county, state, and federal experts all strongly advise or require the public to wear masks when entering both public facilities and private businesses or when social distancing isn't possible, rangers and ambassadors will be asking visitors to leave if they do not have a face covering with them. We wear masks to reduce the spread of COVID-19, especially when we know that a significant portion of the population can be asymptomatic carriers and contagious. Parks and open spaces should be places where everyone feels comfortable being, especially those in our community who are the most vulnerable. In alignment with county public health guidelines, we require visitors to have a face covering and to wear it at trailheads and at any time on our trails when social distancing cannot be maintained. While many people come to open space because they will be able to more easily maintain social distancing, unless you are on a regional trail or at a few places like the road at Rabbit Mountain, it is NOT possible to always maintain six feet distance from other users. Hence, the necessity of bringing a face covering for use when conditions warrant it.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.



Parks & Open Space

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www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org

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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, August 27, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Sarah Heerhartz, Planner II; Jeff Moline, Planning Manager
AGENDA ITEM:	Niwot Ditch Diversion Project
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information Only

Introduction

Boulder County Parks & Open Space (BCPOS) has been working with agency partners and stakeholders to improve conditions on St. Vrain Creek for native fish. While the St. Vrain has continued to harbor more native species compared to other Front Range streams impacted by human development, one identified factor that limits fish species movement and population health is the presence of irrigation ditch diversions on the main channel of the creek.

While the 2013 floods caused extensive damage to irrigation ditch infrastructure, the recovery effort has also presented opportunities to rebuild features in ways that are resilient and, in the case of diversion dams, provide fish passage. Following the flood, BCPOS Resource Management biologists and other partners have been looking for opportunities to partner with ditch companies and municipalities to fund repair work that will also allow fish passage. The Niwot Ditch diversion reconstruction project will be the first such project on St. Vrain Creek.

Project Narrative

The Niwot Ditch diversion project will reconstruct the in-stream diversion dam of the Niwot Ditch Company and associated ditches on the St. Vrain Creek between 75th Street and Airport Road. The work will occur within the ditch companies' easements which straddle private land (Golden Land Company) and the BCPOS Golden-Fredstrom property. BCPOS has been developing designs for construction of the project in concert with the ditch company. The collaboration in funding, design, and engineering has also included the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Fish Passage Program, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Species Conservation Trust Fund, and Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU). The City of Longmont, St. Vrain Lefthand Water Conservancy District, and the St. Vrain Creek Coalition support the project as well.

Post-flood emergency repairs to the diversion structure were completed in 2014 as a temporary solution to restore the ditches' ability to provide irrigation water; that same dam structure remains in place and is at risk of failure during high flows. Unfortunately, the current structure also creates a hydraulic jump in the creek which increases the potential for erosion, creates a barrier to fish passage, and disrupts important natural stream processes, such as sediment transport.

Attachment: Niwot Ditch Memo (3943 : Niwot Ditch Diversion Project)

This diversion dam is located on a reach of St. Vrain Creek that is one of that last strongholds for native warmwater transition zone fish in Colorado (e.g., common shiner, stonecat, Iowa darter, plains topminnow) and is one of CPW's highest priorities for native fish conservation in the state. One of the management goals for conservation of these sensitive native fish populations is to restore upstream-downstream connectivity and allow for natural movements of both native and non-native sport fish by removing instream barriers to movement. The principal goal of the project is to protect and restore habitat for native fish populations while improving the Niwot Ditch diversion to ensure the efficient delivery of decreed water rights.

The proposed project would replace the existing dam with a smaller engineered structure approximately 400 feet upstream. Using concepts from natural channel design, the new diversion dam will be a multi-objective structure built from natural materials that is more resilient to high flows, reduces flood risk, allows passage of native and non-native fish, and facilitates natural stream processes and functions.



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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, August 27, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	John Queen, Sarah Andrews, Raquel Robles, Kevin Grady
AGENDA ITEM:	Lefthand Outdoor Challenge Program Update
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information Only

For the past 7 years, the Parks and Open Space Park Rangers have coordinated a teen leadership program, The Lefthand Outdoor Challenge, aimed at inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders, managers, and land stewards of Boulder County.

This past year the program evolved, bringing new, innovative ideas that incorporated more mentorship, appreciation, and recognition into the monthly meetings and challenges. You will hear about the exciting changes and success stories from the Rangers, a program mentor, and several teen program participants. You will also hear about how we have had to adapt under COVID restrictions.

Attachment: LHOC Memo (3944 : Left Hand Outdoor Challenge 2019-2020 Season)