

Park County Land and Water Trust Fund
Board (LWTFB) Meeting Minutes
BOCC Conference Room, Fairplay, CO

February 9, 2022

LWTFB members:

District 1	John Woodward (Vice Chair)	At Large	Mark Lamb (Chair)
District 2	Liz Biggs (Secretary)	At Large	Mike Moonan
District 3	Ramon Castro	At large	June Vincze
At Large	Michelle Allard		

Staff:

Waclaw Nieradka Absent

BOCC: Ray Douglas District 3

Guests:

Cheryl Cufre, Colorado Open Lands (COL); Dirk Rasmussen, COL; John Geerdes, Coalition For The Upper South Platte (CUSP) Ellie Harrison, Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT); Carl Vitale, MALT; Emmy West, Park County; Jason Looby, United States Forest Service (USFS); Jeremy Schoonover, USFS; Josh Voorhis, USFS; Morgan Crowley, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV); Cara Doyle, Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI) Tripp Stupp, AmeriCorps Vista.

Call to order:

Lamb called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

a) Introductions

Lamb led introductions.

b) Agenda

Lamb asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda. Woodward motioned to approve, Moonan seconded, motion carried with unanimous approval.

c) Minutes

Lamb asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Castro motioned to approve October 2021 and December 2021 minutes, Woodward seconded, motion carried with unanimous approval.

2) Old Business

a) Colorado Open Lands (COL), Rolling OM Ranch Final Report

Dirk Rasmussen filled in for Ben Lenth and provided an update on the project. Ben Lenth to provide final update. There were no questions or discussion.

b) Colorado Open Lands (COL), Riparian Reconnect

Dirk Rasmussen provided updates on the Riparian Reconnect Phase I and Phase II. Phase I is now complete. Phase II is in progress. Castro asked about a potential error in the report, Rasmussen to follow up and correct as/if needed.

c) USFS, Pulver Pavilion Final Report

Jason Looby provided the final report and update on the project. Project savings were used to provide post and cable barriers to prevent illegal ATV access and use of public and private land. Illegal use continues to circumvent post and cable on private land. Woodward asked about new Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) position. 3 month training should end for start of summer. Estimate a total of 4 LEOs for summer 2023.

Integrity, Transparency, Community, and Entrepreneurial Spirit

Biggs enquired about concession funds returned to maintain the area and decision to protect private land. 19% of concession proceeds goes directly to maintain the area. The “private” road that was closed was s a Forest Service road and closing the road loop was part of the Badger Basin Plan.

3) New Business

a) Colorado Open Lands (COL), Kenosha Creek Restoration

Dirk Rasmussen, Restoration Program Manager, presented the \$115,295 application for the Kenosha Creek Restoration project. The project would expand ongoing restoration efforts of land and water resources in Park County. The project focuses on targeted restoration of Kenosha Creek, an identified priority site in northern Park County.

b) Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP), Happy Meadows Recreation Corridor Improvement Plan

John Geerdes filled in for Jane Mannon, Director, Outreach & Development, presented the \$248,111 application for the Happy Meadows Recreation Corridor Improvement Plan. The project will improve 3 miles of CR 112, and associated parking areas and trailheads, two miles north of Lake George. The project also includes the installation of two accessible bathroom facilities.

c) Wildland Restoration Volunteers (WRV), Sheep Mountain, China Wall Hill Restoration

Morgan Crowley, Habitats & Invasive Weeds Program Manager, was moved up in the agenda and presented the \$75,133.33 application for the Sheep Mountain, China Wall Hill Restoration project. The project will close and revegetate 2.2 miles of unsustainable and badly eroding trail routes along creeks and in rugged subalpine/alpine terrain at Sheep Mountain in order to protect the water supply from erosion and sedimentation. Revegetation treatments will involve scarification with heavy equipment, seeding, mulching, and installation of erosion matting on steep sections. Close and revegetate 4 acres of heavily impacted illegal OHV route adjacent to the China Wall OHV area. Revegetation treatments at China Wall will also involve decompaction with heavy equipment, seeding, mulching, and installation of erosion matting on steep sections as well as additional erosion control structures utilizing rock and logs.

d) Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI), Youth Conservation Program

Cara Doyle, MRHI, introduced the project and Tripp Stupp, AmeriCorps Vista, presented the \$75,446 application for the Youth Conservation Program. The project will strengthen conservation volunteer training and will tackle a number of conservation and recreation projects using labor from a local Southwest Conservation Corps Youth Crew, Park County School District RE-2, and MRHI. Partners include USFS and Colorado Parks & Wildlife.

4) Administrative Items

a) Financial Reports

Final financial reports were not available on time for the meeting. Castro asked if the format was finalized., Park County Administration was not present to answer. Biggs asked who is updating the project reporting. Park County Administration was not present to answer. Moonan requested the financials for the projects be broken out for future years. Biggs expressed concern about the number of projects that need to be updated and possibly closed. Allard requested to visit completed projects and see more information of projects in progress. Emmy West agreed and requested to

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participate in project tours. Lamb suggested assigning projects to LWTFB Members to observe. Biggs suggested a LWTF Work Session with Emmy West for educational purposes and define roles and responsibilities of LWTFB members observing projects.

b) Park County Updates:

i) Memo of Understanding

Park County Administration was not present to provide an update.

c) LWTF Board Updates:

i) Bylaws & Values Sub-committee

No updates at this time

d) Potential LWTF Board statement regarding a Conditional Use Agreement:

NOLO is receiving LWTF funds and recently requested a conditional use permit to operate during big horn sheep breeding/lambing season. Question regarding LWTFB participation and/or approval. What are the protocols. BOCC typically receives recommendations from the planning board or the Advisory Board on the Environment (ABE). Josh Voorhis responded that it is better to have a guided, permitted activity that could be controlled than an uncontrolled activity. Lamb asked if project impacts on wildlife could be added to the LWTFB Work Session. Vincze asked if the Project Reviewers and Amy Mitchell's progress on SOPs be added to

e) LWTF Board Officer Elections:

Castro motioned to keep the positions the same, Moonan seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chair: Mark Lamb

Vice Chair: John Woodward

Secretary: Liz Biggs

Discussion occurred regarding the LWTFB Members terms. Castro and Woodward's terms expired in 2021. Moonan indicated that terms simply role if the BOCC does not make a decision. Douglas indicated that was not the case. Recommendation to e-mail Tom Eisenmann.

5) Public Comments

None

6) Director Comments

Castro asked if the BOCC could provide feedback to LWTFB if the BOCC overrules the LWTFB's advice.

Adjourned

4:01 pm

Next meeting

March 23 LWTFB Work Session March 23, 1pm, Zoom
April 13, 2022, 1pm, Platte Canyon Fire Protection, 153 Delwood Dr., Bailey, CO 80421
was postponed to April 20, 2022.

Land Water Trust Fund Board (LWTFB)
Report to the Park County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

LWTFB is pleased to present the February 2022 report to the BOCC.
The following recommendations are for Park County’s consideration:

Project Number	Project Name	Amount Requested	LWTFB Ranking	LWTFB Recommendation to Approve Application	LWTFB Recommendation to Approve Amount
	Colorado Open Lands: Riparian Reconnect, Kenosha Creek Riverscape Restoration	\$ 115,295.00	1	Yes	Yes
	Coalition for the Upper South Platte: Happy Meadows Recreation Corridor Improvement Plan	\$ 248,111.00	4	Yes	Yes
	Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative: Youth Conservation Project	\$ 75,446.00	2	Yes	Yes
	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers: Sheep Mountain and CH	\$ 75,133.30	3	Yes	Yes
Total Project Funding Request:		\$ 513,985.30			
LWTFB Project Funding Recommendation:		\$ 513,985.30			

Colorado Open Lands: Riparian Reconnect, Kenosha Creek Riverscape Restoration

- LWTFB recommends the BOCC approve this project.
- 7 members unanimously approve the project with 6 members commenting:
 - Project research and analysis well done. Project very much in line with the LWTF charter purpose and goals. Project may prove to be model for future projects to emulate. Fully support this project.
 - EXCELLENT project!!!
 - This project is consistent with the mission of the fund and similar projects approved by Park County.
 - Good project.
 - USFS land.
 - This is a project on Federally funded land not taxpayer supported land. However, this is a project that impacts the water resources in Park county.

Coalition for the Upper South Platte: Happy Meadows Recreation Corridor Improvement Plan

- LWTFB recommends the BOCC approve this project.
- 7 members unanimously approve the project however 2 members do not believe the project should be fully funded, and 6 members commenting:
 - Would have liked to see a larger contribution by USFS. Road maintenance will be an ongoing problem.
 - The toilet portion of this request should be removed as there is no concrete ongoing funding/maintenance plan. Land owner/benefactor (USFS) should apply for funding when partner has limited involvement with project.
 - Remove outhouses - supplying toilets for Federally funded land is not within the scope of LWTF. - - \$110,000. Approve funding at \$138,111.00.

- This project is needed. There will be many more like this because the high usage and pressure coming from visitors abusive treatment and disregard for road degradation and water contamination. Need greater law enforcement. Greater USFS financial buy-in would be appropriate.
- Recreation & water protection.
- This project is consistent with the mission of the fund and similar projects approved by Park County. BOCC should ask Public Works to review its current road maintenance plan and consider re-prioritizing its road improvement plan to align with this project.

Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative: Youth Conservation Program Trail Improvement Projects

- LWTFB recommends the BOCC approve this project.
- 7 members unanimously approve the project with 5 members commenting:
 - This project is consistent with the mission of the fund and similar projects approved by Park County.
 - Great opportunity for the youth of Park county.
 - Worthy project involving Park County youth.
 - This is a great opportunity for Park County as a whole, and in all areas of the LWTF mission!
 - This type of project that encourages our youth to get involved in improving and learning about caring for our outdoor resources is commendable. Youth can learn several life skills that can serve them in the future.

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers: Sheep Mountain and China Wall Closures Restoration

- LWTFB recommends the BOCC approve this project.
- 7 members unanimously approve the project with 5 members commenting:
 - This is a project on Federally funded land not taxpayer supported land. However, this impacts the water quality/resources which impacts Park county, good project.
 - Good project.
 - Project goals have merit. There will be many more like this because the high usage and pressure coming from visitors abusive treatment and disregard for designated trail and roadway restrictions.
 - USFS land.
 - This project is consistent with the mission of the fund and similar projects approved by Park County.

Administrative Items

- Open Item: Park County Admin Staff Reports and Future Funding
 - Scheduled finish date/closeout and 11 month review be added to reporting.

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- Review of Fiscal Year 2019, 2020, and 2021 for projects not in compliance with closeout requirements.
 - Provide discreet notification to applicants out of that are out of compliance and request updates.
- Open Item: Park County Admin Staff review Memo of Understanding (MOU)
 - Review and update MOU language
 - Coordinate MOU with the LWTF Application including project schedule, requiring monthly updates, yearend invoicing, as well as other possible updates to the application.
 - Review internal staff access to both the MOU and application for efficient project management.
 - Review existing processes for notice of award to applicants
- Open Item: Development of potential "Opportunities" from existing studies.
- In progress: Park County Admin Staff Data migration from off line spreadsheets to Park County's enterprise system
 - Review internal staff processes and procedures to insure timely and accurate reports are published.
 - Consider different reports or reporting for different stakeholders.
 - Park County Admin Staff should have access to greater detail and greater frequency to better manage the fund through "Work Product" reports.
 - Roll up public reports, delivered to LWTFB for Public access, should be sent once, error free, prior to the meeting with enough lead time for LWTFB members to adequately review, prior to the meeting.
 - Consider differentiating between Forecasted Available Funds at the end of the year, and the Current Unencumbered Fund Balance to better understand remaining funds available to fund projects prior to approval of project(s).
 - Consider adopting a Contingency Management Plan that all stakeholders may better understand available funds and strategies being used to fund projects yet maintain a legal "War Chest".