

Park County Land and Water Trust Fund
Board (LWTFB) Meeting Minutes
Platte Canyon Fire Protection District
153 Delwood Drive
Bailey, CO 80421
April 20, 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:

Jeremy Steffen
Waclaw Nieradka
Emmy Glancy-West

BOCC:

Amy Mitchell, District 1
Dick Elsner, District 2
Ray Douglas, District 3

Guests:

Robin Davis, Fire Adapted Bailey (FAB); John Van Dorn, FAB; Barbie Garnett, Park County Extension Director; Abby Potts, National Forest Foundation (NFF); Shelby Edwards Platte Canyon Fire Protection District (PCFD); Vincent Tolpo Shawnee Water Consumers Association (SWCA), Nate Boschman, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV); Deb Elsner, Lynda James.

Call to order:

Lamb called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

a) Introductions

Lamb led introductions.

b) Agenda

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

c) Minutes

February minutes were not available for approval.

2) Old Business

a) Fire Adapted Bailey (FAB), Bailey Pond Project Report

John Van Dorn Robin Davis, Fire Adapted Bailey (FAB), provided an update on the project and outlined an approach to a second phase. Ponds essentially become essentially public assets with access by authorities to draw water and maintain for ongoing fire suppression operations. A possible future application would include Phase IIa that would include legal costs and a design by Wheeler, then Phase IIb for construction with an estimated cost for both subphases of \$983,900. Dick Elsner provided updates to the legislation protecting ponds. Anticipate legislation to be signed into law in 6 months and an application from FAB in October.

b) Park County Fairgrounds Buttermilk Purchase Update

Barbie Garnett, Park County Extension Director apologized for the overdue update and proceed to update the LWTFB on the Park County Fairgrounds Buttermilk Purchase and future plans for the fairground. The next step is to issue an RFP, by the end of 2022, for an architectural master plan at an estimated cost of \$150,000. Moonan asked if the funding would involve LWTF. Garnett did not believe the LWTF would be asked to participate in funding and that funds were already set aside. Dick Elsner indicated the Conservation Trust Fund might be an appropriate funding source or if a future 2% Lodging Tax passes, 10% would have to be used for tourism.

c) Jeremy Steffen Introduction

Jeremy Steffen introduced himself, provided a brief background and needed to leave for another meeting. Lamb recommended a LWTFB Work Session with Jeremy and Emmy Glancy-West to coordinate activities.

3) New Business

a) National Forest Foundation, South Platte Conservation Corps

Abby Potts presented for Emily Olsen, Rocky Mountain Region Director, presented the \$34,000 application for the South Platte Conservation Corps. This would be new Conservation Corps and will consist of two seasonal professionals, hired by the NFF, and hosted by the South Platte RD. The South Platte Conservation Corps members will work with USFS staff who are employed seasonally, as well as fulltime USFS staff, to expand capacity to manage dispersed, trail, and wilderness-based recreation activities, mitigate wildfire risk, and improve sanitation conditions within Park County. Recent seasonal hiring issues prompted general conversation encouraging a reach out to a broader demographic such as retirees or other youth organizations to assist the South Platte Conservation Corps. It was also recommended to provide greater detail on planned work similar to project type scopes of work. Decision was made to postpone the application and reapply in 2023.

b) Platte Canyon Fire Protection District (PCFD), BOERA Deer Creek Watershed Project

Shelby Edwards, PCFD, presented the \$123,750 application for the Bailey Outdoor Education and Recreation Area (BOERA) Deer Creek Watershed Project. The nature and scope of the project will include forest mitigation work on 55 acres of the BOERA school property in Bailey, Co in order to protect and conserve the Deer Creek by reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire.

c) Shawnee Water Consumers Association (SWCA), Shawnee Water Supply Ditch Pipeline

Vincent Tolpo, SWCA, presented the \$2,500 application for the Shawnee Water Supply Ditch Pipeline project. The water augmentation plan for the community of Shawnee requires at least one fill and release each year of a 6.7 acre foot reservoir. In addition, the reservoir would be kept full all summer long to be available for forest fire abatement. Shawnee needs this storage and release system to maintain water rights and to meet the requirements of the Colorado Department of Water Resources. In typical drought conditions, running water in an open ditch is no longer viable and pipelines are an effective way to conserve water while moving it.

d) Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV), Beaver Creek Trail Connector

Nate Boschman, WRV, presented the \$6,450 application for the Beaver Creek Trail Connector project. The project will continue working with the South Park Ranger District (SPRD) to develop a trail connection between Beaver Creek Trailhead in Fairplay and the Summit County area trail system. With the completion of the accessible boardwalk at Beaver Creek Trailhead the next step is to continue the work of connecting the trail system to Summit County trails eventually connecting Fairplay with Breckenridge. Two sections of road which currently serve as connections are slated to be decommissioned following the approval of the PSINF Trails Master Plan in 2021. The removal of these roads will leave gaps in the system until reconnected via new trail. A new corridor has been approved by the USFS as well as State Wildlife Managers, and WRV seeks additional financial support to complete the trail design on the ground so that construction can begin in 2023. This new corridor will separate user activity from sensitive habitat and complete the connection without having to share tread with vehicles. Partners at the USFS have committed to completing the NEPA process in 2022 in addition to committing cash match and in-kind staff support for this project. WRV has been working on this trail system for several years with the support of Park County Land and Water Trust Fund, and WRV is in the process of designing this final phase.

4) Administrative Items

a) Financial Reports

Final financial reports were reviewed. The LWTFB thanked Waclaw Nieradka for timely delivery of the financial reports.

b) Park County Updates:

i) Memo of Understanding

Jeremy Steffen, Park County Administration was not present to provide an update. Emmy Glancy-West reported that Jeremy has been working on the processes and procedures behind the scenes and looks forward to a LWTFB Work Session.

ii) Park county Liaison for LWTF

c) LWTF Board Updates:

i) Bylaws & Values Sub-committee

(1) LWTFB Member term renewal (per published guidelines for boards) and consistent application across all boards.

Dick Elsner commented that he was aware of the issue and has “real concern” over how the county is handling county boards. A new Administration Assistant should help. There was agreement that board members terms are staggered, Park County web page for meetings is current when meeting times and dates change. Links on agenda should work for public visibility to projects. Conservation Easements and attachments are public documents and subject to public availability.

(2) Formalize thoughts regarding LWTFB conflict of interest in a LWTFB bylaw and values.

To be discussed at the planned LWTFB Work Session with Jeremy Steffen and Emmy Glancy-West.

(3) Discuss values of transparency and equity for all projects, whether they are managed by external applicants or county applicants.

To be discussed at the planned LWTFB Work Session with Jeremy Steffen and Emmy Glancy-West.

d) Cline Ranch

Mark Lamb has meeting set up with Tom Eisenmann in May. Discussion occurred regarding asbestos abatement and lead removal for the project.

5) Public Comments

Lynda James reported she still has 11 years of documentation on her personal laptop that needs to be returned to Park County. Moonan offered a USB drive or provide Lynda a ride to Staples, or to upload to a cloud. Dick Elsner directed Lynda to work with Tom Eisenmann to come up with a solution. Waclaw Nieradka took point to assist Lynda

6) Director Comments

Mark Lamb tentatively scheduled the LWTFB Work Session with Jeremy Steffen and Emmy Glancy-West for the morning of May 19, 2022. June Vincze requested Dan Gibbs, Executive Director of Department of Natural Resources to also be invited.

Adjourned

3:48 pm

Next meeting

June 8, 2022, 1pm, Platte Canyon Fire Protection, 153 Delwood Dr., Bailey, CO 80421

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

LWTFB is pleased to present the April 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	Amount Recommended
	The National Forest Foundation: South Platte Conservation Corps. 2 Positions	\$ 34,000.00	7	0	0%	\$ -
	Platte Canyon Fire Protection District: Bailey Outdoor Education and Recreation Area (BOERA) Forest Fire	\$ 123,750.00	2	0	100%	\$ 123,750.00
	Shawnee Water Consumers Association: Price Ditch Pipeline	\$ 2,500.00	3	0	100%	\$ 2,500.00
	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers: Beaver Creek Trail	\$ 6,450.00	1	0	100%	\$ 6,450.00
			0	0	0%	\$ -
Total Project Funding Request:		\$ 166,700.00				
LWTFB Project Funding Recommendation:		\$ 132,700.00				

Platte Canyon Fire Protection District: Bailey Outdoor Education and Recreation Area (BOERA) Forest Fire Mitigation

- LWTFB recommends the BOCC approve this project.
- 7 members unanimously approve the project with 6 members commenting:
 - Price per acre seems high compared to other forestry treatments.
 - Good project. Would like to see future project leveraged with federal grants. If project is awarded, please place recognition on the property to the citizens of P.C.
 - \$2500 per acre may be high for this property.
 - Would like to see alternative bids.
 - This application fits into multiple areas of the grant program, from maintaining open space and public recreation areas, to water shed and water quality. Fire mitigation on open space is extremely important to maintaining that area as well as the water shed to the Deer Creek.
 - The pricing (\$2.5K / Acre) is overpriced. Recommend that two or three bids should be presented to justify this pricing.

Shawnee Water Consumers Association: Price Ditch Pipeline

- LWTFB recommends the BOCC approve this project.
- 7 members unanimously approve the project with 6 members commenting:
 - Good water project for Shawnee. Public use still questionable and minimal.
 - I hope to see this applicant at the USPRT.
 - Good project, we should follow up and make sure that public access to the water will become available.

- Long term funding strategies should be developed by all communities for water maintenance projects. If one community is funded, then is a precedent set?
- Great project that fits our scope, thank you for applying! I hope we can assist more in the future!
- Project needed for very small community. Questionable public access to water source.

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers: Beaver Creek Trail Connector

- LWTFB recommends the BOCC approve this project.
- 7 members unanimously approve the project with 6 members commenting:
 - Recreation project - Still believe trail should be on already disturb area (the road). Erosion from road would be minimal, compared to construction of a new trail above the creek.
 - Good project.
 - Great project.
 - Would like to see existing road used to avoid further forest damage.
 - Thank you for this project!
 - Project compatible with LW&TF missions. The public level of usage seems limited.

Administrative Items

- The National Forest Foundation: South Platte Conservation Corps. 2 Positions submitted an application for review however it has been pulled by the applicant and will be resubmitted next year.
- Open Item: Park County Admin Staff Reports and Future Funding
 - Scheduled finish date/closeout and 11 month review be added to reporting.
 - 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.

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

- 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”.