



# Parks & Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road • Longmont, Colorado 80503  
303.678.6200 • Fax: 303.678.6177 • [www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org](http://www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org)

## MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE October 25, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Jenn Archuleta in the Hearing Room of the Board of Commissioners, Third Floor, Boulder County Courthouse, Boulder, Colorado.

### **POSAC Members in Attendance**

Present: Sue Anderson, Jenn Archuleta, Cathy Comstock, Jim Krug, Kira Pasquesi, Gordon Pedrow, and Heather Williams

Excused: John Nibarger and Scott Miller

### **Staff in Attendance**

Renata Frye, Tina Burghardt, Jeff Moline, Al Hardy, Mike Lohr, Jenny Dalton, Mac Kobza, Therese Glowacki, Conrad Lattes, and Eric Lane

### **Guests**

- Dr. Ellen Wohl- Professor of Geology, Colorado State University
- Julianne Scamardo- Master's Student, Fluvial Geomorphology, Colorado State University

### **Approval of the September 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Action Taken: Jim Krug moved to accept the September 27 minutes. Gordon Pedrow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. [Sue Anderson and Kira Pasquesi abstained because they were not at the September meeting.]

### **Public Participation - Items not on the Agenda**

- Susan Bauer, 2963 Sonata Bay Ct., Longmont. She spoke about the variety of birds and wildlife at Hodgson Harris Reservoir in Superior.
- Peter Ruprecht, 185 Mohawk Cir. ,Louisville. He presented the Hodgson Harris Reservoir bird survey.

### **Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Elk Hunt Update**

*Staff Presenter: Jenny Dalton- Rabbit Mountain Hunt Coordinator*

Public Comments: None

Action Taken: Information Only

### **Recreation & Facilities Update**

*Staff Presenter: Al Hardy-Recreation & Facilities Division Manager*

Public Comments: None

Action Taken: Information Only

### **Assessing the Potential for Beaver Restoration and Likely Environmental Benefits**

Presenters: Dr. Ellen Wohl- Professor of Geology, Colorado State University, Julianne Scamardo- Master's Student, Fluvial Geomorphology, Colorado State University, & Mac Kobza-POS Wildlife Specialist

Public Comments: None

Action Taken: Information Only

### **Director's Update**

- We recently hired Justin Odle to replace Phill Leffler. He is shadowing Phill and learning from him first hand before he retires around Thanksgiving. I also expect that we will post a job announcement for an Ag Resource Specialist on Monday. The primary area of focus will be working with tenants and resource experts to develop and implement operating plans for all of our leases.
- Tenants are working on some innovative cover crop ideas like aerial seeding on the Becky property. We also planted ¾ acre-sized fall cereals strip trials (10 winter wheats and 3 winter barleys) on LUH. We're also looking at alternative crops for GE affected tenants such as hemp, perennial flax, and organic corn.
- This year we received quite a few complaints about the strong stench from Little Gaynor Lake. Staff met with the neighborhood HOA earlier this week to discuss the problem and discuss solutions to minimize the problem.
- We distributed plague abatement (Sylvatic Plague Vaccine {SPV} and delta dust) on South County Grasslands and Rabbit Mountain in partnership with CPW. This is to further our goal of relocated black-footed ferrets to open space.
- Today we conducted a prescribed burn on 40 acres of grasslands at the Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain along 53<sup>rd</sup> Street to enhance our long-term, native

grassland restoration project. Aiming for 75 but shifting winds hampered efforts. Perhaps complete it on Saturday.

- We are currently recruiting for the Volunteer Ranger Corps. These volunteers hike, bike, ride a horse, or walk their dog on park patrol and provide park visitors with information about cultural and natural history, recreational opportunities, facilities, and regulations. We hope to have 25 new volunteers attend training beginning in January 2019.
- E-bike hearing scheduled for November 8 before the BOCC.

#### Real Estate Summary:

1. Brand 2 – We have divided the project into two closings at the seller's request. The county will acquire about 2/3 of the property on Oct. 31, and the remainder will be acquired in January.
2. Dougherty-Litzenberger-Lot C – We expressed POSAC's split vote and the concerns raised about the project to the BOCC at their public hearing on the project. The BOCC heard those concerns and asked a few questions about them. The BOCC decided to approve the project to remove the building right. Closing is set for Nov. 1.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Available staff memos, and related materials for this meeting can be found on our website: [www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/POSAC](http://www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/POSAC)



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## PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday, October 25, 2018  
**TIME:** 6:30 pm  
**PLACE:** Commissioners' Hearing Room, Third Floor, Boulder County Courthouse,  
1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO

### AGENDA

#### *Suggested Timetable*

- 6:30 1. **Approval of the September 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes**
- 6:35 2. **Public Participation - Items not on the Agenda**
- 6:40 3. **Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Elk Hunt Update**  
*Staff Presenter: Jenny Dalton- Rabbit Mountain Hunt Coordinator*  
**Action Requested: Information Only**
- 7:00 4. **Recreation & Facilities Update**  
*Staff Presenter: Al Hardy-Recreation & Facilities Division Manager*  
**Action Requested: Information Only**
- 7:20 5. **Assessing the Potential for Beaver Restoration and Likely Environmental Benefits**  
*Presenters: Dr. Ellen Wohl- Professor of Geology, Colorado State University, Julianne Scamardo- Master's Student, Fluvial Geomorphology, Colorado State University, & Mac Kobza-POS Wildlife Specialist*  
**Action Requested: Information Only**
- 7:50 6. **Director's Update**
- 8:00 7. **Adjourn**

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be viewed on our website:  
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## PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<b>TO:</b>	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
<b>DATE/TIME:</b>	Thursday, 25 October 2018, 6:30 p.m.
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Commissioners Hearing Room, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor, Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Fall Hunting Update</b>
<b>PRESENTER:</b>	Jenny Dalton, POS Hunt Coordinator
<b>ACTION REQUESTED:</b>	Information only

Staff has been busy with the many facets of the elk herd utilizing the Rabbit Mountain area. Since the last update (in March) staff has accomplished:

- 1) Completed the first 2 exclosures on the southern end of Rabbit Mountain, with a combination of volunteer help and the Boulder County Youth Corps. Each exclosure removes and protects about 2 acres of shady ponderosa pine overstory that have been overused by the elk in the core use area.
- 2) Engaged in several rounds of hazing on either side of a month-long calving window.
- 3) Continued monitoring the radiocollared elk, including some informal counts of groups (160+ and 70+). Elk distribution has been similar to the historic/recent use with elk spending the bulk of the time on Rabbit Mountain, but utilizing agricultural areas (crops and corn) over the summer and spending perhaps more time on the CEMEX mine area and Indian Mountain. One of the collars has also spent time summering in the Allenspark area, but has returned to the Rabbit Mountain area for the rut.
- 4) Recruited, selected, and trained all of the hunters for our fall hunting season. We had 145 of the 196 sub-unit hunters apply for our process. We chose 57 of those for our 19 hunting weeks, and an additional 10 alternates. Due to attrition, health concerns, and shooting proficiency failures we have already slotted all 10 alternates into this season's program. The third of the three hunter orientations was Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October.
- 5) The season has begun (Monday 17 September) and we have had 11 hunters (of 12) be successful in these first 4 weeks. We have had improved communication with the hunter segment this year due to our hiring of a hunt coordinator (Jenny Dalton).
- 6) We have had improved communication with the public relative to the hunting season with the use of a large lighted orange highway sign at the entrance to Ron

Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain. We have also been able to open the park early on two of our four weeks due to hunters being successful early in the week.

Next Steps – Staff will continue to engage with the hunters to ensure a safe and successful hunting season. The 11 days from December 20-30 will not have any hunting. The coordinated ground counts will resume at the end of October/early November. Staff will continue to monitor the movements of the radiocollared segment. This will include GIS work to note the movement responses to both hazing and hunting events. And staff will resume the shrub vegetation monitoring at the end of the month, reading the control plots at the north end of Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain.



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<b>DATE/TIME:</b>	Thursday, October 25, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Commissioners Hearing Room, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor, Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>Assessing the Potential for Beaver Restoration and Likely Environmental Benefits.</b>
<b>PRESENTER:</b>	Ellen Wohl, Professor of Geology, Colorado State University and Julianne Scamardo, Master's Student, Fluvial Geomorphology, Colorado State University
<b>ACTION REQUESTED:</b>	Information only

Two centuries of beaver removal have substantially altered the form and function of river corridors throughout the Colorado Front Range. Restoration of beaver populations provides a self-sustaining method of enhancing both the resiliency of river corridors to natural and human disturbances including climate change and the storage of organic carbon and nitrogen within floodplain sediments. This project will map the location, extent, and quality of sites potentially suitable for beaver restoration on Boulder County Parks & Open Space lands and will model the potential hydrologic buffering and retention of carbon and nitrogen resulting from such restoration. The project will thus directly contribute to the priority topic of beaver habitat assessment on open space lands. Methods used include: application of the BRAT model (beaver restoration assessment tool); site assessment using aerial imagery and field visits; and hydraulic modeling. Work began in August 2016 and the entire project was scheduled to be completed by May 2018. This was a jointly-funded project with Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks.