

Ecology Advisory Board Meeting Notes

May 21, 2019

Lyons Town Hall

Attendance: Steve Simms, David Batts, Garima Fairfax, Kurt Carlson; Carse Pustmueller, public; Bob Brakenridge, weed subcommittee. Guests from Lyons School Elementary 5th Grade, Lyons Middle-Senior High School and School Administration as well as their parents were also in attendance.

Simms began meeting at 6:35 p.m. and introduced the Lyons Students who presented their annual river update to the board.

Students on hand who gave the presentation were LES 5th graders: 5th graders: Ezra Moore, Maggie Luttrell, Lauren Hunter and Antonia Rauker. Lyons High School students were: Colton Jonjak-Plahn, Jaiden Batts, Emily Vanleeuwen and Cassidy Batts.

The students presented their findings of “Our St. Vrain River – How Healthy is Our River?”

The students gave a compelling presentation regarding their specific testing and research relative to the St. Vrain River. The students look at trends by completing monthly testing and comparing those parameters to acceptable levels. The student’s measured and recorded: pH, water temperature, nitrates (NO₃-), nitrites (NO₂-) and dissolved oxygen (DO) levels. These levels and temperatures were measured using Probeware™ software and measuring devices and that interfaced with iPads. This visualization allowed the students to deepen their understanding of scientific concepts. The students also spoke about the presence of macroinvertebrates. All of the aforementioned chemistry, temperatures and the presence of macroinvertebrates are critical indicators for the health of the river.

The students looked at sustainable river practices (such as not allowing catch and release fishing when water temperatures are high) in order to mitigate risks to fish mortality rates.

In conclusion, the students found that the river is, in fact, healthy as their margins were within acceptable levels and there are adequate areas for fish and invertebrates to get the shelter they need.

The students also spoke to the importance of partnering between the middle/senior and elementary school students. This partnership is made possible by the teachers and administration and a common vision to mentor younger students and prepare them to make the transition to the Lyons Middle Sr. High School. This seemed to be very important to those that have been through the first year of the Science and Leadership program.

Simms and Batts both thanked the students for their time, passion and dedication to the program. Batts also thanked the administration for their participation and vision. The school administrators also thanked the Ecology Board (specifically Garima Fairfax and Fay Marshall) for all they have done to enhance the student’s learning experience as well with Arbor Day programs and the willow planting project.

The Ecology Board Meeting was called to order again following the school presentation at 7:36 pm.

Approval of minutes from April: Fairfax made motion to accept April notes; Carlson second; However it was determined that we didn't have a quorum of board members that were in attendance in April so the official vote would have to happen at the June meeting.

Follow Up Discussion –

Carse Pustmueller Advisory Board – Simms stated that he had some recent conversations with Mayor Sullivan about in-town and out-of town-positions on the board but hadn't heard anything definitive yet. Carlson stated that Sullivan had mentioned that she had several positions on the board that she had to make and wasn't in a position to make those appointments at the BOT meeting on the 20th (unsure if this included any EAB appointments). Simms will follow up with Mayor Sullivan

Weed Management

SOS Revisions by BOT Simms discussed the recent changes that were made to the Lyons Weed Management staff approach that the BOT approved and that some of the changes didn't correspond with recommendations that were made by EAB and the Parks and Recreation Commission. However, Simms indicated that he felt that the EAB had fulfilled their role as we did provide advisory information appropriately.

Batts asked Simms if he felt that Lyons is moving away from use of toxic chemicals. Simms indicated that yes, he felt that Lyons is moving in that direction.

Brakenridge indicated that record keeping is important and urged the EAB to continue to advocate for record keeping.

Batts indicated that he thought that accurate record keeping will allow for the determination of if we are, in fact, seeing a downward trend (net reeducation of the use of chemicals).

The importance of obtaining accurate and timely record keeping from contractors is also very important as most, if not all, of the herbicide work is contracted out. Some work is contracted by the Town of Lyons while others are contracted by HOAs (e.g. , Lyons Valley Park spraying example).

Carlson stated that how the information is framed is critical to the 'ask' for this type of information, which is key. It isn't productive to make blanket statements such as "absolutely nobody is keeping records" when this isn't necessarily the case (contractors are required to do this by law). Vigorous discussion ensued but all were in agreement that how information is presented is critical when making such an 'ask'.

It was decided that the EAB should make a request to have Lyons staff require contractors to provide a report as a standard operating procedure and that on an annual basis they share these

reports with advisory committees (such as the EAB). That way we can track what volumes of product were used and where and when they were applied. Since the town has certain transparency standards this is something that should be readily available and considered a part of what contractors are required to provide in order to do business in Lyons. Standards for posting prior to applications and following protocol such as checking against lists of people that have registered as sensitive to chemicals prior to application should also be the standard and if the contractor fails to do this they could be found to be in violation of the service contract.

Mark Browning Reply – The list of issues that was previously provided by Trustee Browning was discussed. It was determined that this is a moot point due to the fact that the BOT already acted on a revised version of the Lyons Weed process that was vetted by the EAB and Parks and Recreation Commission. If Trustee Browning has any additional questions those will be answered at that time. In the meantime we will monitor the situation and respond as necessary

SOS Group Status

Simms inquired about the status of the SOS Group. Simms was concerned as the SOS group seemed to be in a gray area (partially under the EAB and partially a separate group) and asked what the status/position of the group was.

Brakenridge responded that at the 4/29/2019 of the Safe Organic Sustainable Weed Actions Plan (SOSWAP) Group meeting their charter discussion included: The SOSWAP Group members are not members of town government. Instead, they are citizen volunteers working with the input of the Town of Lyons Ecology Advisory Board, other town advisory commissions, and town staff towards a shared goal of phasing out use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides by Town of Lyons and its contractors. They are planning for long-lasting, organic-guided solutions to weed management on town properties. Brakenridge further indicated that all six members of the group agreed not to be considered a part of the EAB or town government (the group's preference). They do want to still interact with EAB where common goals can be met.

Simms indicated that it needs to be very clear that the group doesn't 'officially' represent the EAB unless it is vetted through EAB and SOS is instructed to do so.

Pustmueller clarified that the desire of the SOS subgroup is to not be a subcommittee of the EAB?

Brakenridge confirmed that is the direction the SOS group would like to pursue per the previous discussion with the SOS group.

Batts stated they [SOS group] can be a great advocacy resource but thought it would be prudent to take steps to officially dissolve the group if that was their desire.

Motion: made by Fairfax "to officially dissolve the SOS weed subcommittee. Carlson second; all aye. Motion passed.

Brakenridge confirmed that he would still like to serve as a liaison to the EAB for the SOS Group.

Trial Locations - Trial locations for pilot areas were discussed. It was determined that this function would be up to the SOS group and Dave Cosgrove (staff). Brakenridge stated that he was encouraged by the revised management plan in that the appendix does contain good (positive) information that speaks to the goal of moving forward and testing and working to potentially minimize applications of herbicide. Consequently there would be minimal / no involvement on this with the EAB.

Simms inquired about future weed issues that were in the purview of the EAB.

Brakenridge stated that Tess and Coco are working on a sampling strategy for the trial areas which should be forthcoming (tied to a LCF grant).

Discussion ensued regarding the LCF requirements and if EAB was a critical cog w/in how the grant request was structured. Simms wondered if dissolving the group from EAB may be premature in light of the possible interface between Town-EAB- SOS.

Action Item: Simms will speak with Victoria Simonsen (Lyons Town Administrator) to find out if money was funneled through the EAB and/or directly through the Town budget.

New Business:

Roundup \$ 2B California Lawsuit was briefly discussed. Question whether Lyons will curtail Roundup (glyphosate) or not. Lowell had provided his opinion prior to the meeting via email: *"It was a California jury that awarded this ridiculous amount. Let's wait 'til a Colorado jury does same. Further, the science on glyphosate is not settled. It's admirable we're trying to get rid of it in town, but let's not lose sight of fact it's still widely used on Boulder County Open Space and RMNP. To wait until Colorado lawsuits as this lawsuit was in CA".*

Carlson added that 2,4d volatilizes at temperatures in the over 85° F which means w/o Glyphosate your choices for controlling weeds with herbicides is substantially diminished.

It was the consensus of the EAB to not to provide Roundup lawsuit information to the BOT at this time.

EAB History Town– Newspaper clippings. Garima had given a folder of clippings to Arielle.

Action Item: Simms will follow up with town staff to see what the status is of memorializing the EAB clippings.

CDOT SH- 66 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study – Simms asked the group if anyone had attended any meeting in this regard. No one had attended from the EAB group. Animal Passage near the intersection of 66 and 36 was discussed. Simms indicated that it would be nice to include some language in the Comp Plan update relative to wildlife habitat and passage in this and other areas.

No Net Tree Loss – Skate Park - The fact that a few trees needed to be cut down and/or relocated at Bohn Park for safety purposes and in order to build out the park per plans was discussed. This is unfortunate however; the EAB will work with staff to assure no net tree loss to the greatest extent plausible. Also some discussion as to how a large tree that is removed counts for what number of smaller trees.

Dave Cosgrove is to provide EAB with numbers of trees / biomass that will need to be replaced.

Martin Property was also discussed in relation to the survey work that Joel Such had recently done. The outcome was that a manicured park environment isn't as conducive to bird habitat and that biodiversity is enhanced by leaving some organic materials (e.g. fallen branches, natural debris, etc.) provide additional cover and therefore bolster habitat. Batts indicated that nature play areas provided for children and a child's cognitive development is enhanced in the fringe areas of the park and open space for similar reasons. Too manicured isn't as good as 'a bit messy.'

Community Outreach Event Recap – Event was held on April 26th. Not as big of a turnout 25-30 (estimated) as in the past. Some information was similar to last water educational outreach that was done (Great Divide).

Tree Ordinance - Heritage Trees -Pustmueller reported on progress that she and Fay Marshall had made researching this topic. She indicated that there was some information from California but was for much larger municipalities and somewhat complex. She located some Landmark Tree information from Lafayette CO that they liked as it was more simple and applicable to Lyons. The program has waned a bit due to the fact that the property owners need to take the initiative to get trees on private property listed. This also included items that had an expense associated with doing so (e.g. working through Boulder County Clerk and Recorder to pay for recording fee). Pustmueller and Marshall will continue to research with staff from Lafayette and also contact Ron Gosnell (formally with Colo. State Forest Service and longtime Lyons resident) to ascertain what trees are in the Lyons area that may qualify so we know what we may be potentially be working with .

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

POST MEETING ACTION ITEMS

| Action | Assigned To | Deadline |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|
| As noted above under "Action Items" | | |
| Discuss SOS LCF grant requirements/expectations | Steve Simms | ASAP- or by June EAB mtg. |

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| Status of Historical Clippings EAB Article Archives | Steve Simms | ASAP- or by June EAB mtg. |
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DECISIONS MADE

As noted above

NEXT MEETING

JUNE 18, 2019 6:30 P.M., TOWN HALL

Respectfully Submitted,

Kurt Carlson (understudy)- through **Greg Lowell** EAB 2nd Vice Chair