

Ecology Advisory Board Meeting Notes
February 16, 2021
Remote Zoom meeting

Attendance: Steve Simms, Carse Pustmueller, Kate Zalzal, David Batts, Kurt Carlson.

1. Steve Simms began meeting at 7:02 (MST).
2. *Approval of minutes from Jan 2021 meeting.* Zalzal made motion to accept January minutes, Carlson second, all aye.
3. *Follow up discussion.*
 - a. *Hazard Tree project at LMJ Park*

Statement was submitted to ToL, Jocelyn Farrell, Dave Cosgrove, Ian Brighton.

- b. *Redstone Review article about weed plan*

Article is ready to go in March Redstone.

- c. *EAB Facebook page*

No update, waiting to get page control from Town.

- d. *EAB's involvement with the PCDC / Comp Plan Input*

Brakenridge and Simms will attend one of upcoming meetings and continue to push for ecological considerations in development plans. Batts shared conversation with Farrell in which he learned that the Comp Plan will not be starting before summer or fall 2021. PCDC does want to listen to EAB input and get some ideas on table. Batts (and other EAB members) to provide examples of other small towns whose economies are tied to ecology/eco-tourism.

Discussion ensued about trade offs and smart growth. Batts discussed looking at other small communities for examples; how have other towns handled it? No good examples. Jackson Hole for example, is an ecology-based economy, but one that relies on wealth. People are willing to pay for services to preserve what makes that place special. Bend, Oregon; Salmon, Idaho are other examples to look at. Each town has difference challenges to solve, but the shared challenge is the need to grow and change character...or keep character and have to have wealthy community to support it. Batts: "I don't believe it has to be that way...has to be other ways to bring \$ into economy. Lyons has changed drastically since the flood and we need to determine if that's the way we want to go. PCDC door is open and I think they are willing to work with us."

Batts: "We call ourselves the double gateway...but we don't have a visitor center about what they are about to double gateway into." Suggested parks service intern, signs, federal labels; something to get people to stop, talk and then go get coffee etc.

Pustmueller: "If Lyons wants to have eco-based economy, is there enough in Lyons to attract people here? Can comp plan provide more people to Lyons but not necessarily more homes and residents? What do other communities have that bring people to them? How could we implement that into Lyons but not as just more general development? Need to get a lot of people into town to crank up revenue. Forest Service base could draw people, help them purchase supplies/services, then tourists go into surrounding areas."

Carlson: Look at Yosemite, Grand Canyon... Lyons was at the end of the railroad (Meadow Park) and was a launching pad to Estes Park via Stanley Steamers. Moab is an example; adding trails and upgrading transportation from / to outlying areas.

Carlson also mentioned Crested Butte as an Ecological Economic engine town and that he found documentation at the Lyons Visitor Center that Lyons and the Town of Crested Butte were/are considered 'sister' towns.

We could try to better provide those services again.

Pustmeuller: Winter Park does a lot of PR for mountain biking in the summer. Is there a center of information for bikers when they come up here for them to know about trails, equipment?

Batts: We need to figure out how to get people here. We need to them to stop their car here and then we have a shuttle bus that takes them to trails, so they don't have to worry about parking. No parking at Hall on weekends already...let's capitalize on that. Let's develop Lyons as a center of excellence, I think the demand is now here.

Pustmeuller: Can look to other towns...but need our own message and our own way. But once word is out, it'd be great for people to want to come to Lyons as a destination.

e. *St Vrain Watershed Forest Health Partnership management projects*

Carlson: District is developing new project ideas for mill levy, Carlson pushing for minimum stream flows, watershed protection, watershed/fire/runoff issues. Also pushing to expand partnerships with educational programs. Did not score agriculture as high as other things.

Carlson brought up "string of pearls" for water storage, but aware of resistance to mining the St. Vrain. Coffintop site is no longer available, but considering other water storage projects / stream enhancement facilities. Goal is to try to maximize stream flow in the down years and down months when it goes down to almost a trickle. Carlson also scored higher flood control and flood notification.

f. *Report quarterly for the newspaper Kathleen Spring*

As EAB secretary, Zalzal will provide quarterly-to-periodic reports for local newspapers (Lyons Recorder etc)

g. *Community Gardens*

Zalzal, Pustmueller, Brakenridge to meet with Yani Jones of Tol to go through buy out lots to facilitate picking and securing site for community garden.

h. *2nd Ave Bridge – Trees & Revegetation. No Budget*

No update

i.j. *New Member – Replace Fay and elect VP*

Need to recruit, new member must live in town.

4. *New Business*

a. *CO Hwy 7 Project Aug 2021- Fall 2022*

Batts attended meeting, asked about what mitigation measures they would employ to prevent sedimentation in the river, but did not get much of firm answer.

Batts will follow up and find out which contractor is doing creek restoration work. The project won't start until August. Batts suggested that we do some monitoring "so we're not clogging up all of our restoration work that we've done. It makes no sense at all that we're doing restoration work from downstream to upstream...we'll just have to watch."

Batts identified 2 action items. 1: Proactively push them to do protocols to limit sedimentation etc. 2: Then monitor downstream for sedimentation.

b. *steam weed control on hardscapes*

Brakenridge provided Dave Cosgrove and Ian Brighton with examples of steam weed control instruments that could help with weed control on hardscapes.

c. *Community Outreach*

Probably no community gathering in the summer. Hopefully in the fall, will abide by Town rules etc.

5. *Ongoing Projects*

6. *Liaison and Sub Committee Report*

Lowell not present at meeting due to BOT meeting at same time.

7. Topics for Next Month

Simms will reach out to Jessica Olson about natural resources role. How could Lyons benefit from natural resource position?

8. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

(Tuesday 16th March 2021)

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zalzal, EAB Secretary