

Ecology Advisory Board Meeting Notes

July 20, 2021

Remote Zoom meeting

Attendance: Steve Simms, Kate Zalzal, Kurt Carlson, Bob Brakenridge, Carse Pustmueller, Laura Ball.

1. *Call to Order Motion*

Steve Simms began meeting at 6:38 (MST).

2. *Approval of May and June 2021 Minutes*

Pustmueller moved to accept minutes, Carlson seconded. Minutes pass unanimously.

3. *Follow up discussion.*

a. Welcome to new member, Laura Ball

b. Watershed Center & Natural Resource Partnership

1. Gasoline Spill Status

Is there a ToL point person? Do people in town want to know what's going on? Simms will ask Dave Cosgrove and Victoria Simonsen about gas spill. Zalzal will talk to Jessie Olson / Left Hand Watershed Center to ask about updates on stream recovery efforts.

2. Town administrator included in EAB/watershed Center collaborations.

At a previous meeting, Jessie Olsen proposed a Watershed Center collaboration with all municipalities involved in this watershed.

c. EAB's involvement with the PCDC:

Brakenridge's EAB position statement related to development is in to PCDC, it's a wait and see now. Discussion about EAB's desire to communicate with Comp Plan contractor via a point person. Brakenridge: "We really want the contractor to be aware of our concerns...they will be the ones who do the heavy lifting of writing the comp plan...and we don't have any direct communication with them." Brakenridge will get back to David Hamrick and ask for a contact person with the contractor to reach out let them know that we want to be involved. Pustmueller: "We want to be involved from the start and not have ecological consideration as an add-on at the end."

Main Street Hotel proposal:

EAB hopes to review the plans and influence them with an eco-minded perspective, such as landscape, etc. Brakenridge brought up urban renewal authority in ToL. Tax increment from hotel doesn't go to general fund, it goes to urban renewal authority. There might be some opportunities there: Funding generated by the development must be spent on urban renewal.

EAB could think through ideas for landscaping, ecological resources related/near/connected to hotel. Brakenridge: "It's tax revenue, yet how it's spent is different than general fund...can we help guide how it's spent to have an ecological benefit?" Simms: "The sooner we get a look at the proposals, the sooner we can brainstorm about ecological opportunities within that scope." Simms will connect with Simonsen for project contact.

- d. EAB Facebook page
Page has nearly 100 followers. Questions remain about ToL rules related to content and posting. Zalzal will continue exploring options and will work with Laura Mayo to expand marketing/outreach efforts.
- e. Invasives Weed Monitoring and Mapping
No update
- f. Community Gardens/Food Forest
Group is moving forward with leasing lots and prepping soil for planting.
- g. Dark Sky – Lights Out sponsored by PRC Julia Herz.
Simms sent out email thread about interest in a Dark Sky project. Pustmueller will find out more and is interested in lights out projects if it is a sustained, longer-term project.

4. *New Business*

- a. Steam weed control- no update
- b. Community Outreach
 - 1. Movie Farmette: SFC showing "Kiss the Ground" in August or September
Simms offered to emcee EAB movie. Pustmueller wants to show "2040" and will connect with Betsy at the Farmette regarding date with a goal of early winter. Steve will work out tech details and Zalzal and Mayo will work on marketing.
 - 2. Watershed Days events this August/Sept Sarah Wegert (Left Hand Watershed Center)
EAB to organize and staff a table at Watershed Days event 8/29 at LVJ Park. EAB members will strive to man table for ~1 hour each. Topic: "What Are the Components of a Watershed and Why Do They Matter?"
- c. Weed ID Book Grant
Pustmueller copied pamphlets and will continue to get them to Garima Fairfax (should get pamphlets at Watershed Days table)
- d. EAB Minutes – Simms to email EAB minutes to UEB&PRC dirs.
- e. EAB - UEB&PRC Attend Meetings/Liaisons? – reach out to Simms if any EAB member wants to fill liaison roll other commission.

- f. LCF Grant applications are open.

Jeannie Moore of LCF reached out asking if EAB had ideas about habitat restoration projects on the river. LCF grant applications are due in mid-September. EAB members should reach out to Simms with ideas for grant-funded projects. Laura is interested in working on community outreach/advertising. Simms has ideas and Zalzal can help with grant writing.

- g. EAB Long-range Planning Workshop

Zalzal and Pustmueller initiated a discussion about EAB medium- and long-term planning. There are so many topics and issues of interest and concern that EAB could be involved in. Simms suggested EAB hold a workshop this fall/winter to discuss projects that EAB wants to focus on. Zalzal suggested identifying a few topics (examples: Lyons planning & development, outreach/education, conservation) and then focusing on a few projects within each category. Discussion about the importance of having topics and projects that folks are individually interested in but getting more organized so there's dedicated person-power behind the efforts.

- h. Discussion of Martin Parcel related to PRC looking at issue of dead trees as fire hazard. Trustee Lowell shared recent report about Lyons' fire hazard and risk. EAB strongly supports leaving dead and downed trees for ecological benefits whenever possible. Zalzal expressed concern over dangerous trees and branches falling given the large number of people walking through the forest. Also concern about impact of people in forest and the development of numerous unofficial trails. Discussion about need for possible position statement on tree/forest management. No action taken, will discuss further at next meeting.

5. *Ongoing Projects*

6. *Liaison and Sub Committee Report*

7. *Topics for Next Month*

8. *Next Meeting Date and Adjourn* (Tuesday 17th Aug 2021)

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zalzal, EAB Secretary