

**Ecology Advisory Board Meeting Notes**  
**August 17, 2021**  
**Remote Zoom meeting**

Attendance: Steve Simms, Kate Zalzal, Kurt Carlson, Bob Brakenridge, Carse Pustmueller, Greg Lowell, David Batts.

*1. Call to Order Motion*

Steve Simms began meeting at 6:34 (MST).

*2. Approval of July 2021 Minutes*

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

*3. Follow up discussion*

a. VP Rotation - Carse Pustmueller selected as next VP.

b. LCF Grants

Pustmueller will apply for an LCF grant to pay for weed ID books. Due Sept 11.

c. Fall Workshop for EAB

Workshop to be held October 19th in place of the regularly scheduled board meeting. Lowell suggested that we revisit the Sustainable River Corridor Action Plan. Goals that are set forth in that need to be modified and some need to be added. Projects include a compilation of a list of sensitive ecological areas within town limits and within primary planning areas (areas that may be annexed into town in the future). Batts thinks we need good GIS data (will reach out to his company) to help guide conversation about what areas to protect.

Zalzal wants to identify "buckets" of issues (education/outreach, ecological protections, town projects), then to pick a few projects in each bucket to work on in subcommittees etc. Brakenridge: "It will be good for us to know what we want to work on and also good for town staff and board to know what EAB is working on. Maybe the board and town staff could sign off on projects and topics, too?" Simms suggested brainstorming projects within the topics of the EAB's charter.

Fall Workshop will go from 6-8:30, Oct 19, 2021.

d. Watershed Center, Natural Resource Partnership

1. Gasoline Spill Status - Waiting for more studies to see what the

invertebrate population is doing. Discussion of the role EAB could have on improving fish habitat on private property stretches. Batts: "If there was money to be had...we could help hook private property owners up with ways to make it happen with any funds available. This goes back to the Sustainable River Corridor Action Plan report." Simms: "Could the river be more healthy with more structures put in? Any link to possible lawsuits?" Batts: "We should have the Sustainable River Corridor Action Plan available, follow the money, and engage ourselves in the conversation." Lowell: "The need for additional structures in the river on certain stretches should be something to add to SCRAP. Consider revisiting the SCRAP plan with Jessie Olson's input."

e. EAB's involvement with the PCDC -

1. Summit Housing

2. Hotel proposal - Discussion of urban renewal authority related to hotel development. Brakenridge: "As we see plans...can we influence them to develop in an eco-sensitive way." Examples discussed: pervious vs impervious parking areas, solar panels, rain garden.

3. SFC, P&R chairs - Zalzal will forward minutes to SFC and P&R

f. EAB Facebook page - no update

g. Community Gardens/Food Forest - topic for workshop, how much does EAB want to be involved if at all.

h. Dark Sky - Lights Out sponsored by PRC - good start, will build momentum, plugged ecological benefits to having lights out, music was awesome.

*4. New Business*

a. Community Outreach

1. Movie Farmette: EAB showing "2040" probably Friday, October 22  
Simms will communicate with SFC and P&R that we will host the movie screening.

2. Watershed Days events this August/Sept: What do we want at our table? Invertebrate bucket. Weed management plan handout? Coloring project, invertebrate lifecycle poster, "lost souls" plastic and shoes in river. Zalzal will put together poster of invertebrate/fish life cycle. Carlson discussed potential drawing for a prize...maybe for filtering water bottle etc. Could do this at Watershed Festival or for future Facebook contest.

b. Weed ID Book Grant (Fairfax Botanical Gardens) - Pustmueller will apply to LCF grant for more booklets.

### *5. Ongoing Projects*

#### a. Application for the Use of Synthetic Herbicide.

Resubmitted from May 2021. Zalzal pointed out that softball/baseball team

may again be practicing in multi-use fields so those teams should be informed of any spraying in the fields. If the fields are sprayed, will Weed Posse ever go weed there?

Brakenridge: "EAB understands and appreciates that process has been followed. This is a special case where work is being completed is under federal disaster funds. The EAB has no problem with planned fertilization of soils. But we ask that alternatives continue to be sought rather than to spray these particular chemicals on this large acreage. Dicamba is such a big issue in agricultural areas of US...results are pretty conclusive, it's carcinogenic. Dicamba has an unusual propensity to drift. It is very volatile, it lingers at ground surface, follows cold air. We would be less concerned if the area was smaller. We are glad the application process is happening. But we remain concerned about these 3 chemicals being used in Bohn Park. Continue to explore alternatives if it is at all possible."

Pustmueller: "We need to be outspoken about this particular product in this particular location. Not the right situation...too many kids, pets, next to park, too large of an area, too close to residential area. It's our responsibility as EAB to say that we appreciate the opportunity to review this and we know that it did go through the process...but these particular chemicals on this particular property which is so heavily used is unacceptable."

Brakenridge: The contractor is saying that we can't guarantee our work unless we put chemical fertilizer down and post-emergent herbicide down. So what is the town supposed to do.?"

Simms: Can we release the contractor of their guarantee?

Carlson: It's a courtesy review. It's noxious weeds we are dealing with. Can we handle it mechanically? Yes probably, but we don't have the people to do it. They need to post it, follow label instructions and get it done during the right window. What is the intended purpose of the field?

Pustmueller: But this is carcinogenic. We never said no to dicamba, but new research has us very concerned about dicamba and its ability to spread. This is an issue particular to Bohn Park and it's something that we didn't know before finalizing the weed management plan. We need to adjust...it's called adaptive management.

Brakenridge: Can we ask Dave to return to the contractors and ask "can you do anything safer? Can you do anything better?" They moved from 2,4 D to dicamba, but dicamba is such a bad choice for this location. I can draft a letter to Dave asking to find a better way? I'm sure there is something else that we can do. Dicamba is right now in limbo, the new EPA is reevaluating it.

Simms: As an advisory role we have a responsibility to share our opinion. In this circumstance we have new data showing dicamba and its updated health risk. It's our job to create awareness...are there alternates? We are not trying to minimize Parks and Recs efforts...but we are concerned in light of new information on the chemicals.

Zalzal: As the EAB, we appreciate and recognize that the weed management plan herbicide application steps have been carried out. But the original petitioners and community members are less concerned with protocol and more concerned with the chemicals that are actually being used.

Batts: While the other points and concerns here are valid and important, we have to stick to the facts and give our advice. The community can weigh in with the other concerns.

Brakenridge will write a statement detailing EAB's concern over the use of dicamba in the Bohn Park multi-use fields.

*6. Liaison and Sub Committee Report*

-Summit is giving flood damaged lots to the Town of Lyons in exchange for breaks.

*7. Topics for Next Month*

*8. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn (9/21/2021)*

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zalzal, EAB Secretary