



**CITY OF BOULDER
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: October 1, 2014

TIME: 6 p.m.

PLACE: 1777 Broadway, 1st floor, 1777 W. Conference Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. The **September 3, 2014** Environmental Advisory Board minutes are scheduled for approval.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Comprehensive Plan/Resilience Scope of Work (Brett KenCairn and Lesli Ellis, Comprehensive Planning & Sustainability)

6. OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

- A. Addition of EAB Work Plan Items/Letter to Council

7. MATTERS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD, CITY MANAGER, AND CITY ATTORNEY

8. DEBRIEF MEETING/CALENDAR CHECK

9. ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF BOULDER ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING GUIDELINES**

CALL TO ORDER

The board must have a quorum (three members present) before the meeting can be called to order.

AGENDA

The board may rearrange the order of the agenda or delete items for good cause. The board may not add items requiring public notice.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public is welcome to address the board (three minutes* maximum per speaker) during the Public Participation portion of the meeting regarding any item not scheduled for a public hearing. The only items scheduled for a public hearing are those listed under the category PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS on the agenda. Any exhibits introduced into the record at this time must be provided in quantities of eight to the Board Secretary for distribution to the board and admission into the record.

DISCUSSION AND STUDY SESSION ITEMS

Discussion and study session items do not require motions of approval or recommendation.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A Public Hearing item requires a motion and a vote. The general format for hearing of an action item is as follows:

1. Presentations

- Staff presentation (15 minutes maximum*) Any exhibits introduced into the record at this time must be provided in quantities of eight to the Board Secretary for distribution to the board and admission into the record.
- Environmental Advisory Board questioning of staff for information only.

2. Public Hearing

Each speaker will be allowed an oral presentation (three minutes maximum*). All speakers wishing to pool their time must be present, and time allotted will be determined by the Chair. Two minutes will be added to the pooled speaker for each such speaker's allotted time up to a maximum of 10 minutes total.

- Time remaining is presented by a green blinking light that means one minute remains, a yellow light means 30 seconds remain, and a red light and beep means time has expired.
- Speakers should introduce themselves, giving name and address. If officially representing a group please state that for the record as well.
- Speakers are requested not to repeat items addressed by previous speakers other than to express points of agreement or disagreement. Refrain from reading long documents, and summarize comments wherever possible. Long documents may be submitted and will become a part of the official record.
- Any exhibits introduced into the record at the hearing must be provided in quantities of eight to the Board Secretary for distribution to the board and admission into the record.
- Interested persons can send a letter to the Community Planning and Sustainability staff at 1739 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80302, two weeks before the Environmental Advisory Board meeting, to be included in the board packet. Correspondence received after this time will be distributed at the board meeting.

3. Board Action

Board motion. Motions may take any number of forms. Motions are generally used to approve (with or without conditions), deny, or continue agenda item to a later date (generally in order to obtain additional information).

- Board discussion. This is undertaken entirely by members of the board. Members of the public or city staff participate only if called upon by the Chair.
- Board action (the vote). An affirmative vote of at least three members of the board is required to pass a motion approving any action.

MATTERS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORYBOARD, CITY MANAGER, AND CITY ATTORNEY

Any Environmental Advisory Board member, City Manager, or the City Attorney may introduce before the board matters which are not included in the formal agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The board's goal is that regular meetings adjourn by 8 p.m. Agenda items will not be commenced after 8 p.m. except by majority vote of board members present.

*The Chair may lengthen or shorten the time allotted as appropriate. If the allotted time is exceeded, the Chair may request that the speaker conclude his or her comments.

**CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING SUMMARY**

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION: Environmental Advisory Board

DATE OF MEETING: September 3, 2014

NAME/TELEPHONE OF PERSON PREPARING SUMMARY: Juliet Bonnell,
303-441-1931

NAMES OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND INVITED GUESTS PRESENT:

Environmental Advisory Board Members Present: Mara Abbott, Stephen Morgan, Morgan Lommele and Brad Queen.

Environmental Advisory Board Members Absent: Tim Hillman

Staff Members Present: Brett KenCairn, Rella Abernathy, Kathleen Alexander, Kendra Tupper, Elizabeth Vasatka, Heather Bailey, Lisa Smith and Juliet Bonnell

MEETING SUMMARY:

- The board provided staff with recommendations on potential partners to reach out to and ways in which to build stronger, larger coalitions on the local, state and federal level to educate people about and combat the neonicotinoid issue.
- The board appreciated the work that staff has been doing on Emerald Ash Borer and suggested providing more positive information to the public via newspapers.
- The board supported staff's overall approach to the demand side management strategy and emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement and outreach. **B. Queen** volunteered to serve as the EAB representative for the stakeholder engagement process.
- The board appreciated staff's update on Energy Future and emphasized that more positive press should be released around this issue.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Environmental Advisory Board Chair **M. Abbott** declared a quorum and the meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

B. Queen was sworn in as EAB's newest board member.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by **M. Abbott**, seconded by **S. Morgan**, the Environmental Advisory Board approved (3-0, **T. Hillman** absent and **B. Queen** abstained since he was not an acting board member at the August 6, 2014 meeting) the August 6, 2014 meeting minutes.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

5. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A. Integrated Pest Management/Neonicotinoids/Emerald Ash Borer (Rella Abernathy, Community Planning and Sustainability and Kathleen Alexander, Parks and Recreation)

R. Abernathy presented an update on IPM's emerging neonicotinoid issue and how it is being addressed to the board. She informed the board about how toxic and lethal neonicotinoids are to bees, earthworms, and other invertebrates. Wholesalers are making efforts to label plants where these products have been used and minimize their sale because the concentration of neonicotinoids in our environment has led to a biodiversity crisis that is causing the collapse of once common species.

Scientists around the world are calling for action to prevent mass extinction and emphasizing that this issue is more imminent than climate change. Staff is working at a local level to raise awareness of this issue and combat it by not using products that include neonicotinoids, encouraging the public not to use these products, and by evaluating the history of the plants, trees, and sod purchased for the city to ensure they haven't been treated with neonicotinoids. The city is also trying to partner with other cities to ban neonicotinoids and raise peoples' awareness of this issue on a more global scale. Bee-friendly neighborhoods are becoming popular and are an important educational element to protect pollinators. In bee-friendly neighborhoods, people pledge to not use these products or buy plants treated with these products and plant bee-friendly plants.

The Colorado Pesticide Applicators Act is a state law that is currently going through a review process and needs to be passed in the next general assembly or else it will sunset. The three main areas staff is hoping will be reformed in this act are 1. the establishment of baseline regulations for pollinator protection, 2. the provision of authority to local governments to address local health on a local level and 3. alteration of the balance of the pesticide committee which is currently comprised of almost all industry representatives and no environmental or governmental representatives.

R. Abernathy emphasized that Boulder is working hard to form coalitions on the national and state level and requested EAB's feedback on how to build stronger, larger coalitions to educate people about and combat this issue.

B. Queen mentioned his surprise that other local governments like Ft. Collins and Louisville haven't become more involved. He suggested reaching out to the various chapters of Transition Colorado Groups.

S. Morgan mentioned getting all the local beekeepers/honey producers involved and encouraging citizens to "like" the bee safe neighborhoods' Facebook site and having a bee-safe festival or celebration. He noted that the messaging needs to implicate the negative impacts, induce some fear and provide actions for people to take.

M. Lommele felt that Boulder should ban neonicotinoids. She suggested consulting with other municipalities and lobbying in order to get authoritative power. She supported the idea of a letter submitted to state legislators from diverse communities as well as articles in the Denver Post and other local papers.

M. Abbott agreed that the messaging should include the real negative consequences (especially economic consequences) and include a fact sheet with positive actions that people can take. She felt it was important to disseminate more information about alternatives to pesticides to the public.

H. Collins from the County Sustainability Office suggested contacting NACO or CCI in order to

raise awareness about neonicotinoids in other communities throughout Colorado. She suggested reaching out to the Consortium of Cities in order to communicate with other Boulder County communities. She mentioned that the County's Hazardous Materials facility can house fact sheets about neonicotinoids and informed the board that that facility doesn't give out any pesticides. There is a local chapter of the North American Hazardous Materials Management group that could be helpful. Safe Chemicals is another group to consider reaching out to.

K. Alexander provided an update on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Staff did a delimitation survey of the city. Originally, EAB was detected in five grids and is now in four additional grids and staff expects to detect more in its on-going survey. A year end news release will be sent out with an EAB status update. Door hangers with EAB information and website resources were delivered at properties with trees symptomatic for EAB. Staff conducted a series of open houses last spring and went to five farmer's markets to provide education and outreach. EAB dissections will occur to help train industry professionals about how to identify and treat trees with EAB. Staff is also reaching out to HOAs in impacted neighborhoods to identify trees that should be phased out and replaced. Seventy ash trees in poor condition have been replaced and 400 new trees were planted this spring. 180 public ash trees in the known infested grids were treated with Tree-age and TreeAzin in more environmentally-sensitive areas.

Other communities have imported parasitic wasps which are predators of EAB and they have proved successful in reducing EAB populations. APHIS is interested in providing Boulder with these bio-control parasitic wasps for free.

Staff is working toward an EAB Plan for the city. An interdepartmental work group has been formed to help inform this plan. Subgroups have been formed to talk about specific issues and identify key issues. The enforcement for dead and dying trees is being discussed as is wood utilization to determine if markets can be developed for ash wood. Staff is trying to ensure that ash is being managed consistently between departments and areas. Information from subgroups will be compiled and this issue will go to council next spring. In the meantime, staff is looking for opportunistic approaches to phase out trees and provide education.

M. Lommele would like to see more information provided via the paper. She would like staff to direct the management plan rather than only gathering feedback from other groups.

K. Alexander noted that staff is directing the plan, but others' expertise is required for certain aspects of the plan.

M. Abbott agreed that positive news stories would be helpful. She liked the idea of targeting HOAs and other groups with information. She complimented the tape on trees she's seen indicating that the tree is at risk for EAB as a great visual to provide information to the public.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Intro to Kendra and Commercial Industrial Strategic Plan process (Elizabeth Vasatka and Kendra Tupper, Local Environmental Action Division)

E. Vasatka introduced **K. Tupper** and her new position as Energy Services Manager.

K. Tupper informed the board about the proposed work plan and process for a demand side management (DSM) strategy, focusing on a commercial and industrial energy ordinance because that sector of the community is responsible for over 60 percent of our community's GHG

emissions. She spoke about the draft scope, goals, approach, timeline and key milestones of the demand side management (DSM) strategy. A large part of the strategy is looking beyond voluntary programs and beginning to mandate energy ordinances in this sector through rating and reporting and efficiency requirements. This follows the model of what has been done in the residential sector, with successful voluntary programs like EnergySmart leading up to energy efficiency regulation on the rental housing market through SmartRegs. The C&I energy ordinances are part of a larger DSM strategy. The city will use a three-phase approach that has already been approved by council starting with voluntary programs, followed by mandatory C&I rating and reporting and finally mandatory C&I efficiency. Concurrent with phases two and three staff will also be designing the Utility of the Future's energy services. The goal of the strategy stems from the Climate Commitment and is to create DSM programs that accelerate reduction of GHG emissions, foster economic vitality and have the flexibility to adapt to changes in community needs and external influences.

DSM does not include renewables, local generation or rate design. In addition to maintaining and improving the city's successful voluntary program, EnergySmart, the city is proposing a new C&I energy ordinance that would require rating and reporting energy use and possibly efficiency measures, new programs under the utility's energy services after 2016, partnerships with the Colorado Industrial Energy Challenge and public entities such as CU, federal labs and BVSD.

This item will be heard by council at the Nov 12 City Council Study Session with the Climate Commitment and Energy Future presentations. Next steps include stakeholder engagement and development of an Energy Services design working group. The full DSM plan will go to council in about a year and be coordinated with the Energy Future Transition Plan.

K. Tupper asked for EAB feedback on the proposed structure and whether a board member would be interested in participating in the stakeholder engagement process. She mentioned that the stakeholder engagement process will be coordinated with zero waste and economic vitality outreach about potential regulations.

S. Morgan emphasized that the devil is in the details and that stakeholder engagement is very important.

B. Queen noted that the issue of municipalization and DSM hasn't been well treated so that its rolled up and everything adds up. He is skeptical until he sees these rolled up effectively. He noted that negotiation can't happen until common goals can be agreed on and that Xcel and the city will never find common goals. He suggested working closely with Reynolds and other large property owners and businesses. He noted that some businesses aren't driven by economics, but by their ideals. **B. Queen** volunteered to serve as the EAB representative for the stakeholder engagement process.

M. Lommele encouraged staff to involve stakeholders proactively. She thinks this is a great idea and opportunity.

M. Abbott was excited that this ordinance is underway.

E. Vasatka informed the board about the relaunch of PACE- a one-stop shop for business sustainability best practices for energy, waste, water, and employee transportation information.

B. Energy Future (Heather Bailey, Energy Future)

H. Bailey provided the board with an update on Energy Future. Council has voted to move forward with forming a utility so staff is moving forward with condemnation/acquisition of assets. The focus for the next year will be on addressing legal challenges and implementing the transitions plan. Staff is now moving from exploration to implementation and our goals are becoming more operational and focused on how we will provide safe and reliable energy. While creating a municipal utility, staff is focused on minimizing the impact to customers, mitigating risk, having clear financial guidelines, and integrating the utility into the rest of the city infrastructure for maximum efficiency. The utility needs to be integrated with Climate Action Commitment and meet our energy future goals of increasing renewables, reducing emissions, having competitive rates and reliable power in which the community has a say in the power supply.

The Transition Plan is a roadmap and the legal and regulatory pieces will drive the schedule. Staff is considering what policies, procedures, equipment, data, data systems, etc. need to be set up in order to run the utility smoothly. Operations and maintenance will likely be outsourced during the transitional time.

Additional working groups are being formed to help inform our transition plan with expertise from the community around energy acquisition, energy services, governance, rates and bills, and reliability and safety. Public outreach will be conducted through our website, press, newsletters, listserv and face to face. As we change the utility business model to something new where the focus is providing energy and the amenities energy gets us (value-added) rather than the outdated consumption based kW hour approach. The new model will be a platform for innovation and engage the community. The business model for the Utility of the Future focuses on reliable systems, flexibility and adaptability and improvement on our energy supply by making it clean, local, and resilient.

Companies (such as e-gauge) want an opportunity to do business in this community. Staff hopes to be able to build off of Boulder Energy Challenge projects and include some of these initiatives in energy services provided.

M. Lommele appreciated hearing the city's perspective on this issue since most of what she's heard has been from the paper. She felt it was important to get the positive messages out to the community.

S. Morgan expressed concern about how Xcel's lack of cooperation might impact Boulder's business model and asked about deregulation.

H. Bailey felt they'd be able to get a competitive price. She indicated that outsources will be hired locally wherever possible. Staff is focusing on what we can do ourselves and the rest will be outsourced. She noted that deregulation effects the business model greatly. In her previous municipalization experience in Texas, she hated the process of deregulating, but once Texas was deregulated, she loved it. She thinks it is unlikely that Colorado would become a deregulated state.

B. Queen mentioned that the distribution grid is the small part. The expensive part of the infrastructure is the generation which Xcel has invested in because that's how they make their money. The real value or market innovation opportunity is the deregulation of the distribution grid because as a municipal utility Boulder would no longer be under the PUC and therefore,

have more room for creativity. His main concern was with the timing of the schedule and who is ultimately responsible.

H. Bailey indicated that the transition plan has a year and 4 months cushion before the occupation tax expires.

M. Abbott reiterated that the more positive press that can be provided around these issues, the better.

7. OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

8. MATTERS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD, CITY MANAGER, AND CITY ATTORNEY

The EAB mentioned emails from residents they've received about leaf blowers and fracking. The board agreed that if they receive emails from members of the public, the board chair will respond, then follow up with staff to determine if the topic of concern should be added to their agenda. EAB can send recommendations to council on issues that they have concerns about.

8. DEBRIEF MEETING/CALENDAR CHECK

The next EAB will be a joint board meeting to discuss AMPS best practices work, the draft Transportation Demand Management Toolkit, and quick code fixes. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 23 from 6-8 p.m. Materials for this meeting will be sent out a week prior.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Environmental Advisory Board adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Approved:

Chair

Date

**CITY OF BOULDER
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD**

MEETING DATE: Oct. 1, 2014

AGENDA TITLE:

**Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP) 2015 Major Update and Resilience Strategy
– Assessment and Scope of Work Preliminary Discussion**

REQUESTING STAFF:

David Driskell, Executive Director, Community Planning & Sustainability (CP&S)
Susan Richstone, Deputy Director, CP&S
Brett KenCairn, Senior Environmental Planner, CP&S
Lesli Ellis, Comprehensive Planning Manager, CP&S
Greg Guibert, Chief Resilience Officer, CP&S

Purpose

The purpose of this memo and discussion item is to describe the 2015 Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP) update assessment and scoping process; note the parallel resilience strategy; and provide background and information for feedback from the EAB, especially regarding environmental topics that fall within the purview of the board.

Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan 2015 Update

The Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP) is a joint policy document that is adopted by the City of Boulder “city” (Planning Board and City Council) and Boulder County “county” (County Commissioners and Planning Commission) in their legislative capacities. A link to the complete plan and all its sections and maps is located at www.bouldervalleycompplan.net.

The BVCP is updated periodically to respond to changed circumstances or community needs. In 2015, the BVCP is due for its major five year update, so the city and county are beginning to scope the update. Depending on community priorities, the update could be relatively narrow or much broader to encompass new issues, policies, procedures, or map changes.

The 2015 BVCP update would carry forward long core values, as noted on the next page. At the same time, an updated plan could more clearly articulate and illustrate policy direction, address current and emerging issues, better align the city organization and its services, provide clear guidance and tools for implementation, be more strategic and partnership oriented, and include metrics tied to outcomes. Some or all of these ideas may be appropriate for inclusion in the 2015 Major Update depending on the breadth of topics to be addressed and related project’s scope and timeline.

On Sept. 18, the consultant presented initial analysis, best practices, and results from interviews for discussion to Planning Board in preparation for a Study Session with City Council on Oct. 14, 2014. A summary of key directions from that discussion is attached.

Plan Assessment and Scoping Process

In June 2014, the city issued a Request for Proposals, received five proposals, and hired a consultant team (Clarion Associates/Godschalk) to conduct research and analysis in support of the assessment, evaluate the current plan, understand community goals for the update, and provide information about best practices and fresh ideas about how communities make plans more strategic, aligned, and effective.

The consultants began their work in mid August and are currently evaluating the plan. They also are working with city and county leadership and staff to identify potential focus topics, public process, and phasing of the update to best sequence with other ongoing or recently completed projects.

In October and November, the consultants and staff will review preliminary findings with the Planning Board and City Council and joint County Planning Commission/Board of Commissioners study session, and test initial ideas and options for the update approach with the public. As a final step, consultants will prepare a report that summarizes recommendations for topics to address, an annotated proposed outline of a revised structure for the plan, and recommendations for the process and engagement.

Engagement and Integration

The consultant and staff have conducted some initial interviews and scoping sessions with city board members and with staff from city and county organizations. Following study sessions, additional community engagement (online and in person meetings) will occur regarding the plan update and scope of work. Future engagement will also need to coordinate with related projects and plans including the resilience strategy development, the Comprehensive Housing Strategy, Envision East Arapahoe, Climate Commitment, Energy Future, the Transportation Master Plan and access and parking strategies, and reform of development regulations.

2010 BVCP Background

Plan's Role

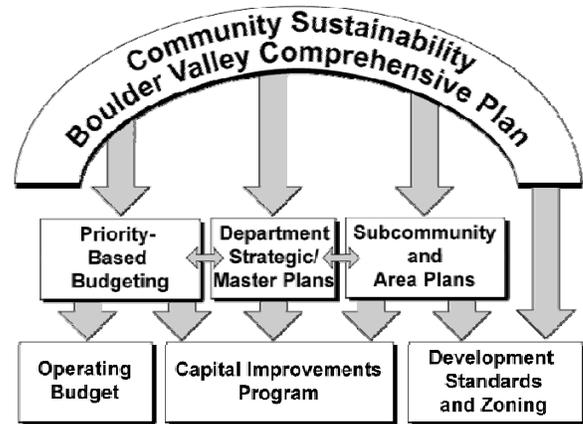
Since 1970, the city and county have jointly adopted a comprehensive plan that guides land use decisions in the Boulder Valley. Since then, six major updates have been completed (in 1982, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010). The BVCP provides a general statement of the community's desires for future development and preservation of the Boulder Valley. The principle of sustainability drives its overall framework.

2010 Focus

The last update in 2010 addressed demographic challenges, recommended ramping up climate action, and addressed economic challenges. Two broad areas were strengthened during the update: (1) Sustainability polices encompassing social equity, environmental health and economic vitality, and (2) urban form and community design policies. The city and county also discussed clarifying the process for considering service area expansion into the Area III-Planning Reserve but did not ultimately change the plan requirement for four-body review of service area expansions (i.e., City Council, County Commissioners, Planning Board and County Planning Commission).

Implementation of the Plan

The plan is framed as the overarching policy guide for the community that is implemented by departmental strategic/master plans, subcommunity and area plans, Priority Based Budgeting, the Capital Improvements Program, and Development Standards and Zoning, as shown in the graphic to the right.



BVCP Core Values

The BVCP Core Values include:

1. Sustainability as the unifying framework
2. Welcoming inclusive community
3. Culture of creativity and innovation
4. Strong city county cooperation
5. Unique community identity and sense of place
6. Compact, contiguous development and infill that supports evolution to a more sustainable urban form
7. Open space preservation
8. Great neighborhoods and public spaces
9. Environmental stewardship and climate action
10. A vibrant economy based on Boulder's quality of life and economic strengths
11. A diversity of housing types and price ranges
12. An all-mode transportation system to make getting around without a car easy and accessible to everyone
13. Physical health and well-being

Resilience Strategy

The City of Boulder is one of 32 cities worldwide to receive a grant from 100 Resilient Cities (100RC), an initiative of the Rockefeller Foundation, to develop a resilience strategy. A resilient city is able to manage disruptions from shocks and stresses, such as fires, floods, and economic downturns, while maintaining essential functions, recovering quickly after disruptions, and thriving as a community. Resilience strategies are more likely to be effective if they build on past and ongoing efforts and integrate with other city initiatives and the BVCP. Therefore, the city seeks to “piggy back” resilience with the BVCP process and engagement. In addition to outreach, technical steps toward resilience will include:

1. Conducting a resilience diagnostic;
2. Assessing risks and opportunities;
3. Identifying resilience priorities and initiatives; and
4. Developing action plans.

Initial BVCP Update/Resilience Strategy Ideas

As noted above, the 2015 update may be narrow in scope or wide, depending on direction from city and county leadership regarding community priorities and resources to dedicate to the plan update. The consultant has started to prepare preliminary observations, some of which are summarized below to assist with the discussion. Staff and the consultant team look forward to hearing from the Environmental Advisory Board on initial ideas and questions posed in this memo.

Plan Vision, Content, and Format

- The plan guides the community's high level decisions about growth and preservation and has long standing strength in guiding land preservation issues. It can be used to both advocate and repel proposals in the community.
- While the plan contains a strong vision, it could be made even more accessible and compelling (e.g., in a summary graphic or web based form).
- The link with implementation tools such as master plans, the operating budget, and development regulations could be described more explicitly.
- The sustainability framework was a new addition during the 2010 plan and has been accepted, adapted, and applied for master plans and budgeting process.
- The plan could be better aligned with other services and connected to metrics and outcomes.

New Issues and Challenges

- The 2010 BVCP does not fully address all the contemporary issues and some "game changers" such as resilience, climate change, low energy transition, sustainable urban form, and neighborhood level coordination and planning.
- Influences are becoming more regional in nature (e.g., fires, floods, transportation, water, open land management, housing affordability, local food and agriculture). The plan's geography might need to be expanded to acknowledge and be prepared for these influences. At the same time, neighborhoods are interested in engaging in local level planning and resilience.
- Communities today rely more on partnerships with other entities and organizations to accomplish community goals (e.g., Boulder County University of Colorado, Boulder Valley School District, Regional Transportation District, and many others).
- Regulatory tools (i.e., Land Use Code) may not be achieving the goals of the plan and may require reform.

Update Process and Community Engagement

- Engagement will depend on the scope of the plan update; however, it should be inclusive, creative, transparent, and coordinated with other efforts no matter the extent.
- The city has committed to working with 100RC on preparing a resilience strategy over the coming two years. The 2015 update is a chance to look at the plan and master plans through the lens of resilience, coordinate engagement, and achieve stronger, more aligned resilience strategies and outcomes.

Questions

Begin discussion about the 2015 BVCP update on topics that may influence the breadth of the scope of work and engagement strategy such as:

1. **Vision, Content, and Format:** What are the strengths of the plan? What could be improved?
2. **Current Issues:** What are some of the issues and opportunities facing the Boulder community today that the plan update needs to address?
3. **Community Engagement Process:** Does EAB have suggestions for creative and inclusive ways to engage the community for the plan update?
4. **Resilience Strategy:** Should the resilience strategy process and/or outcomes be bundled with the BVCP update?

Staff will summarize EAB input in preparation for the joint Planning Board/City Council study session regarding the BVCP update and resilience on Oct. 14.

Next Steps

- Oct. 13** Transportation Advisory Board input on BVCP and Resilience
- Oct. 14:** Joint Study Session between Planning Board and City Council to discuss the assessment and options for the 2015 update
- Nov. 3:** (tent.) Joint Study Session between County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners for the same purpose
- November:** Additional community engagement regarding the scope of work and issues for the BVCP and resilience strategy
- December:** Final consultant report on scope of work and approach to the 2015 Plan update
- Early 2015:** Check back with city and county leadership and commence plan update

Addition of Work Plan Items to EAB's Agenda

The Environmental Advisory Board receives their direction from City Council's priorities. Staff receives its priorities from the City Manager. If new issues are brought up that aren't a part of Council priorities or City Manager direction, they need to be referred back into that process. This can happen in two ways:

1. The issue can be passed to staff who can then review it internally to see if it is being addressed (or has been addressed) through some existing work plan item.
2. The board can refer it to Council for consideration. This typically happens through an annual letter to Council with a board's recommendations. Council normally asks for this letter towards the end of each year. There is no guarantee that this will happen each year, but it is worthwhile preparing for this.

To: Boulder City Council
From: Environmental Advisory Board
Date: January 3, 2014

Thank you for this opportunity to provide the Environmental Advisory Board's (EAB) input on the proposed Council work plan for 2014. The board's feedback on the requested questions is as follows:

(1) *What are your top priorities within the framework of the council work plan?*

We are excited to see that the top tier of Council priorities for 2014 falls directly in line with those of the EAB. We are particularly interested to see progress on your items 1-3:

1. Boulder's Energy Future- The pursuit of a city-wide sustainable energy system has been a top priority of the EAB for several years. The City's ability to integrate sustainable and renewable energy choices into our energy input mix will be a primary factor in our future ability to collectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Climate Commitment- Climate Commitment is another longstanding EAB priority, and one with an inherently broad scope. In 2014, the EAB would like to see particular emphasis on commercial energy use reductions and market innovation. Our second tier of priorities includes more specific projects such as green building, residential solar capacity and community food resiliency.

3. Affordable Housing- Housing does not fall under the traditional scope of EAB interests, but we believe that the creation of new affordable housing options within Boulder offers an opportunity to enhance the opportunity for low-carbon living in our city. We would like to see this matter considered with regards to transportation (reduction of in-commuters and creation of public transit options), sustainable building practices and as a potential opportunity to reduce waste and energy consumption through increased density and multi-family dwellings.

(2) *What would you like to see done that would advance the Council goals?*

The EAB believes that the pursuit of the Council goals will be best supported by clear and reliable reporting to the community, scrupulous transparency and a commitment to specific and actionable mid-range markers. An informed and engaged public will be a long-term key to the success of the prioritized programs. We wish to highlight the following recommendations:

- **Conscientious and consistent goal setting-** The projects prioritized by Council will be best served by creation of specific and actionable goal plans that contain short, medium and long-term components. The reporting metrics should be specific, utilize timelines and adhere to regular check-ins. Council frequently already operates in this manner, but we wish to emphasize our interest in continuing and expanding these practices to all relevant projects. We further recommend that provision of reliable and accessible updates on these goals to the public will create better mutual understanding and ease dissent.

- **Clear reporting-** Creation and utilization of relevant and measurable metrics that clearly describe progress is critical to the maintenance of public support. The metrics chosen should be reported on clearly at regular defined intervals. The diverse public should be engaged through various formats, potentially including means such as increased use of social media or exploration of alternative meeting locations to discuss locally relevant topics.
- **Transparency-** The more that timely information on progress and procedure can be clearly relayed to the public, the more support proposals and decisions will find, both in the short term and for years to come. We see this as particularly critical with regard to far-reaching or controversial projects such as Boulder's Energy Future.

(3) How can your board help reach the council goals?

We wish to continue to provide feedback and remain actively engaged with staff and Council on projects in our priority areas. We have also identified several other areas and projects we would like to further develop as a board in the upcoming year.

- We want to focus our feedback to improve messaging to facilitate public understanding and engagement in our projects.
- We will seek out opportunities for inter-board cooperation. We were inspired by the potential for positive action we saw at the joint boards retreat last summer. We want to actively engage with other boards and commissions to provide them with resources and motivation that will advance our sustainability goals holistically across city policy.
- We have great resources and expertise in our current member makeup to contribute to the market innovation project in the Climate Commitment. We want to actively pursue these opportunities ourselves as well as remind staff and Council to reach out to us as a strong resource on this matter.
- We wish to proactively research and remain up-to-date on carbon reduction projects in other municipalities, particularly with regard to successes and failures and how these lessons may be applicable or instructive to our process. We want to continue to increase the body of knowledge and expertise available as Boulder moves forward in making energy future decisions.
- We want to challenge ourselves to consider alternate meeting locations for locally relevant topics in order to make our discussions more accessible to those directly impacted.

(4) Other matters we would like to see considered and prioritized in the 2014 work plan:

- **Environmental matters related to the flood-** We would like to be involved in promoting environmental interests as opportunities arise in the clean-up from the September flood. This will include decisions on rebuilding and revising infrastructure as well as observation of lessons learned. In some ways, the flood offers the City a great opportunity to rethink the status quo and set new standards for sustainability.
- **Consideration of commercial recycling regulations-** In line with our CAP priority of reducing commercial energy consumption, we would also like to voice our support for

the review of a commercial recycling ordinance. The commercial sector represents the largest single impact on both waste creation and energy use, and we feel that by targeting this area in 2014, the City can make large and efficient improvements. Commercial energy use is already targeted as a priority, and reduction of waste from the same source seems to follow easily as an important corollary. A partnership with Eco-Cycle to draft effective regulations and incentives on this matter is critical to our package of commercial sustainability strategies.

Thank you to Council for your request for feedback. We, as the EAB, are honored to be a part of the Council process and look forward to greater opportunities and communication in the future!

September 2014

Amended: September 26, 2014

Last Planning Board Meeting: September 18, 2014

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<p>1</p> <p>City Holiday</p>	<p>2</p> <p>CC Meeting, 6 p.m. in CC</p> <p>*1st reading Concept Plan Review for City Council/Special Occupancy Standards for Seniors over 62 years of age (K. Guiler)</p> <p>*CHS: Adoption of Project Goals and Working Group Structure (J. Sugnet)</p> <p>*IP: Left Hand Water District Referral Request (J. Hirt)</p> <p>*IP: Potential call-up of a Use Review for the expansion of the Escoffier Culinary School at 693 Table Mesa Dr. (C. Ferro)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>BJAD, 9 am., CC</p> <p>LB, 6 p.m. in CC</p> <p>EAB 6-8pm, 1777 West Conference Room</p> <p>*Energy Future (H. Bailey)</p> <p>*Intro to Kendra & Commercial Industrial Strategic Plan Process (E. Vasatka & K. Tupper)</p> <p>*IPM/neonicotinoids/EAB (R. Abernathy & K. Alexander)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>PB Meeting, 6pm in CC</p> <p>J. Gerstle absent</p> <p>*2619 Iris (Blue Sky Bridge Expansion) (C. Van Schaack)</p> <p>*3300 Airport Call Up: Subdivision and PUD Amendment (C. Van Schaack)</p> <p>*SPARK_West Concept Plan (E. McLaughlin)</p>	<p>5</p>																																																																																																										
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