1. INFORMATION ITEMS
   A. 2013 Flood Recovery Status - 5 Year Anniversary
      • As of August 2018, flood recovery projects are 98 percent complete
      • Of the $28 million in total flood recovery costs, staff expects to receive
        approximately $20 million in reimbursements from Federal and State grants
        and insurance
      • Using lessons learned from the 2013 flood, the city continues to invest in
        programs and projects to make the city more resilient in the face of future
        disasters

2. BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
   A. Environmental Advisory Board – July 18, 2018
   B. Environmental Advisory Board – August 1, 2018

3. DECLARATIONS
   A. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Week
   B. Ombuds Day
   C. Pollinator Appreciation Month - September 2018
MEMORANDUM

To: Members of City Council

From: Jane S. Brautigam, City Manager
Maureen Rait, Executive Director of Public Works, Flood Recovery Manager
Chris Meschuk, Assistant City Manager
Joel Wagner, Tax and Special Projects Manager

Date: September 6, 2018

Subject: Information Item: Five Year Anniversary Update for the 2013 Flood

This City Council information item provides an update on flood recovery status as the city passes the five-year anniversary of the September 2013 flood. As of Sept 2018, flood recovery work is approximately 98 percent complete in terms of dollars spent. Only one Open Space trail repair project remains to be completed. This project, which received federal clearance to proceed in the second quarter of 2018, will be completed in late fourth quarter 2018. This is anticipated to be the final information packet item regarding the 2013 flood.

Following the flood, City Council established five Flood Recovery Objectives to guide the city’s recovery efforts. Highlights of the city’s recovery work are listed below, by key objective. Additionally, the city has invested significant time, effort and resources to learning from the 2013 flood and has implemented policy changes and invested in projects to make the city more resilient to future disasters. Examples of these activities are provided below.

1. Help people get assistance.
   - The City of Boulder and Boulder County collaborated to provide housing rehabilitation and temporary rental assistance to impacted households.
   - Approximately 300 households received assistance from the Long-Term Flood Recovery Group.

2. Restore and enhance our infrastructure.
   - As of Aug. 31, the city has spent approximately $27.6 million on flood recovery, or 98 percent of projected expenditures.
   - As of Aug. 31, city departments have completed 328 of 329 flood recovery projects, which translates to 99 percent complete.
• The city continues to invest in flood resilience projects, such as stream and channel improvements, Open Space bridge improvements, and water delivery systems to reduce the risk of damage from future storms.

3. **Assist business recovery.**
   • The city facilitated an after action analysis and pre-disaster planning process with the Boulder Regional Business Partnership, which is a group of countywide economic development and chamber of commerce organizations.

4. **Pursue and focus resources to support recovery efforts.**
   • The city has received $10.1 million of an expected $19 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and State of Colorado reimbursements to date. In addition, insurance proceeds have reimbursed the city for over $2.5 million of flood damage.
   • The city has been awarded $4.1 million in non-FEMA grants to support recovery and resilience projects in Housing, Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) and Public Works (Utilities).
   • The city has adopted a policy to acknowledge the risk of the de-obligation of funds due to procurement challenges by assigning a portion of FEMA receipts to a restricted fund balance.
   • The costs of immediate emergency response and recovery efforts have been covered by reserves across the city’s funds, with minimal impact to post-flood Operating Budgets. The 2019 Recommended Budget proposes an ongoing increase of General Fund reserves to meet the goal of 20 percent reserves by 2020.

5. **Learn together and plan for the future.**
   • The city has completed a pre-disaster recovery plan, outlining the roles, responsibilities and decision-making structure in the event of a large scale disaster that requires recovery.
   • A debris management plan, damage assessment plan, and volunteer management plan are underway or completed.
   • Work continues to implement the actions recommended in the 2013 flood after action report.

Each objective above is explained in more detail in the following pages, along with a high-level summary of progress. More detailed information can be found at the city’s comprehensive resource for all flood-related information, [www.BoulderFloodInfo.net](http://www.BoulderFloodInfo.net).
INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE AND CASE MANAGEMENT

From Sept. 11, 2013 through March 31, 2016, the city processed 779 flood-related building permits. The city waived fees for flood recovery permits through March 1, 2016.

Over 300 Boulder households and individuals received assistance through collaborative work by the city, the Long-Term Flood Recovery Group of Boulder County (LTFRG), and Boulder County Human Services. The direct assistance provided by case managers included assisting with FEMA individual assistance and insurance appeals; mental health programs; volunteer and nonprofit labor coordination; construction coordination; funding assistance through the United Way Flood Relief Fund; CDBG-DR housing rehabilitation; as well as referrals to other agencies for technical assistance. The LTFRG completed its operations in 2016, with remaining cases handled by Boulder County.

PONDEROSA MOBILE HOME PARK ANNEXATION

In 2015, the city received a CDBG-DR planning grant to fund a feasibility study of the Ponderosa mobile home park and vacant parcel at the Foothills Community with the goal of annexation of the property to replace utilities, offer replacement housing options, introduce common amenities, and improve vehicular circulation. The study included significant community engagement, including:

- A democratically-elected Resident Leadership Committee to keep residents informed and share neighbors ideas and concerns with the city and consultant team.
- Four resident workshops focused on values and vision, housing options, site design and Concept Plan.
- A Resilience Workshop, in partnership with Rebuild by Design, brought together 60 volunteer local and national professionals and 20 Ponderosa residents for a day-long design charrette to identify opportunities to maximize resilience through affordability and land ownership, site design, housing innovation and social and community assets.
- Growing Up Boulder, a child and youth focused city initiative, organized a youth design charrette.

This study resulted in a CDBG-DR subsequent grant of $4.2 million to fund the August 2017 acquisition of the Ponderosa mobile home park. The Ponderosa concept plan was approved by city council on June 7, 2018. At the beginning of Q4 2018, site plan and annexation documents will be submitted, with a plan for all entitlements, including technical document approval and building
permits, to be secured within 15 months. From January to September 2020, utilities will be installed. Home construction is slated to begin at the end of 2020.

The header photos were taken at a Twomile Canyon Creek open house.

**FLOOD RECOVERY PROJECT STATUS**

As a result of the significant flood damage to city infrastructure, the city has completed more than 300 projects across the community for repairs, restoration, replacement and mitigation work.

To fund these projects, the city is pursued a variety of available resources in the recovery and reimbursement process, including insurance, FEMA assistance and assistance from other agencies (e.g., Federal Highway Administration, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, Colorado Water Conservation Board, etc.), as further described in the “Objective #4” section.

Below is a summary of the total projects by department/division. As of Aug. 31, 2018, the city has completed 99 percent of the flood-related projects and spent $27.8 million on flood recovery (see more financial details on page 12).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department/Division</th>
<th>Total Flood-related Projects</th>
<th>Percent Complete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citywide Total</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Department/Division</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space &amp; Mountain Parks</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works - Utilities</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>1005%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works - Transportation</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works - Facilities &amp; Asset Management and Fleet</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OPEN SPACE AND MOUNTAIN PARKS (OSMP)

Over 150 trails, trailheads, fence lines, and other OSMP facilities were damaged in the 2013 flood. As of August 31, 2018, all but one trail section are complete. The remaining project, a short reroute on Bear Canyon Road received federal approvals to proceed in May. However, due to planting season constraints for requires wetlands mitigation, the repair work will begin this fall, with construction and required wetland mitigation work being completed this winter. OSMP continues to make progress on several flood resilience projects, including two bridge improvements and stream restoration work that will make the system more capable of mitigating the impacts of future floods.

Key projects completed include:
- Restoration of OSMP’s most popular trail; the Chautauqua Meadow trail, which was eroded more than 18 inches deep in places and over 60 feet wide in others,
- Repair of the Chapman Drive trail/road to once again allow both trail users and vehicular traffic in an emergency and the form of the road back to its original look and feel as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) project in the 1930s.

PARKS AND RECREATION

 Approximately 34 percent, or 35 of the 98 Parks and Recreation facilities, were significantly damaged by the flood. Recovery work includes repair, restoration and/or replacement of facilities, structures, playgrounds, multi-use fields and courts, and paths.

Key projects completed include:
- Knollwood Tennis Courts – Complete replacement of the damaged courts, in addition to replacement of the walls and landscape restoration,

UTILITIES

Although the water utility infrastructure performed admirably and sustained minimal damages, the wastewater, stormwater and major drainageway systems were overwhelmed by floodwaters and runoff, groundwater infiltration and inflow to the city’s open channel and pipe conveyance systems. Initial flood response work included the protection of critical wastewater pipelines, vulnerable water delivery pipelines and access roads to critical water infrastructure.

Key projects completed include:
- Reconstruction of engineered drainageway features,
- Removal of more than 35,000 cubic yards of sediment and more than 550 tons of debris from the city’s fifteen drainageways,
- Stabilization and repair of the undermined and damaged wastewater interceptor pipe near 61st Street.
TRANSPORTATION

Due to the flood, approximately 1 percent (three miles) of roadway was damaged citywide. There are approximately 300 miles of roads within the City of Boulder. It is estimated that approximately 20 percent (60 miles) of the roads were covered in flood-related debris. The city also has 60 miles of multi-use paths within the city limits. Approximately 15 percent, or nine miles, of the paths were damaged.

Key projects completed include:
- Repairs to fifteen sections of multi-use path throughout the city, including repairing undermined bridge abutments, repairing cracked concrete, and removing fallen trees,
- Asphalt and concrete sidewalk repairs to seventeen street locations throughout the city.

FACILITIES AND ASSET MANAGEMENT (FAM): BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Of the 365 city-owned buildings and structures, approximately 34 (9 percent) were damaged due to the flood.

Key projects completed include:
- Replacement of carpet, flooring and damaged gymnastics equipment at the North Boulder Recreation Center,
- Replacement of damaged carpet, drywall, and cabinets at Fire Stations 1 and 4,
- FEMA-approved mitigation work such as installing sump pumps, rerouting roof drains and adding flood walls and doors at six city facilities.

The header photos were taken along Boulder Creek and at the primary interceptor pipe that delivers the majority of wastewater flows to the 75th Street Wastewater Treatment Facility.
Impacts to Boulder businesses ranged from moderate damage (businesses that were repaired in a few weeks) to severe (e.g., complete demolition of a building with 20 tenants at 100 Arapahoe Avenue). Business assistance inquiries included unique requests to specific Boulder businesses (e.g., disposal of confidential but severely damaged documents) and questions about funding sources and business resources.

REGIONAL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP
The Boulder Regional Business Partnership, which is comprised of economic vitality, chamber of commerce and economic development agencies from across Boulder County, conducted a debrief of the flood recovery from a business perspective following the release of the Economic Development Administration’s assessment in Boulder County. The partnership has begun a disaster preparedness and recovery planning process, focused on providing coordinated information and resources to the business community in times of disaster, including the framework for a business disaster assistance center, and for information gathering and data collection for local governments.

The header photo was taken at a business recovery meeting and the graphic was extracted from the Recover Colorado Business Grant and Loan program application.
The September 2013 flooding was declared a national disaster, which created an opportunity for possible reimbursement through FEMA, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the State of Colorado. The city is striving to maximize reimbursement from all applicable agencies, as well as through grant funding opportunities.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES
The City’s total estimated cost for flood recovery is $28 million. Between Federal, State, and Insurance, the city should receive about $20 million to $21 million in reimbursement for the flood (depending upon final FEMA decisions on eligibility). Due largely to the city’s reserve policies and ability to flex repair dollars, the city could complete flood projects without having to wait for FEMA reimbursement or advances. Due to those strong reserves, the city could cover flood recovery costs without significant disruption to the core services that the City provides to its residents while waiting for reimbursements.

The city maintains a temporary reserve in the seven funds receiving substantial FEMA and state reimbursement for 2013 Flood recovery costs, equal to 7 percent of reimbursement received. The FEMA process includes substantial auditing well after reimbursements are received, and it is not uncommon for this process to result in FEMA requesting some amount of funds be returned, or “de-obligated”. This reserve, which will remain in place until after all audits are completed, provides an off-set for potential de-obligation of FEMA and state funding. Once audits are completed, funds not needed would be available for use.

As of August 2018, the city has received approximately $13 million in reimbursements from insurance, FEMA, and the State of Colorado. The pace of reimbursements slowed dramatically in 2017, as the State of Colorado (the administrator for the FEMA grant) shifted focus from processing reimbursements to processing closeouts. Under the new process, reimbursements are held until flood recovery projects are closed out. Staff expects that all projects will be submitted for closeout by the end of 2018 or early 2019.

Tables 1 and 2 (shown below) illustrate, by department/division, the anticipated city share in the flood recovery costs, as well as the estimated amount of reimbursement back to the city. The total cost estimate of $28 million represents staff’s current estimates of flood damage and recovery activities, following further investigation of damages and assessment of repair and recovery alternatives. These costs are related to the specific September 2013 flood damages and are not
reflective of subsequent issues with additional sediment and debris during spring runoff and summer storms.

**REMAINING COST TO THE CITY (GAP)**

While FEMA and the state typically reimburse 87.5 percent of eligible projects (75 percent and 12.5 percent, respectively), in many cases, the city’s gap between incurred costs and estimated reimbursements varies significantly. The most common reasons for this gap include:

- Through policy, FEMA has deemed many flood recovery activities ineligible (e.g., ecological restoration activities in OSMP, debris removal in certain areas of the streams).
- FEMA policies generally do not reimburse for regular staff time for flood response and recovery activities (only overtime is eligible). While project management and direct administrative costs are reimbursable, actual “boots on the ground” time is typically limited to overtime labor.
- Costs related to general administrative activities (i.e., not associated with a particular project) are ineligible for reimbursement (e.g., general flood coordination meetings, reporting, budgeting, council updates, etc.).

**Table 1: Costs Related to Flood Damage and Response**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department/Division</th>
<th>Total Flood Damage and Response</th>
<th>Amount Spent</th>
<th>Remaining Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$2,504,342</td>
<td>$2,504,342</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$8,750,203</td>
<td>$8,750,203</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAM/Fleet</td>
<td>$1,055,571</td>
<td>$1,055,571</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSMP</td>
<td>$8,400,000</td>
<td>$8,070,796</td>
<td>$329,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Rec</td>
<td>$2,431,070</td>
<td>$2,431,070</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP&amp;S</td>
<td>$2,069,498</td>
<td>$2,069,498</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>$743,206</td>
<td>$743,206</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>$112,009</td>
<td>$112,009</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$1,870,000</td>
<td>$1,827,640</td>
<td>$42,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,935,900</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,564,335</strong></td>
<td><strong>$371,565</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: Sources of Funds for Flood Recovery and Response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department/Division</th>
<th>Actual FEMA/State/FHWA Reimbursement</th>
<th>Estimated Reimbursement from FEMA/State/FHWA¹</th>
<th>Insurance Proceeds²</th>
<th>Total Reimbursement</th>
<th>Remaining Cost to City (Gap)³</th>
<th>Total Sources of Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$1,103,904</td>
<td>$818,000</td>
<td>$1,921,904</td>
<td>$582,438</td>
<td>$2,504,342</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$5,209,024</td>
<td>$1,771,000</td>
<td>$6,980,024</td>
<td>$1,770,179</td>
<td>$8,750,203</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAM/Fleet</td>
<td>$260,629</td>
<td>$73,000</td>
<td>$721,942</td>
<td>$1,055,571</td>
<td>$8,400,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSMP⁴</td>
<td>$1,199,787</td>
<td>$6,034,000</td>
<td>$7,258,884</td>
<td>$1,141,116</td>
<td>$8,400,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation</td>
<td>$706,685</td>
<td>$123,000</td>
<td>$1,016,496</td>
<td>$1,414,573</td>
<td>$2,431,070</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP&amp;S</td>
<td>$1,268,152</td>
<td>$108,000</td>
<td>$1,376,152</td>
<td>$693,346</td>
<td>$2,069,498</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>$223,648</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
<td>$4,963</td>
<td>$256,611</td>
<td>$486,595</td>
<td>$743,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>$83,867</td>
<td>$11,000</td>
<td>$94,867</td>
<td>$17,142</td>
<td>$112,009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$43,102</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$44,102</td>
<td>$1,825,898</td>
<td>$1,870,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$10,098,798</td>
<td>$8,967,000</td>
<td>$20,004,612</td>
<td>$7,931,288</td>
<td>$27,935,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Actual reimbursement amounts may vary due to actual costs incurred and/or FEMA de-obligation of costs at project closeout. Includes 1.34 percent management cost reimbursement.
² Insurance proceeds do not reflect a $1 million unscheduled property payment. The city is still determining the best use of these funds. FEMA may require that some or all of this payment be used to offset “duplication of benefits,” which would result in a reduction of the FEMA reimbursement.
³ Please refer to the “Remaining Cost to City (Gap)” and “Grants” sections of this memo for an overview of the reasons contributing to the gap and the additional funding sources that city staff has pursued to help close the gap.
⁴ The majority of OSMP project worksheets have been written on estimates. As recovery work and reimbursements progress, the actual reimbursement from FEMA and the state may increase, as long as the work performed is consistent with the project scope and costs are determined to be reasonable by FEMA.

GRANTS

To help close the gap between flood damage and response costs and FEMA reimbursements, the city pursued several additional funding sources. The following table provides a brief overview of the opportunities awarded to date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Awarded Projects/Eligible Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants Awarded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Block Grant: Disaster</td>
<td>• West Fourmile Creek annexation and redevelopment study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery – Resiliency Planning</td>
<td>Award: $75,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• OSMP natural Resources Planner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Award: $87,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Developing Key Performance Indicators for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Award: $140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Block Grant: Disaster</td>
<td>• Single-family renovations and repairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery – Housing Rehabilitation</td>
<td>• Relocation of single-family homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Award: $1 million (city’s share of city/county funds)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) | • 61<sup>st</sup> Street wastewater interceptor reroute (2014)  
• Area II annexation infrastructure, design and fees (2014)  
• Wastewater system inspection  
**Award:** $1,895,000 |
| --- | --- |
| FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program | • Wildland Fire Station Generator  
**Award:** $39,987  
• Fleet Services Generator  
**Award:** $43,518 |
| Colorado Water Conservation Board – Stream Restoration Grant | • Boulder Creek restoration and relocation  
**Award:** $200,000 |
| Community Development Block Grant: Disaster Recovery – Infrastructure | • FEMA local match for sediment and debris removal in streams  
**Award:** $500,000  
• Wonderland Creek Greenways Improvements  
**Award:** $2,882,563  
• Ponderosa Mobile Home Park Infrastructure Improvements  
**Award:** $4,200,000 |
| Fish and Wildlife Service – National Fish Passage Program | • Boulder Creek at Green Ditch Fish Passage Project  
**Award:** $75,000 |
| Colorado Water Conservation Board – Water Supply Reserve Account Program | • Boulder Creek at Green Ditch Floodplain Reconnection Project  
**Award:** $245,000 |

**VOLUNTEERS**

Since September 2013, the city has been fortunate to have a significant level of support from volunteers, with approximately 1,800 volunteers working approximately 7,500 hours. Of those hours, 3,853 are eligible for FEMA reimbursement, with a projected value of $60,000.

*The header photos were taken at volunteer projects along the Royal Arch Trail and Mesa Trail.*
AFTER ACTION REPORT
The city conducted a series of nine staff debriefs in the spring of 2015 in an effort to capture key best practices and lessons learned in the recovery process to date. The debriefs were facilitated by the Office of Emergency Management staff and compiled into an After Action Report, which has informed planning work for future disasters.

CITY PRE-DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING
Efforts to create pre-disaster recovery plans for city and community recovery are underway, with the city’s overall disaster recovery plan complete. Additional revisions and department based plans will continue. One of the early action items identified through the after action report and subsequent storms was the need for a more coordinated damage assessment process. The Office of Emergency Management has purchased a subscription for a cloud-based damage assessment software program that is deployable on smartphones and tablets, and it is configured with the data, people and equipment information that is necessary for completing a preliminary damage assessment for private property and public infrastructure.

BOULDER COUNTY COLLABORATIVE
One of the most unexpected and positive outcomes of the 2013 flood was the establishment of the boulder County Collaborative. In response to the 2013 flood, the city, town and county governments of Boulder County engaged in a collaborative process for CDBG Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) project and program prioritization and implementation. Unmet needs and priorities were developed on a regional basis to approach CDBG-DR strategically to best address the greatest and most pressing flood recovery issues in our communities. The Collaborative is comprised of the following communities: Boulder County, City of Boulder, Town of Jamestown, City of Lafayette, City of Longmont, City of Louisville, Town of Lyons, Town of Nederland.

BOULDER COUNTY VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS
One of the lessons learned for the city and county as well as volunteer agencies was the lack of coordination with and between volunteer agencies and the local government in the initial and long-term recovery. As a result, a local group has been formed based on the national and state models of volunteer organizations active in disasters (VOAD). The city has been participating in launch committee meetings, bylaws have been established and interim officers have been appointed. The City of Boulder has signed up as a partner organization (which is the membership classification for
governments). The VOAD is being integrated into the emergency response and recovery planning processes with the city and county.

*The header photos were taken at the Sept. 10, 2014 “The Boulder Flood: One Year Later” afternoon and evening events.*
CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING SUMMARY

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION: Environmental Advisory Board

DATE OF MEETING: July 18, 2018

NAME/TELEPHONE OF PERSON PREPARING SUMMARY: Sandy Briggs, 303-441-1931.

NAMES OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND INVITED GUESTS PRESENT:
Environmental Advisory Board Members Present: Karen Crofton, Christina Gosnell and Michael SanClements.
Environmental Advisory Board Members Absent: Jason Vogel and Miriam Hacker
Staff Members Present: Brett KenCairn and Sandy Briggs.

MEETING SUMMARY:
- Ecosystems Crowding
  The board agreed that it is an important and necessary topic to address, but since it will be brought up in group and individual conversations at the meeting anyway, it doesn’t need to be a separate agenda item.
  K. Crofton will respond to the Open Space Board of Trustees to explain.

1. CALL TO ORDER
Environmental Advisory Board Chair, K. Crofton, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
On a motion by C. Gosnell, seconded by M. SanClements, the Environmental Advisory Board voted 3-0 (J. Vogel and M. Hacker absent) to approve the June 6, 2018 meeting minutes.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS
None.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS
   A. Ecosystems Crowding (Crofton)
      Board chair, K. Crofton, reported back to the EAB that she had attended meetings to invite (or emailed invitations to) each board the EAB has asked to participate in a joint advisory board meeting being held on September 19.
      The Open Space Board of Trustees specifically requested the joint meeting include discussion around the topic of “crowding”. The EAB discussed the concept, whether recreational use of open space should be limited or more access created, and the perception and value judgements behind potential decisions.
K. Croffon also noted that the EAB is the only advisory board that doesn’t meet in Council Chambers, and that doing so might be more conducive to public participation. The board’s comments are captured in the meeting summary.

6. OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES
None.

7. MATTERS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD, CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY
A. Joint Board Meeting Planning (Board)
   Senior Environmental Planner and EAB Staff Liaison, B. KenCairn, reminded the board of the three action streams created for identifying and addressing the most crucial aspects of the Climate Commitment focus on ecosystems – staff, boards and the community.
   The initial staff portion of this process is complete, and it will be mapped into the board feedback request. The staff team was asked what ecological issues keep them up at night and what should be done about them. Responses were sifted, sorted and prioritized in preparation for the next action stream: the joint advisory board meeting.
   B. KenCairn will draft “homework” questions for the invited boards to discuss prior to meeting together. The responses will be compiled, synthesized and mapped into content areas before the meeting and presented as the starting point for discussions.
   The EAB provided the following thoughts, ideas and questions for structuring the meeting:
   • Start by defining what an ecosystem is and provide boundaries for the conversation.
   • Consider a process that prevents strict prioritization since this tends to silo conversations and creates attention for only those topics and solutions most forcefully presented and often most difficult to solve.
   • Let the group process determine what to solve.
   • Create enough space for creative thinking.
   • Seek synergistic, cross-cutting solutions.
   • The goal leading to the City Council Study Session in January is to triangulate areas of interest and importance through clear, aligned feedback from the three action streams.
   • Logistically, start with larger groups, then move to smaller groups with a World Café-style rotation.
   • Should the groups be prepopulated?
   • Should the groups work on issues not their own?
   • Should solutions be worked as a larger group before splitting into smaller groups to suss them out?
   • Remain aware of unintended consequences as there are likely to be conflicting solutions and outcomes according to differing board perspectives.
   • Be clear about what the challenges are, but don’t dwell on them.
   • The problems will not be solved immediately. The intention of the meeting is to create direction and discover what is needed to move towards solutions.
   They also discussed a variety of grouping and guided discussion options, and how the results of this meeting will inform the third stream of action: the community meeting.
8. DEBRIEF MEETING/CALENDAR CHECK
   A. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1, 6-8 pm.
   B. The regularly scheduled meeting on September 5 will be rescheduled for sometime the week of August 27. S. Briggs will poll for availability and solidify the date, time and location.
   C. The joint board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19 from 5-8 pm.
      Location TBD.

9. ADJOURNMENT
The Environmental Advisory Board adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Approved: _____________________________ 8/29/18

Chair  Date
CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING SUMMARY

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION: Environmental Advisory Board

DATE OF MEETING: August 1, 2018


NAMES OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND INVITED GUESTS PRESENT:
Environmental Advisory Board Members Present: Jason Vogel, Miriam Hacker and Michael SanClements.
Environmental Advisory Board Members Absent: Karen Crofton.
Guests Present: Andrew Rheem and Melissa Elliott (Raftelis Financial Consulting).
Staff Members Present: Valerie Matheson, Heather Swanson, Keri Konold, Kendra Tupper, Kimberlee Rankin, Brett KenCairn, Sandy Briggs and Brooke McKinney.

MEETING SUMMARY:
❖ Prairie Dog Working Group Phase 2 Report and City Staff Analysis
The board stated concern about the financial impact of the recommendations and suggested prioritizing ideas in order to narrow down the range of budget needs.
They questioned from where the money would come.
The board suggested it could be an iterative process where once initial stages are accomplished, the group could move forward with implementing additional steps.
They suggested including a process to assess relocation efforts and whether there would be a negative impact on soil health.
The board posed the question of whether there was discussion about monitoring high integrity grasslands.
They felt the large financial range made it difficult to assess environmental or social impacts.

❖ Revenue Needs and Potential Funding Sources for Climate Commitment Work
• Revenue Needs: The board suggested that staff should have a version of funding needs that is the “fiscally constrained option”. How much would it take to get 80% of the results we need, for instance.
• Criteria for evaluation of carbon tax/fee options:
  • Agreement on the criteria, but it would be helpful to indicate the driving force, or weight these criteria against each other. Specifically, is it to create revenue to meet climate commitment goals or to affect consumer behavior?
  • Make it clear that revenue stability means longevity of revenue
  • Add: Attribution – the proximity of the tax/fee to actual reduction you want to see
• Options
  • The board would like to see staff pursue the Voluntary Offset option.
  • The board supported the addition of natural gas tax/fees as options to investigate further.
• Vehicle Options:
  • The board cautioned against the overly simple one time Title fee that had a flat rate for all cars, but excluded EVs – this would be a social equity issue.
• They would like Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) to be in the formula somehow, even if people are simply asked to voluntarily report their annual mileage like you do for insurance rates.
• The tax/fee should be tied to the behavior we want to see – so very important to also tax vehicles and natural gas (not just electricity)
• CAP Tax/Natural Gas Options: The board would like to see a block charge where you get charged much higher rates for going over “reasonable usage”.

• Timing
  • The board would like this to be addressed sooner rather than later, so the city doesn’t fall behind on its goals and targets.
• The board does not think we need to wait until after the 2020 Go/No Go vote because the community overwhelmingly supports carbon taxes, as shown by how much the CAP Tax has passed by, even with very little campaigning in 2015
• Other
  • The board suggested focusing on the industrial sector if the biggest concern is revenue.
• The board expressed general concern about fees or taxes being in line with social equity issues so the wealthy aren’t receiving all the breaks.
• The board asked for more time to discuss and will draft an official response by early October.

1. CALL TO ORDER
Environmental Advisory Board Vice-Chair, J. Vogel, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Approval of the July 18, 2018 minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS
None.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS
A. Prairie Dog Working Group Phase 2 Report and City Staff Analysis (Matheson)
   Urban Wildlife Coordinator, V. Matheson, presented her report of consideration of potential policy changes to the city’s prairie dog management approach.
   The Prairie Dog Working Group (PDWG) identified methodologies under existing plans that can be used in 2018 and beyond as well as longer-term ideas that need further exploration; require changes to city plans or policies; or, contemplate the implementation of new practices.
   The recommendations fall under three main goal categories: environmental, social and economic; and are further broken down into four key themes: 1) large-block habitat, 2) plague management, 3) conflict management and 4) funding.
   V. Matheson shared that if Phase 2 recommendations are fully implemented while maintaining current staffing and budget for existing projects, the projected staffing needs would be 4.7 – 10 FTE and $788,000 – $5.45 million (over 4 years) respectively.
   Staff will present the recommendations of the PDWG and staff analysis to relevant boards and city council throughout August and October 2018. Input from the boards will be provided to the city manager and to council for determining a course of action.
The board’s comments are captured in the Meeting Summary.

B. Revenue Needs and Potential Funding Sources for Climate Commitment Work
Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer, K. Tupper, and Sustainability Coordinator, K. Rankin, presented background on the Climate Action Plan Tax and the need to explore additional revenue sources, such as carbon taxes, for continued work on Boulder's climate commitment goals.

They identified problems that necessitate a broader investigation of funding options:
- There is currently no tax on natural gas or petroleum consumption.
- Current revenues from the CAP Tax are insufficient to meet the city’s environmental sustainability and resilience goals.

The presenters identified objectives and considerations for new or updated taxes.
K. Tupper and K. Rankin outlined tax options under consideration under the categories electricity, natural gas, transportation and additional options such as voluntary offsets.
They offered criteria to evaluate options and the next steps of hiring a financial rate consultant to help analyze options in preparation for a City Council study session in October.

The board’s comments are captured in the Meeting Summary

6. OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES
None.

7. MATTERS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD, CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY
   A. Joint Board Meeting Planning (Board)
      Time did not allow for discussion on this topic.

8. DEBRIEF MEETING/CALENDAR CHECK
   A. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29, 6-8 pm.
   B. The joint board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19 from 5-8 pm.

9. ADJOURNMENT
The Environmental Advisory Board adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Approved:

[Signature]

Date 8/28/18
LGBTQ Pride Week  
September 4-9, 2018

For more than 20 years, the City of Boulder has supported Out Boulder County in its work to create a more just and fair community for its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community members.

Diversity is a community asset that enhances and enriches the lives of all community members.

During the month of September, residents of Boulder join together to celebrate and honor the history, diversity and resilience of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities through Out Boulder County’s Priderfest and other events.

Boulder has led the way in the nation on many civil rights issues, fostering acceptance and preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Diversity is a community asset that enhances and enriches Boulder’s LGBTQ community that includes people of many races, ethnicities, religions and professions.

The City of Boulder reaffirms its commitment to the promotion and protection of the human rights of LGBTQ residents of its community.

The City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado, declares that September 4-September 9, 2018 as

**Boulder’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Pride Week**

and urges all residents to respect and honor our diverse community and celebrate and build a culture of inclusiveness and acceptance.

Suzanne Jones, Mayor
OMBUDS DAY
October 11, 2018

The City of Boulder is committed to fostering a community that promotes equity, fairness, respect, adherence to the law, and effective resolution of disputes within a richly diverse population.

Disagreements, conflicts, complaints, confusion, and questions will inevitably arise in any government or institution.

The fair and effective resolution of such issues is in the best interest of all parties involved.

The City of Boulder acknowledges the numerous benefits of providing Ombuds services for addressing issues such as bullying, bias, discrimination, sexual harassment, legal disputes, employment concerns, interpersonal conflict and unethical behavior.

Ombuds programs come in many variations, serve a variety of constituents, and adhere to different standards of practice depending on their role and function in helping constituents address a broad range of questions, disputes, complaints, and concerns.

The following Ombudsman Offices have been established in the City of Boulder: AAA Long-Term Care Ombudsman (Advocate Ombuds) and the University of Colorado/Boulder Ombuds (Organizational Ombuds); and they provide highly valued conflict resolution services.

The City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado, declares October 11, 2018 as

OMBUDS DAY

and encourage all residents and officials of the City of Boulder to become familiar with the Ombuds offices and to support and utilize these essential services.

Suzanne Jones, Mayor
Pollinator Appreciation Month
September 2018

Honeybees, bumblebees, other native bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and many other species are essential partners as pollinators in the production of our food supply. Pollinators provide essential services and environmental benefits that maintain the health and beauty of our grasslands, forests, meadows and other natural areas and are necessary for the diverse and thriving ecosystems that support life.

However, pollinators are declining, which is placing our food security and natural environment in peril. It is crucial for our community to take action by planting a variety of native flowers to provide safe, pesticide-free forage to support pollinators and other wildlife.

As our community enjoys the bountiful autumn harvest and the regeneration of our natural lands from the tireless work of pollinators, the City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado declares September 2018

Pollinator Appreciation Month

and encourages all residents, businesses and institutions to join together in recognizing, protecting and celebrating pollinators.

Suzanne Jones, Mayor