



Parks & Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road • Longmont, CO 80503
303-678-6200 • POSinfo@bouldercounty.org
www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org

PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023

Location: Boulder County Courthouse
1325 Pearl Street, Third Floor, Boulder

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Darren Beck
AGENDA ITEM:	Water Use Efficiency and Telemetry Project Status Report
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information Only

The Water Use Efficiency and Telemetry Project (WUETP) optimizes County irrigation water management, mitigates impacts to climate change, and protects the long-term viability of agriculture on Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) lands. The St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District awarded the County a \$50,000 grant to fund this project from ballot issue 7A to purchase and install equipment on County properties within the District's boundary. The Parks and Open Space Agricultural Resources Division greatly appreciates partnering with the District and as part of the grant award conditions, is providing this project update to the Parks and Open Space Advisory Board.

The goal of the WUETP is to optimize water management on agricultural lands owned and managed by Boulder County in an effort to build drought resiliency, improve the yield of available water, and protect the long-term viability of agriculture in the County. To achieve this goal, BCPOS will install flow measuring devices, soil moisture sensors, and telemetry equipment on and near pivot/lateral sprinklers to measure and monitor the application of irrigation water on County agricultural lands. These data will enable staff and tenants to make adjustments and identify water application and availability issues in real time.

Additional project information and current project status are below:

- Installed 29 flow meters
- Additional 7 flow meters will be installed this winter
- Working with vendors and County process to purchase soil moisture probes and telemetry equipment. Anticipate to purchase equipment in January 2023
- Soil moisture probes and telemetry should be installed and operational by the beginning of the 2023 irrigation season
- We will schedule a training of the equipment and associated software with the vendor and our agricultural tenants
- We plan to lead a tour for District staff and board in the Spring after installation of the equipment