



MEETING OF THE PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Third Floor Hearing Room

County Court House

1325 Pearl Street, Boulder

Members Present: Janet George
Tony Lewis
Trace Baker
Kristine Johnson
Derek Turner
Carol Byerly

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**

3. **Approval of Last Month's Minutes**

Moved by Trace Baker

Seconded by Kristine Johnson

APPROVED

4. **Presentations**

4.1 **Oil and Gas in Boulder County 2024**

Presenters: Michael Sylvester, Oil and Gas Regulatory Specialist (BCPOS); Kate Burke, Senior Assistant County Attorney (CAO); Horace (Rusty) Crane, Oil and Gas Specialist (Public Health)

Action Requested: Information Only

Q: What are the identities of the VOCs and what are those impacts?

Response: There are a long list of VOCs. Our equipment doesn't differentiate between different gasses, with the exception of methane. All VOCs are regulated in the state.

Q: If a farmer has land above the mineral rights, do they not have any control over those minerals or over what activity takes place?

Response: The owner of the mineral rights has control over any mineral that lies beneath. Drilling operators cannot interfere with activity on the surface, or a farmer's ability to farm.

Q: Does anyone actually check for ownership of mineral rights during the permitting process?

Response: Not really. When the operator files its application to the state, they will sign a certification that they own the mineral rights. When we have asked for evidence of that, the operator has refused to provide it and the agency has declined to demand the evidence. We have found that they simply take the operator's word for it.

Public Comment:

None

4.2 Elk Management Plans Reauthorization and Status Update

Staff Presenter: Jon DeCoste, Elk Management Coordinator

Action Requested: Recommendation to BOCC

Q: What type of hazing are you doing now?

Response: Currently, we are not using hazing. We might have a team of people go out wearing orange to see if that is enough to get the elk moving, since they now associate the color orange as a threat.

Q: How would the study of using rifles be conducted?

Response: I'd like to solicit public feedback again and get recommendations from CPW.

Q: Do rifles have increased accuracy, as well as increased range? Will there be lessor chance of stray bullets?

Response: Yes, I think so. The typography would also limit any stray bullets from going any farther. The accuracy will also be improved with rifles and better knock-down power.

Q: You mentioned the history of hunter safety at Rabbit Mountain. Do you think that would be a sufficient predictor for safety at Red Hill?

Response: Yes. Because of the way we have set up our program, we end up with safe and ethical hunters who don't take questionable shots.

Q: Before BCPOS owned Red Hill, weren't the land owners allowing rifle hunting?

Response: Yes.

Q: POSAC received a written public comment regarding Chronic Wasting Disease. Can you address this?

Response: All elk harvested in 2021 came back negative for CWD. It is something we look out for, but it's really something that CPW manages.

Public Comment:

Amy Strombotne, Boulder County. She believes overhunting has occurred and no elk currently remain on Rabbit Mountain. She asked POSAC to not reauthorize the elk management plan. She also thinks rifles are not safe for populated areas.

Michael Moss, Kilt Farm, Boulder County. There is a large herd near his farm that has caused a good deal of damage. He suspects that elk are coming from other areas where hunting is allowed. He would like to see management solutions for more urban areas.

Moved by Carol Byerly

Seconded by Kristine Johnson

The plan was reauthorized for short-range weapons. Staff was directed to return with a separate plan for rifle hunting after a public process.

APPROVED

5. Public Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

Cindy Johnson, East Boulder County. She asked POSAC to make a recommendation to the BOCC to revisit the issue of continuing the open ride sessions at the fairgrounds and take additional public comment on the matter.

POSAC members discussed the issue of the open ride and whether they should make a recommendation to the BOCC to revisit the issue. After discussion, POSAC decided to not make a recommendation.

6. POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

Trace Baker thanked Tony Lewis for the personal time he has used to elevate the issue of the open ride sessions at the fairgrounds.

7. Director's Update

- Prairie Run is heading towards 90% design on the SW section, including parking and trails. We are still aiming for 2025 completion of this section.
- Prescribed burning is happening on both BCPOS and non-county lands.
- Cardinal Mill Mine – staff is working with two consultants on determining temporary and permanent mitigation for the DRMS Water Quality permit violations. We'll have a more detailed presentation for POSAC in the near future. One thing to be aware of is the GIR Mining Company is requesting to continue

and expand mining operations known as the Cross Gold Mine. Boulder County is providing input on this application and the public can do the same.

- We expect to have a decision on POSAC vacancies by early April.
- Women's History Month "Moving Forward Together". This is a good time to look at the history of influential women have played in the creation and management of open space. "Citizen Ruth" about Ruth Wright, aired at the BIFF and is available for purchase on-line. In our BCPOS history, we have this short film about Carolyn Holmberg, and we'd like to share it in honor of Women's History Month. Carolyn was influential in broadening open space and helping make it what it is today.

8. Adjournment

9:08 p.m.