



MEETING OF THE PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Third Floor Hearing Room

County Court House

1325 Pearl Street, Boulder

Members Present: Janet George
Tony Lewis
Kristine Johnson
Derek Turner
Joan Lutz
John White
Viki Lawrence

Members Excused: Trace Baker
Carol Byerly

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

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

Approved with one edit suggested.

Moved by Tony Lewis

Seconded by Viki Lawrence

APPROVED

4. **Presentations**

4.1 **Cliffside Property Acquisition**

Staff Presenter: Tina Burghardt, Land Officer Supervisor

Action Requested: Information Only

Q: Did the fire have any impacts to the plant community or to the rest of the site?

Response: Next week we'll be out there for the Phase 1 environmental assessment, so we're learn more from that visit. From what I understand, the site has been cleaned up as much as it can be since the fire.

Q: Why was this paid for with Lottery funds? What is the difference between this and other open space properties?

Response: This is to preserve the flexibility of the future use of the property. If the county decided to give the property to a native tribal nation, that is not an open space use and so open space funds would limit that use.

Q: The total amount is \$1,160,000. The one building right is valued at \$1,060,000, but that is contained within the acreage?

Response: It's just a different way of looking at it. We tend to look at values per acre, but also per building right. In this case, there was an appraisal done, so that was the number.

Q: Does the building right remain intact?

Response: The county acquires the building right, but it won't stay on the property any longer. We won't move it somewhere else to be used. Technically, it's no longer attached to the property and usable on that site.

Q: Is there a pool of trust fund money that was allocated to the county?

R: The Colorado Lottery sends 50% of the proceeds to Great Outdoors Colorado and that gets allocated out on a grant-making basis. The other 50% goes to municipalities and counties around the state. The county's allocation is around \$515,000/year. At the end of last year, the fund balance was just under \$4.7 million.

Q: POSAC only gives recommendations if it's open space dollars being spent?

Response: That's correct. It's written in the sales tax language. That's why we bring you everything that sales tax money is being spent on and ask for a recommendation, but we also bring you other purchases as information items. Some of these deals move quickly, and so we have more flexibility in when those other deals close instead of waiting for the next POSAC meeting.

Q: I would love to have a presentation about the county's relationships with tribal nations.

Response: We can absolutely bring you an update on that, but not right away. The county recently hired Karen Wilde to be the Native American/American Indian Relations Manager. Karen works in the County Administrator's office, but she's only been in the job for a few weeks. The BOCC is currently looking to develop a strategy for the land restoration process involving tribal groups.

Public Comment:

None

4.2 Asset Management System Implementation Progress Report

Staff Presenter: Christy Spielman, Asset Management System Coordinator

Action Requested: Information Only

Q: Will other wildlife sites be included, in addition to raptor nests?

Response: We can certainly consider showing these areas. We have that data already, it's just not built into the system yet.

Q: Are other county entities creating programs like this?

Response: There has been a desire, but collaboration with other entities has been challenging. One thing we're collaborating on are the locations of all gates and passages. This information is important for emergencies. The rangers are

excited about including this information. This is now a countywide effort, working with the Public Works department. We are also working with the Transportation department to identify all culverts in the county and determine who has the responsibility for them.

Q: Is the system available to the public or other municipalities?

Response: The system is not available publicly because there is sensitive information, but we can share parts of the information. A light version of this might be available to the public in the future.

Public Comment:

None

4.3 2026 Capital and Stewardship Projects

Staff Presenter: Tina Nielsen, Special Projects Coordinator

Action Requested: Recommendation to BOCC

Q: What federal funding are you anticipating?

Response: Our Prince Lake dam project is FEMA funded and we do think we will be reimbursed as promised. If not, the county may be responsible for the bill.

Q: Why is there \$600,000 reserved for planning work for the wildlife crossing? That seems like a lot.

Response: That cost includes planning work and also conceptual design by a design consultant. A bike lane is also being planned for that area, so we need to integrate with that project.

Q: Has the county sought out other sources of funding for the Cardinal Mill cleanup?

Response: Funding is very tight right now. We have applied for a Brownfield grant, so we are hopeful that goes through.

Q: If POSAC recommends approval, does the BOCC go line by line to approve?

Response: We have a \$2 million line item. Projects that are \$250,000 or less gets lumped together in that \$2 million. Anything over \$250,000 gets its own line item.

Q: Is there nothing for the fairgrounds in this budget? Is there any current plan for the fairgrounds?

Response: There is nothing for the fairgrounds in this budget. The fairgrounds is maintained by the county, not specifically Parks & Open Space, so it is not included in our budget. The plan for the fairgrounds is currently paused because of the cost.

Public Comment:

None

Moved by Derek Turner

Seconded by Kristine Johnson

APPROVED

5. **Public Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda**

None

6. **POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda**

Derek Turner drove past the Rangeview property that was recommended for purchase last month. He asked if it would be possible to have a designated lot for stopping to take in the view from 79th Street?

Response: The county hasn't closed on the property yet. Once we own it, that suggestion will get passed along to see if it's a possibility.

7. **Director's Update (Heidi Wagner, acting)**

- We received a donation for a conservation easement covering over 137 acres valued at \$1m west of Gold Hill. The property is part of the Fourmile Creek/Bald Mountain Environmental Conservation Area, a Rare Plant Area, a Significant Natural Community, and has View Protection Corridor features. The interest was donated by Rick and Breida Geesaman.
- Education & Outreach hosted "Animals on the Farm" at the Agricultural Heritage Center this past weekend. A big crowd and lots of volunteers and staff enjoyed sharing the farming history of Boulder County.
- Ag tenant Dan Lisco hired a drone company to seed tef on his leased ag field as a cover crop and for grazing, which helps improve soil health.

- Tina Burghardt and Janis Whisman in Real Estate received approval from the County Commissioners to purchase the Rangeview Property on Gunbarrel Hill. This was the property proposed for a tennis facility last year.
- The BCPOS Podcast series has launched and the first three episodes are available.

8. Adjournment

8:33 p.m.