



MEETING OF THE PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 25, 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
Joan Lutz
John White
Viki Lawrence

Boulder County aims to ensure all digital content and documents are accessible. While efforts have been made to maximize accessibility, some types of content have inherent technical limitations. See the [Accessibility Statement](#) to learn more.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes**

The minutes were approved. Tony Lewis and Derek Turner abstained.

4. **Presentations**

4.1 **Left Hand Outdoor Challenge, Boulder County Parks & Open Space's Teen Engagement Program**

Staff Presenter: Sully Tun-Ake, Park Ranger, Community Engagement Specialist

Action Requested: Information Only

Q: How do you recruit students and how do you choose the participants?

Response: We post this program on our Discover platform for volunteers. We also market on social media and send it out to our community partners and schools. Students complete an application where we ask questions to get a sense of who has time and capacity to participate in the programs.

Q: Do all rangers participate in the program?

Response: We have great staff and leadership support and our ranger staff sign up for the challenges where they have an interest in participating.

Q: Do you try to keep up with your alumni to track their success?

Response: I like to keep in touch with students personally after they leave the program. We are having conversations around how to better stay in contact and track former participants' future progress.

Public Comment:

None

4.2 **Behind the Scenes at the BCPOS IT/BA Workgroup**

Staff Presenter: Karl Fiderer, Business Analyst

Action Requested: Information Only

Q: Does BCPOS still get services from the county IT department or are you totally separate?

Response: Yes, we partner with Boulder County IT for infrastructure and enterprise application, which is provided for all county departments. My team focuses on Parks & Open Space-specific technologies.

Q: Do all staff get laptops or do some have desktops?

Response: We are currently approximately 95% laptop only use, which started during the pandemic when many staff starting working remotely.

Q: When BCPOS collects data, is it sharable across the department?

Response: There are a couple hundred different applications that we use and most is internal and not shared. MS Teams allows better file sharing across departments. Boulder County has one GIS system that is shared across the county, with each department applying its own data.

Q: What are you doing with LiDAR?

Response: We use it with UAS drones and get great imaging with our historical buildings and vegetation maps. I'm not sure all the ways it is being used by staff.

Q: Can we ask for an update on the rollout of body cameras? This is a sensitive issue with communities.

Response: I would be happy to come back to give an update.

Public Comment:

None

4.3 Working Lands Conservation

Staff Presenter: Erin Maier, Senior Agricultural Resource Specialist

Action Requested: Information Only

Q: What feedback do you get from ranchers when they are told they will need to limit cattle? Do you get a lot of cooperation?

Response: We start collaboratively and step-by-step and impress that our goal is sustainability so we can keep agriculture in place into the future. The level of cooperation is a mixed bag, but it's mostly good.

Q: Is there an incentive to ranchers to follow the grazing plan?

Response: It starts with trust-building, but I also need to prioritize our conservation goals.

Q: Will you be analyzing data? How will you measure success?

Response: We need time and money to collect real-time data. We are beginning to have those conversations to see what data collection process looks like. That will include partnering with CSU Extension, the Conservation District, and others. We are participating with Dr. Jonathan Lundgren's 1000 Farms Initiative. In our Cropland Policy, we outlined a host of various monitoring that we would do. It's very complex, and we are not researchers, so a lot of this is monitored by others. Our Soil Health program provides grants to farmers who are implementing these practices.

Public Comment:

None

4.4 Boulder County Wildfire Partners and Parks & Open Space

Staff Presenter: Jim Webster, Wildfire Partners Manager

Action Requested: Information Only

Q: You've focused on rural homes. I live in the City of Boulder, but only two blocks off city open space. Would your program apply to urban homes?

Response: Historically, we started our wildfire regulations in the western portion of the county where lots are bigger. 100 feet is the standard defensible space. Not everyone has the same ability to reduce their fire risk the same way. Homes in higher density areas have a different strategy. Mitigating on the western side of the county provides some protection to the cities. The City of Boulder has its own program that is a little different from ours.

Q: Can you talk a little more about the private-public partnership piece?

Response: We started with over 40 organizations, including the private sector like insurance companies, to develop the program and recognize risk reduction by homeowners. We focused on insurability, not affordability.

Q: As a Louisville resident, I was frustrated that the city let new homes get built after the fire without following all the new stringent fire mitigation requirements. Is there a push to make that happen in an urban environment?

Response: The toughest time to pass new regulations is after a crisis, when people are facing hardships. Louisville has taken action recently to look at the code. There is also a new state minimum code.

Public Comment:

None

5. Public Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

None

6. POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

Carol spoke about Boulder County Parks & Open Space being her good news place and praised the Conservation Awards ceremony that highlighted community efforts.

Kristine thought last month's presentations by Therese and Janis were excellent.

Tony commended Therese Glowacki on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for her service.

Janet praised the recent tour of the Prescott Wetlands and Conger Mine.

7. Director's Update

- Prairie Run – Goodland Construction was selected and will begin work within the next couple weeks.
- Prince Lake is the agricultural irrigation pond just west of Erie on 119th. Construction on the dam, which entails raising the dam height on the downstream side to protect the neighborhood and the adjacent road. It is projected to be complete in the first quarter of next year.
- Monarch Trail - a portion of the LOBO Trail, will be resurfaced and starting next week, it will mean a trail reroute on this busy commuter trail. It could take more than a month for this work.
- The Building & Historic Preservation work group is using a new fabricated shake to resemble shake shingle roofs that are fire resistant. While more expensive, they should last about 5 times as long.
- Agricultural Division Manager, Mike Foster, resigned this month and we'll be recruiting for his replacement in the next several weeks.
- County Administrator, Jana Petersen, will start the process in filling the director's position. It's possible that POSAC members will have a role helping to choose.

- CSU Extension launched “Landscape Leaders” program, which trains community members in HOAs to help spread education about sustainable practices like water wise landscape, and wildfire mitigation.
- Twelve of fourteen Flood Buy-out properties have been transferred to private owners These are the properties purchased by FEMA and HUD that will not allow any permanent structures.
- POS Conservation Awards were held this week. Winners include: Linda Holubar Sanabria for the Spruce Gulch property, Dave Sutherland for his public nature programs, Harvest of All First Nations and their founder Andrea Yoloteotl Nawage, Stefanie Wendorf who lends animals to the Agricultural Heritage Center, and our Outstanding Volunteers Amy Iwata and Roberta Johnston.
- Soil Revolution – supported by BCPOS, OSMP, NRCS. You can sign up now for the Dec. 11 Conference held in Boulder at the JCC.

8. **Adjournment**

9:05 p.m.

This is only a summary of the meeting. The meeting video is viewable on the [POSAC webpage](#).