

**MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, January 25, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Christian Meyer in the Hearing Room of the Board of Commissioners, Third Floor, Boulder County Courthouse, Boulder, Colorado.

POSAC Members in Attendance

Present: David Batts, Lisa Dilling, Sean McCoy, Mary McQuiston, Christian Meyer, Janice Moore, Melanie Muckle, Dave Robertson and Eric Vogelsberg.

Excused: Christine Quinlan

Staff in Attendance

Summer Adamietz, Melissa Arnold, Therese Glowacki, Tina Nielsen, Larissa Read and Ron Stewart.

December 14, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Dave Robertson moved to accept the December 14, 2006 minutes. *Sean McCoy* seconded the motion. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda – None

Amendment to the Boulder County-Lafayette Jointly Owned Properties, Management Plan (Stephenson-Nelson) * Action Requested- Recommendation to BOCC

Staff Presenter: Summer Adamietz

Discussion

See staff memo for presentation detail. *Melanie Muckle* expressed concern that the trail was not realigned in consideration of the burrowing owl nests and that the trail is being sited without knowledge of nest location. Because of surrounding development threats and other considerations, she suggested that burrowing owl habitat be prioritized above riparian areas in this case. She would prefer staff follows CDOW's suggestion to utilize roads, etc. Citing the memo, *Mary McQuiston* pointed out that a study would be done before the trail is built, so she is not inclined to make such a recommendation. *Eric Vogelsberg* expressed concern about restricting recreation to trails in this urban, high use area and questioned its enforceability or necessity. He suggested that a more enforceable policy might have a trail corridor with posted closures to allow for more wandering. *Summer Adamietz* responded that this restriction was based on the 2004 management plan provisions, CDOW's response and discussion Resource Management and Protection staff. *Ron Stewart* commented that the entire property, and not just the wildlife closure area, was deemed worthy of protection; however, by not designating the entire property as a wildlife closure area, a trail is allowed with restrictions. *Dave Robertson* commented that he is inclined to let the amendment stand because it is easier to become less restrictive over time rather than vice versa. *Eric Vogelsberg* disagreed, stating that a closure can be impossible to open. He has no problem protecting resources, but is concerned with public perception. Support can be better generated when a situation allows for a reasonable amount of access, is not overly restrictive and fits into the context of the property. *Lisa Dilling* commented that staff should not be hesitant to restrict use out of fear that the restriction could not be

enforced, especially if the resource is of value. *Janice Moore* commented that staff should not be too liberal with access to this property because of the nearby developments that are going in.

Public Comment - None

Motion

Dave Robertson moved to accept the amendment as presented, and *Sean McCoy* seconded the motion. **Motion passed 7 to 2. In favor:** *David Batts, Lisa Dilling, Sean McCoy, Mary McQuiston, Christian Meyer, Janice Moore and Dave Robertson.* **Opposed:** *Melanie Muckle and Eric Vogelsberg.*

Closed Property Update * Action Requested- Recommendation to BOCC
Staff Presenter: Therese Glowacki

Discussion

See staff memo for presentation detail. Members expressed concern with the way the closed acreage was presented in the staff memo, and how the media and public might perceive it. Members would prefer that the acreage be broken out into different categories, differentiating between conservation easements (which were purchased with the understanding that they would never be open), restricted properties with trail-only access (as these are not completely 'closed' if there have trails), completely closed properties, agricultural properties closed completely vs. those with on-trail use only, properties with public safety issues, contractual agreement category, etc. *Eric Vogelsberg and Melanie Muckle* suggested that staff reconsider the general closure of agricultural properties to allow for some on-trail use.

Public Comment - None

Motion

Dave Robertson moved to accept the closed property report as presented. *Mary McQuiston* seconded the motion. **Motion was withdrawn.**

David Batts moved to accept the closed property report, with a request that the memo be revised to delineate which properties are within the Department's discretion to manage; and out of those properties, delineate which are fully closed, which are open with restrictions and which are fully open. *Sean McCoy* seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Comments Following the Motion

Sean McCoy believes this addition to the motion will help clarify things for the public and create a better impression of closures.

Resource Management 2006 Update * Information Only
Staff Presenter: Therese Glowacki

Discussion

See staff memo for presentation detail. *Eric Vogelsberg* asked about the long-term effects on forest nutrient levels by removing trees to fuel the biomass facility. *Therese Glowacki* said

research projects have been conducted, and staff is confident that there is an excess of biomass from years of fire suppression and its removal will not adversely affect the long-term ecological balance of the forest; such practice is supported by the industry. *David Batts* suggested that native riparian vegetation (specifically, larger riparian trees such as cottonwoods in flood plain areas) be planted to recapture the habitat after Russian olives are removed along banks. *Therese Glowacki* asked that members make field trip requests in the next couple months.

Therese Glowacki mentioned that DOW will request permission to work on open space properties for mountain lion studies. *Eric Vogelsberg* suggested staff be proactive and formulate a position on the issue of mountain lion population control and carrying capacity on open space. Staff is aware that the public may perceive this as a study for population control when it is only for tracking mountain lion ranges. *Melanie Muckle* suggested keeping the Louisville board (and the boards for other communities where lions have been) in the loop.

Director's Update

First, *Ron Stewart* requested member suggestions for and feedback on Resource Management 2007 Updates. Second, the County decided to contract someone to do the resource inventory on Walker Ranch as a part of the management plan, and will accept BATCO's money for a trail location study; the CIP that went before the BOCC includes this revision. Third, the BOCC approved the weed protocol as proposed, with the addition that a committee of experts will address knapweed and use of herbicides in the South Boulder County buffer area. Fourth, Land Conservation Awards will be held March 6th in the Parks office in Longmont; details to come. Fifth, the County closed on Verhey today. Lastly, BOCC will not consider for reappointment anyone who has served 3 full terms on POSAC.

Sean McCoy inquired about providing input into the Sam's Club Construction site in Weld County; he is concerned about the impact on the adjacent Peschel Open Space, which is jointly owned with Longmont. *Christian Meyer* commented that POSAC should at least be made aware of actions/construction that may affect nearby County open space. *Eric Vogelsberg* said that in light of the County's process of inviting adjacent property owners to comment on action on County Open Space, it is appropriate that Weld County hear from the County on the proposed project since it will affect open space. *Ron Stewart* said it is up to POSAC as a board to decide whether to become involved, and then make a request to BOCC. He will ask the planning staff if they received a referral (unsure since the project is in Weld County).

Motion

Sean McCoy moved to recommend to BOCC that they consider having staff provide comments to the Longmont Planning Commission and City Council regarding the Sam's Club project. *Eric Vogelsberg* seconded the motion. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.