

MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



Land Conservation & Stewardship Board

September 10, 2025

Regular Meeting – Excerpt

Members:

Ross Cunniff, Chair
Scott Mason, Vice Chair
Denise Culver, Member
Jennifer Gooden, Member

Holger Kley, Member
Elena Lopez, Member
Mark Sears, Member
Tom Shoemaker, Member

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL:

LCSB: Denise Culver, Jennifer Gooden, Elena Lopez, Mark Sears, Tom Shoemaker, Ross Cunniff

Absent: Holger Kley, Scott Mason

NAD Staff: Katie Donahue, Bernadette Kuhn, Nick Van-Lanen, Tawnya Ernst, Julia Feder, Aaron Reed, Elaine Calaba, Emily Shingler, Matt Parker, Mary Boyts

City Staff: April Silva, Assistant City Attorney, Jin Wang, Civil Engineer, Dana Hornkuhl, Director, Civil Engineering, Jason Stutzman, Special Projects Manager

Excerpt related to this Council Meeting Agenda Item: Fossil Creek Wetlands Natural Area – Right of Way Request Related to Restoration of Fossil Creek and Stanton Creek

6. ACTION ITEMS

ROW Request Related to Restoration of Fossil Creek and Stanton Creek

Tawnya Ernst, Land Conservation Lead Specialist stated she was seeking a recommendation from the LCSB that City Council approve the declaration of a certain portion of City-owned Property on Fossil Creek Wetlands Natural Area as right-of-way.

Tawnya described the ROW easement as one element of the Utilities' comprehensive stream rehabilitation project along Fossil and Stanton Creeks. The existing culvert is structurally deficient and blocks fish passage and stream habitat connectivity. With the ecological benefits of the overall umbrella project, including restoring native fish passage and restoring the connected segment of Fossil Creek, far exceeding the monetary value of the ROW, the typical fees for ROW declaration will be waived for this project.

LCSB Question: Do we know what the culvert design would be?

Staff Answer: The new culvert is 21'x12' concrete box with a natural bottom and an inert, waterproof membrane on the top.

LCSB Comment: What is the source of funding for the project?

Staff Answer: The stream rehabilitation portion comes out of the Utility Stormwater

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funds. The project funding is approved through the BFO process and is a high priority for Council. The bridge program is responsible for replacing the culvert.

LCSB Question: Is the aim to keep the 100-year flood inside the channel or is there any kind of flood plain connectivity in the open space?

Staff Answer: This section of the channel is complex. The flow that passes underneath the railroad cannot transfer a 100-year flood event and will back up and overtop Trilby into the open space. The larger culvert will probably fully convey a 25-year event and will help reduce velocity, water pressure and scouring during larger storm events. The stream bank between Trilby and the railroad will be laid back to open up flows.

LCSB Question: Is the intent to increase the size of the channel so that it can maintain free, unimpeded flow rather than trying to introduce complexity to slow down the energy of the water?

Staff Answer: As the velocity and water levels rise, the laid back the banks allow the water to spread out, slow down and lose energy. We are not able to open it enough for a 100-year event. The railroad trestle causes water to back up and helps with the stability of the channel. The goal of the stream rehabilitation program is to stabilize channels and open things up as much as possible.

Member Sears made a motion that the Land Conservation and Stewardship Board recommend that City Council approve the declaration of a certain portion of City-owned Property on Fossil Creek Wetlands Natural Area as right-of-way. Member Shoemaker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed, 6-0.