



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

Minutes
March 23, 2017

Meeting Summary

OSTAC heard presentations on Broomfield's prairie dog management policy, how environmental reports are performed by Smith Environmental, and how prairie dog relocation sites are selected. Citizens commented on prairie dog management, the Great Western Reservoir relocation site, and the current prairie dog colony near the Midway and Lowell intersection. This was followed by a discussion among the committee and staff and recommendations from the committee. The format of the E-bike pilot program and the 2018 CIP projects for open space were discussed as well.

Roll Call

Present:

Patrick Tennyson, Chair
Ray Churgovich
Todd Cohen
Doug Grumann
Terra Lenihan
Mike McLane
Chris Petrizzo
Councilmember Liz Law-Evans

Absent:

Councilmember Mike Shelton

Interested Citizens:

Other staff and consultants in attendance:

Kevin Standbridge, Deputy City and County Manager
Kristan Pritz, Open Space and Trails Director
Gary Schnoor, Park Services Superintendent
Ryan Jensen, Park Operations Supervisor
Nathan Kelbe, Open Space Coordinator
Jason Vahling, Public Health Director
Ellen Cancino, Administrative Analyst
Pete Dunlaevy, Senior Open Space and Trails Coordinator
Holly D'Oench, Open Space and Trails Technician
Rebecca Hannon, Smith Environmental
Larry Rogstad, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Peter Boyatt, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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1. Call to Order by Patrick Tennyson, 6:06 p.m.
2. Introduction of Interested Citizens. Introduce and Welcome New OSTAC members Chris Petrizzo and Mike McLane.
No other interested citizen comments.
OSTAC welcomed two new members: Chris Petrizzo and Michael McLane.
3. Presentation on the Broomfield Policies for Prairie Dog Conservation and Management, Topics related to the Prairie Dog Colony at the Southeast Intersection of Lowell and Midway Boulevards and Next Steps; Public Comment/Questions; OSTAC Questions; OSTAC Comments; OSTAC Chair Summary.

Kristan provided a presentation on Broomfield's prairie dog management policy. Kristan described the background and history of the policy, including how it was developed, the timeline, and the main goals of the policy. The goals include preserving prairie dogs, meeting the community's needs, and minimizing the loss of wildlife. The three steps of preference for removal of an established prairie dog colony were outlined, which are: 1) live relocation; 2) capture and donation to a wildlife recovery program; 3) lethal control.

Kristan explained the Pro Forma permit provision in the Policies, when it is permissible, and how this type of permit was developed. Broomfield manages prairie dogs on public land *and* private land in Broomfield.

Broomfield addresses the concerns of adjacent landowners by providing a 500-foot buffer zone between a prairie dog relocation site and private property. Broomfield helps conserve prairie dogs locally by maintaining areas on public land, like the prairie dog preserve in the Broomfield County Commons. Kristan described the current permissible lethal control substances and how Broomfield is researching the potential use of pressurized carbon monoxide as another alternative.

Pete explained the process for selecting a prairie dog relocation site. There are several requirements including proper vegetation and the size of the site. Pete showed a map of all open space sites in Broomfield with overlays of the required 500 ft. buffer and areas where prairie dogs currently exist, and explained how the buffer area precludes the possibility of some sites for consideration as relocation areas. Great Western Reservoir was noted along with the size of the relocation area.

The history of prairie dog activities and management in Broomfield was covered, as well as the previous prairie dog plague event, in 2009. The list of all relocations that have brought prairie dogs to Great Western Reservoir was shown.

Rebecca Hannon with Smith Environmental explained how Smith approaches habitat and vegetation surveys. Rebecca mentioned that during the 2014 survey of Great Western, there were prairie dogs but no formal population count was performed. The vegetation of

the site was described as well as the concerns Smith had over the soil profile.

In 2016, the survey was performed again along with a population estimate. 150-200 prairie dogs were estimated to be present at Great Western Reservoir.

Pete described the various habitat improvements that have happened at Great Western in the past and discussed some of the current conditions.

Jason Vahling described how the conclusion was reached that a plague event happened at Great Western. Experts from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) including a veterinarian and epidemiologist visited the area. They made a visual determination, based on evidence including reduced prairie dog activity and flies at burrows, that a plague event occurred. CDPHE collected fleas from the area, and the tests returned negative but the experts still believe that plague was present. Jason described the process of alerting the public to the presence of plague.

Pete followed up with an explanation of how the developer for an adjacent property at Midway Blvd. and Lowell Blvd. was fined for not abiding by Broomfield's policy on their (southern) parcel. The fine amount is set by Broomfield's municipal code, for all code violations. The northern parcel has a large, established colony, and relocation is the first preference for this site. If that is not possible, the next step would call for donation to a wildlife recovery program. Pete described the next steps in addressing this topic, including research on Delta Dusting, test plots for vegetation at Great Western, determining whether relocation can occur at Great Western this year, and potentially seeking a new relocation site in Broomfield.

Patrick Tennyson calls for questions from OSTAC members.

>Ray, can you discuss what Delta Dust is?

>Pete, it's a substance designed to kill fleas which are the main carrier for plague. Delta Dust is applied in the field and is a synthetic form of chrysanthemum;

>Ray, is it applied only after plague or when prairie dogs are there?

>Pete, we're researching that now. Typically it is applied after a plague event and we've never applied Delta Dust *before* plague has occurred. At least one agency is now applying it preemptively to prevent plague, and other agencies are researching this as well;

>Rebecca, Delta Dust kills other invertebrates as well, and that is part of the concern about frequently dusting;

>Liz, about relocating prairie dogs across county boundaries - have we ever asked to move prairie dogs to another county and has anyone asked us to move here?

>Pete, yes to both. We have not given permission and have not been given permission. I'm not aware of this being successful;

>Liz, the decrease in number of prairie dogs from 2014 to 2016, can you speculate the reason?

>Rebecca, we believe it was the plague occurrence. We performed counts last July and August - we don't think it's starvation or predation primarily;

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>Terra, do we know if plague is occurring in a more widespread way?

>Pete, we are not aware of any other plague events in Broomfield during that time period;

>Terra, are there prairie dog policies similar to ours?

>Pete, there are some; the city of Boulder and Boulder County have pretty progressive policies as well, among a few others; many agencies do not, and don't do live relocations at all.

>Chris, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has a guideline about the safety of relocation to plague area. What is the timeline - how long does plague persist?

>Peter Boyatt, we have researchers looking at plague and found that it will stay in the environment if you treat it or not; you can suppress it but it will always be there; researchers in Ft. Collins have developed a vaccine that they are currently testing on a limited basis;

>Chris, is there a guideline on the waiting period for relocation after plague?

>Peter Boyatt, 18 months is a conservative estimate, generally about a year is the recommendation; fleas can go into the burrows and survive; plague is only one consideration for relocations; if other variables allow, we will approve a permit; if you Delta Dust it won't help the current situation on the site -- it helps future relocations;

>Pete, we dusted in 2009 when we had plague and we were advised to wait one year for any relocations at that time;

>Todd, is this the only place we've had plague and is it connected to it being a relocation site?

>Pete, this is not the only site that has had plague - we saw plague in the Big Dry Creek area near 120th Avenue a few years ago that reached into Broomfield; when we do relocations, dusting is required at the trapping site, so any prairie dogs that go to the relocation site have been dusted;

Citizen Comments

>Joyce Peters, citizens enjoy seeing prairie dogs in the Willow Run area, and we are now seeing a smaller colony than in the past there too; what does negative mean for the plague testing?

>Jason, 'negative' means that plague was not found in the tests; the problem is that we aren't getting the full sample of the fleas; it's been a random sampling; it's possible the fleas we collected were newer and had not fed on an infected prairie dog; the key thing is the visual determination in activity.

>Janet Williams, were there any dead prairie dogs and did you test the prairie dogs?

>Jason, we did not see any dead prairie dogs, but we did see flies coming out of burrows; we used the visual die-off and absence of prairie dogs to determine the likely presence of plague.

>Deb Jones, were fleas collected where you saw flies and signs of more recent prairie dog activity?

>Jason, yes.

>Joyce Peters, how do we reconcile your presentation with the letter from Pam Wanek, dated March 9? What is the process for this reconciliation?

>Kristan, if you have specific questions, we can try to answer them now; Rebecca and I went through Pam's letter and discussed some of the key points; on some of the topics, they are different ways of approaching the issues; regarding the Hoogland research that was cited in Pam's letter--he studied in a large preserved prairie area and we are in a very different urban area; we will continue

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to study the the vegetation and we want to work with Pam Wanek and continue conversations; we want to have a dialogue;

>Joyce, would like to request that preventative measures be taken in regards to plague and developers not abiding by Broomfield's prairie dog policy.

>Mia Jones, which invertebrates which would be affected by Delta Dust?

>Rebecca, Delta Dust kills insects so it would kill any insects like beetles or flies that live in the burrows;

>Mia, why were signs posted?

>Rebecca, because the fleas that have the plague can bite humans and pass it on; people walking dogs in the area is a concern; the area is not fenced off and there are social trails; it is the professional opinion of CDPHE that it's plague.

>Mia, on the vaccine - are they in a test phase?

>Peter B., it's in test phase now; it's for research purposes only; other agencies may request to use it for research but it's highly regulated; it's applied in a bait;

>Mia, is there a timeline before it's used?

>Peter, I don't have an answer to that right now; our pathologist is working on it, but there is no direct timeline.

>Anna Rivas - I've heard it's been field trialed? Can Broomfield apply to have this used on the Midway prairie dogs?

>Peter B., in this instance I would say no, given the timeline; the research is regulated and funding has to be there and it has to be answering a research question;

>Deb Jones, regarding the efficacy of the bait - it might only work in young prairie dogs;

>Peter, it's not a quick vaccine, it's a preventative measure; it wont kill plague;

>Mia Jones, want to see the fines to developers be higher for violations.

>Angie Scovera, does Smith perform colony extermination? Is this conflict of interest?

>Rebecca, we hire wildlife biologists to do this work; we are not exterminators; we train them to be humane; Smith realized there was a gap in prairie dog services; we developed methodologies that are more humane and we much prefer live relocations and are excited to do relocations; as for the question on conflict of interest - we do site assessments for Broomfield and do a lot more than killing prairie dogs or relocating them;

>Angie, why not use an independent contractor?

>Nathan Kelbe, Smith is not the only contractor doing this work for us; we get bids every year and generally we go with lowest cost; we do this work in-house too; Smith isn't the contractor treating buffer zones, for example;

>Angie, but it seems like the party that is benefitting financially is doing the population reports;

>Kristan, we use a variety of biologists and volunteers for relocations; on certain sites, we like to stick with the biologist that works on that site and is familiar with it; it depends on things like when a firm can do the work or what we need from the firm, like whether they can do wildlife reports or not; also, extermination is cheaper than relocation, (i.e. the point was that a wildlife biologist would have a higher charge for doing a relocation over an extermination so as far as making money for the

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firm--relocation is more lucrative than extermination in general) I also think biologists are not a group that operate based solely on financial gain with their surveys and work; we are confident in the people we work with; we review the reports with experts on our staff as well;

>Angie, what's the percentage of relocations vs. exterminations?

>Kristan, we've relocated 1,000 prairie dogs since 2002; we don't track pro forma permit numbers of prairie dog exterminations; on the buffers zones we think it's best to manage those numbers rather than letting them get established in areas that are not preserved; physical barriers are not always effective; we have never exterminated an entire established colony, it's always been fringes of areas for the pro-forma work;

>Pete, to be clear -- we do not consider capture and donation to wildlife as an 'extermination'; we don't have the percentage totals for that, but relocation is always the first choice when space is available, but that isn't always an option; it is not an either/or decision; if we have space, we relocate; if we cannot relocate, we take them to wildlife recovery;

>Angie, do you relocate more than you destroy?

>Pete, as for numbers, we would have to look into the numbers because, again, it depends fully on whether Great Western has space;

>Deb Jones, can you get that figure for me?

>Pete, we can try, but for some years we don't have exact numbers, going back further.

>Angie, your last relocation was 2013 though;

>Pete, yes, that was when our relocation site was deemed to be full; it may also be useful to compare our relocations to other surrounding municipalities, as many municipalities don't do live relocations at all;

>Dottie Rawsky, the \$1,000 fine is not enough; it encourages developers to ignore the policy; the cost for relocating is a drop in the bucket for a developer; it's expensive but it's realistic; extermination has never been used in Broomfield?

>Kristan, I was referring to what happens when a public or private development project goes in, and an established colony needs to be removed; in that case, the options used have always been relocation or donation to wildlife recovery; we have not wiped out an entire colony for extermination; we do use lethal control to respond to growth of prairie dogs into new unsuitable habitat, as we have described earlier through the pro forma permit;

>Dottie, wasn't aluminum phosphide used in 2007-2008 north of 120th, east of Sheridan in front of the Walmart? I saw evidence of aluminum phosphide usage;

>Kristan, we had a developer on that property - Broomfield Corners - they had removed their prairie dogs, through wildlife recovery, I believe, but then the project stalled for awhile; they came back to develop and they came in and graded without checking for wildlife at that time; some prairie dogs had actually come back during the delay and were on the site; the developer went before City Council and now developers have to go back and do a final confirmation for wildlife or wetlands within 20 days of the work beginning; this was an action by the developer that was not intended;

>Dottie, the bottom line is we saw prairie dogs bleeding and I learned that it is from aluminum phosphide;

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>Larry Rostad, in terms of use of toxicants, aluminum phosphide has to be delivered as a pellet. Holes are backfilled so prairie dogs can't get out. If you saw that, we need a phone call because that is not supposed to happen; that is a result of not applying the toxicant properly; animals being moved to wildlife recovery have to be reported so we know where they are moving; they will not accept prairie dogs that have been killed with aluminum phosphide;

>Dottie, could one of those other methods have caused that?

>Larry Rogstad, this is speculation but the prairie dogs should be dying in the hole and you shouldn't be seeing that; I can't say for sure if that's what caused it;

>Deb Jones, we've worked on sites and we have seen prairie dogs dig out even when it's done properly;

>Larry Rogstad, I would still say in that case it was not done properly;

>Dottie, if they die this way, if they stay in the hole, that doesn't mean they're not dying this way; I ask that every effort is made to relocate; I want humaneness; are the projected cuts by the Federal government and the EPA and regulation repeals going to affect any policies and procedures of Broomfield?

>Kevin, it would not affect Broomfield or our policies;

>Larry, there is a statewide basis of prairie dog management; we would not likely change anything; CPW is funded through sale of licenses and taxes of ammunition; prairie dog management is multi-tiered and Broomfield can create an ordinance that meets its needs and it will be different than other agencies; they are a local agency and is up to them to decide what the fines are.

>Deb Jones, I agree that the developer fine is too low - please reassess it; I encourage Broomfield to look at the CPW program and become part of plague vaccine research; we have seen that plague moves down State Highway 128 from Highway 93, the plague from 2009 went over to Arvada; it impacts a huge region; the hit was larger than their dispersal range; I would like to work with Pam and Broomfield to reseed the relocation area; I want to see the Midway colony relocated; I counted 125 prairie dogs in the Midway colony, and there are probably around 200 prairie dogs there;

>Erica Soter, do people die of plague?

>Rebecca, plague has human health consequences, and yes, if untreated, people could die of plague;

>Erica, my research says two people died in the last 50 years from plague; the health concern for humans is really low; we should be focused on conserving prairie dogs;

>Larry, we know that there have been some human plague cases, and it is something that we have to take seriously from a public health standpoint.

>Charles Cutler, likes to see so much support and feels animal lives matter but it sometimes seems like development matters more; also feel that the fine to developers is way too low;

>Pam Wanek, the major problem that most local governments are failing to address is large scale prairie dog conservation; Broomfield is doing a fantastic job but the plan could use tweaks; I want to

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talk about plague - plague is in the system - it's in 70 species in North America; at a site in Boulder we translocated prairie dogs to an area that had been plague-free for five years; within six months the colony completely plagues out; plague is responsible for the prairie dog's potential ESA listing; we have started dusting colonies preemptively; plague is not a natural thing for prairie dogs, as it was brought by humans, and they are very susceptible to it;

>Deb Jones, plague can exist outside of prairie dogs, too, of course; an area is not safe from plague, even if prairie dogs are not present.

>Noelle Gurnsey, I am seconding the letter that Pam sent regarding the vegetation; two to four dogs per acre in the Smith letter means there is more room for prairie dogs; if they go in sooner, it would be less costly because burrows would be open and in decent shape still; the vegetation at Great Western is getting high and those two to four prairie dogs per acre won't be keeping that vegetation down.

>Rebecca, I want to specify that we are not recommending two to four prairie dogs per acre; we expect growth and higher densities;

>Pam Wanek, but you did recommend to not add any prairie dogs;

>Rebecca, at that time; and that had a lot to do with concerns over the soil and vegetation.

>Janet Williams, if the vegetation is too tall, prairie dogs can't see predators; if there aren't many prairie dogs in that area, they can't keep the grass down; can we artificially keep the vegetation down until they get reestablished?

>Rebecca, when we do relocation, it's general practice to mow and help them get established;

>Janet, do you do maintenance mowing after the relocation?

>Rebecca, I'm not aware of this happening;

>Janet, for the vaccine research - Great Western is a good resource because prairie dogs need to go into an area that has plague; can we as citizens affect this and try to have this happen? Can they be used as a research situation?

>Larry, it's a research project right now; what would need to happen is Broomfield would visit with us and we would discuss this;

>Janet, who initiates this?

>Larry, a phone call from Broomfield; we would talk with our researchers and determine if this would be efficient and useful;

>Janet, are there flea collars for prairie dogs?

>Larry, collars use the same material as deltamethrin; the difficulty of catching the wildlife would have to be considered;

>Janet, what is the reservoir for this plague? Where are the fleas getting it?

>Larry, the answer really isn't known; it's an exotic disease; plague can sometimes be a one-time deal, some places it can be cyclical and regular; climate and amount of moisture can be tied to it; prairie dogs have a time where they disperse; fleas can be coming off those that dispersed; lower mortality rate in other mammals can make them carriers and they are vectors of movement;

>Janet, we don't know how the fine amount got agreed upon. How do I start to change this?

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>Kevin, ordinances are approved by City Council. OSTAC will deliberate and may make a recommendation to council for an ordinance amendment. We would work with legal staff to amend code.

>Deanna Meyer, is happy Broomfield is taking prairie dogs into consideration, and is appreciative of this meeting for the opportunity to hear from the public; we are very concerned over prairie dog loss and feel that plague announcements are harmful to Prairie Protection Colorado's cause. People subsequently think prairie dogs are dirty carriers of disease after reading such announcements; I do ask that Broomfield do everything they can to save groups of prairie dogs.

>Elena O'Brian, we have seen 99% of habitat for prairie dogs lost and wonder what we're leaving for future generations of Colorado; wants to hear directly from CDPHE on their concerns of plague. Elena requests that the slides of Powerpoints are available online after the meeting; are there other factors as to why prairie dog population is so low?

>Rebecca, we don't have a population estimate from 2014 but we know it was substantial and Google map images show us that it expanded in 2015 before contraction in 2016. Because of this massive decrease, we are confident plague was the cause;

>Elena, How long will flea testing take?

>Jason, it's done, and we have committed to ask CDPHE if additional testing should be done as well;

>Elena, could we isolate and put prairie dogs in an area where we are not having plague?

>Kristan, at this point, we can't say how that would work; we are talking with CPW on their guidelines and will see what can be done.

>Larry, in terms of isolation - 140 acres is relatively small and the disease can move vast distances; the assumption seems valid that it is plague because flies indicate plague, not predation deaths;

>Chris, regarding CPW's guidelines - is that rational to say that a relocation would not be successful?

>Larry, we look at what will happen to the colony when we place them; will you have a colony that just dies in six months? We want to prevent futile efforts like that;

>Deb, did plague ever go through Great Western before 2002?

>Kristan, we don't know (i.e. the Policy was approved in 2003);

>Pam, I recommend putting prairie dogs in the upper quadrant at Great Western;

>Janet, have we perhaps reached a bottleneck where some animals' numbers are small enough that their immunity is compromised?

>Larry, another idea is that plague is a new disease; this is speculative - it's relatively new to prairie dogs;

>Pam, with plague, you have to sample when plague is happening, to get a positive test; there does appear to be evidence of plague, even without a positive test result;

>Deb, the 'evidence' is seeing flies at burrow entrances; flies are a first indicator;

>Larry, CDPHE doesn't make it up -- they are observing evidence and making conclusions;

>Pam, not all fleas carry plague, either;

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- >Nicole Huntley, regarding the vegetation at Great Western, the prairie dogs at Midway have almost nothing now; the recommendation that prairie dogs couldn't be sustained at Great Western could be applied to Midway too; has an assessment been made at Midway?
- >Rebecca, we want to see an area with native plants and good soil on a relocation site; you can't prefer one species over another; there is a massive struggle between valuing plants or prairie dogs in some of these decisions; in 2009 there was a period of wind that blew away soils at Great Western; we are trying to restore the site as best as is possible;
- >Deb, what's dying faster, plants or prairie dogs?
- >Rebecca, native grasses have taken a major hit;
- >Deb, is it harder to find a place for prairie dogs or plants?
- >Rebecca, both are equally hard;
- >Deb, it's harder to regenerate prairie dogs and their genetic material;
- >Rebecca, but you have to go back to the ecosystem, and that has been our focus;
- >Nicole, feels that aluminum phosphide should not be used, and is inhumane; urges the city to update the prairie dog data that is available; also wants a census.

OSTAC Discussion:

- >Todd, I think we should identify the issues we need to discuss. I see them as: (1) the fine to developers, (2) the future of Great Western Reservoir, (3) a future relocation site, and (4) if using aluminum phosphide is appropriate even though it is allowed under the current Prairie Dog Policy.

- >Patrick, we should go back to the 'Next Steps' slide, I believe it covers these points. Patrick briefly covers each point on the slide and asks if they cover what OSTAC should discuss. The committee agrees that they do.

- >Todd, is there any timeframe for looking at the Great Western population again?
- >Pete, this is general but would likely happen after the prairie dog breeding cycle, maybe in the late summer or fall. We would have a biologist look at the site.

- >Doug, a population count should be included at Great Western and should be done yearly;
- >Todd, there are conflicting reports of what the density should be;
- >Kristan, we rely on CPW. We will ask what should be allowed and what we can do to relocate; we will do a new count..

- >Mike, for the possible causes of decline, how can we determine it and could there be more?
- >Kristan, staff was concerned with the question of "is this plague or possible plague". CDPHE experts were on the site and our understanding is that their opinion is based primarily on what was seen on the site. We will look at other factors, too, though.
- >Doug, I suggest rewording the first step because it sounds like we are going to do another study.
- >Todd, what is in the city's purview to decide?
- >Kristan, we will look at the site and see what is necessary to make a reasonable request for relocation. We will talk with CDPHE, CPW, and Smith Environmental;

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- >Pete, we are researching the Delta Dusting plans as well;
- >Kevin, we will keep you informed;
- >Todd, a quick resolution is that we get an update at the next OSTAC meeting;
- >Kristan, we will provide updates; we want to relocate but need to assess the site;
- >Kevin, this development on Midway is in a months long process;
- >Chris, is it the same developer for the north and south parcels?
- >Kristan, no.

Doug motions to request that staff consider an ordinance amendment for the fine given to developers who do not follow Broomfield's policy in removal of prairie dogs. Todd seconds; suggests that the fine be indexed to land size. Motion passes unanimously.

- >Kevin, the penalty has to go to the violation not the ability to pay. We will revisit the fine amount;
- >Pete, we are still researching PERC and will report on it in the fall;
- >Patrick, what about a second relocation site? Our feeling is that we should look at open space that is appropriate for prairie dogs, rather than a relocation site;
- >Terra, regarding Great Western, why was this area chosen for relocation?
- >Kristan, a variety of reasons including minimal impacts on neighbors and that it's a large area that had good prairie dog habitat at the time;
- >Ray, were prairie dogs there before relocation?
- >Deb, prairie dogs were there historically;
- >Pete, in 2003, the area was mapped, and had some pockets of prairie dogs at that time; it was agricultural land before that;
- >Todd, on the spreadsheet that has categories for future open space purchases, is there a criteria for prairie dogs?
- >Kristan, that would be under 'wildlife habitat';
- >Mike, the prairie dog policy has three recommended categories for what happens to the prairie dogs; does staff track which category happens to prairie dogs in Broomfield as a percentage?
- >Pete, we have started tracking all permits; for the pro-forma permits, it's hard to estimate how many prairie dogs were affected, as we do not get a final count;
- >Liz, we should pursue Great Western for being a research site; it would be good to be part of research but it could also be public education; I suggest talking to CPW to be part of the vaccination study;
- >Patrick, do any of the prairie dog advocacy groups do public education?
- >Pam, we do, and the Humane Society does a lot of education; however, the education needs to happen at the policy-making level;
- >Kristan, we do have a lot of input from experts, groups, and professionals;
- >Patrick, I would make an additional recommendation to address plague in education;
- >Todd, you could include this in the speaker series, perhaps;
- >Kristan, we could do that for sure; the coyote talk was very well attended;
- >Todd, are there other counties that do what Broomfield does for prairie dogs?
- >Larry, there are some -- Boulder County, and City of Boulder;

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>Deb, some places listen to us, and some don't;

Summary of Next Steps to be Taken by Broomfield Staff:

- Review Great Western relocation site in 2017 to assess prairie dog population and habitat.
- Coordinate with Colorado Parks and Wildlife on due diligence at Great Western relocation site and the potential approval of the site for possible future prairie dog relocations, including research on Delta Dusting and what dusting plan is appropriate currently, and in the future.
- Coordinate a test plot vegetation study with Broomfield staff and professional experts.
- Get current population estimate from development property at Midway/Lowell and continue to coordinate with developer on timeline (i.e., this is a task that is already required of the developer).
- Investigate the possibility of a future additional relocation site under guidance from City Council and OSTAC.
- Investigate the current prairie dog vaccination study with CPW to determine if Broomfield could participate with possible vaccinations at the Great Western site.
- Find out if CDPHE would like to test the Great Western site again.
- Develop a recommendation on an increase in the fine for violations of the Prairie Dog Policy for OSTAC and Council consideration.
- Provide prairie dog education and information on plague (utilize the Open Space Speakers Series as one avenue for this work)
- Evaluate PERC

4. Overview of E-Bike Public Outreach and Assessment.

Holly described the possible avenues of research for citizens opinions on having e-bikes on Broomfield's trail system. E-bike demonstrations and surveys were discussed. Demonstrations would take place at events like Trails Day, National Night Out, and Bike to Work Day. Surveys would accompany demonstrations but also be given at trailheads to various open spaces and locations around the county. Options for locations include Broomfield County Commons, Metzger Farm, and Arista.

The survey would include questions that gauge citizens' desire for e-bikes and ask about their concerns. Staff will report back to OSTAC in late fall/early winter.

>Doug, it would be good to have a FAQ on the website;

>Kristan, we could do that;

>Ray, would we tell other communities what we are doing?

>Holly, there have been meetings recently involving the communities along the US-36 bikeway to discuss if e-bikes are going to be allowed on it. We will continue these discussions.

5. 2018 CIP Proposed Projects

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Kristan described five CIP projects being proposed for 2018 and the proposed budget associated with them.

Markel Open Space Management Plan:

>Doug, would there be a proposal for what has to be done with the pond at the Markel property?

>Kristan, yes--would continue to look at the pond conditions and possibilities for improvements and use going forward;

>Ray, when is the Broomfield Trail going along the ditch?

>Kristan, it would be beyond the current five-year plan, at the moment;

>Doug, what is the community requesting?

>Kristan, people would like to use the property;

Metzger Farm Pond Evaluation:

Kristan described the Metzger Farm project and noted that the goal is to determine

>Mike, would you look at the east pond or west pond?

>Kristan, both. The east pond has fishing, and the west pond has wetlands. Some projects here might be easy and some will be more involved;

Information Kiosks:

Kristan described the signage and information kiosks. The Broomfield Open Space Foundation will be doing some fundraising, and some matching funds need to be added in anticipation of this effort. There will be two kiosks.

>Ray, is this the signage that Pat Quinn is working on?

>Kristan, yes.

>Terra, where will the kiosks go?

>Kristan, options include Tom Frost, The Field, Miramonte on the Lac Amora Open Space near Carolyn Holmberg Open Space in Boulder County, and the west side of Broomfield County Commons.

>Ray, is the long-term goal to replace all signs?

>Kristan, no. These will be bigger signs that explain topics like wildlife, trails, and history of the area.

>Doug, in Lac Amora, the usage seems lower because people don't know how to get there; money would be better spent on street signs.

>Kristan, yes--there is a need for more trail signage in some areas and we will be addressing this; we have a limited amount that we can spend annually on signage that is not being affected by the kiosks; we will continue the implementation of the overall trail signage.

Grassland Restoration Site/Prairie Dog Use:

Kristan described the possible restoration of a potential new prairie dog relocation site, possibly at the Nordstrom-Davis property. This type of project would be long-term.

>Todd, should we consider how many prairie dogs are going to need relocation in the future? If there aren't going to be many to relocate, we may not need that much land.

>Pete, there are still some sites with prairie dogs that may need relocation, as we still anticipate development of those sites;

>Kristan, this may be early, but we wanted this to be a placeholder.

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>Patrick, I think this is innovative; restoration when you have the opportunity is best; it takes years to revegetate a site;

>Doug, so we can start the project but we won't see fruition for a while.

>Kristan, yes, we should be specific that if we can't use Great Western for the Midway colony, this won't solve that issue; some areas may be more suitable for restoration.

>Ray, what about the Hoopes area?

>Kristan, that is open lands, not open space;

>Kevin, the water fund owns that land currently;

>Ray, what about the Arista area?

>Kristan, that potential acquisition does not seem to be moving forward;

>Terra, I love the idea of doing restoration;

>Kristan, this will have to go through a process in regards to budget. of course, but we would like to propose this project.

6. Overview of Plans for the Broomfield Trail Adventure and Broomfield 100

Pete described the new format for the Broomfield 100 event. This year the passport will be based on a 100-point system where citizens can earn points for completing trails or going to events around Broomfield. The Broomfield Trail Adventure is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, to be hosted at Holy Family High School and feature the new section of the Broomfield Trail nearby.

7. Review and Approve Minutes from the February 23, 2017 OSTAC meeting
Motion to approve; second given. Minutes approved by consensus.

8. OSTAC Updates

- Broomfield Open Space Foundation Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's Restaurant on March 18
- Spring Open Space Speakers Series: -
 - March 22, Open Space Speakers Series, Climate Change, Jeffrey Bennett at the Mamie Doud Eisenhower Library -
 - May 3, Rocky Flats, 7 pm, Eisenhower Room, Mamie Doud Eisenhower Library
 - April 26, Wildflowers, 7 pm, Eisenhower Room, Mamie Doud Eisenhower Library
- May 6, Kids Fishing Derby, Metzger Farm Open Space
- Connect2Walk Events:
 - April 8, Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, 10 a.m. at Metzger Farm -
 - May 13, Arbor Walk, 9 am. Details to Follow
- June 3, Broomfield Trail Adventure and Broomfield 100, Holy Family High School
- June 24, Blue Heron Presentation in Partnership with the Broomfield Bird Club and the Town of Lafayette Open Space Program.

9. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC
None desired.

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Holly D'Oench.

Approved by OSTAC on April 27, 2017.