

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025
MINUTES**

Call to Order

I. RECURRING ITEMS

ROLL CALL

Jay Sage, Chair – Present
Jim Guerra, Vice Chair – Present
Jennifer Drybread, Committee Member – Present
Mark Giebel, Committee Member – Present
Patti Hostetler, Committee Member – Present
Gregory Ochs, Committee Member - Present
Brian O’Malley, Committee Member – Present
Tom Rundell, Committee Member – Present
Elizabeth Snow, Committee Member – Excused
Kathie Shandro, Committee Member – Present

II. Disclosure for Items on the Agenda

Mark Giebel abstained as a COSAC member from discussion surrounding Wildcat Regional Park due to a conflict of interest.

III. Motion to Approve Agenda

RESULT: Approved
MOVER: O’Malley
SECONDER: Hostetler
AYES: Drybread, Giebel, Guerra, Hostetler, Ochs, O’Malley, Rundell, Sage, Shandro

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes from July 10, 2025

RESULT: Approved
MOVER: O’Malley
SECONDER: Guerra
AYES: Drybread, Guerra, Hostetler, O’Malley, Sage
Abstain: Giebel, Ochs, Rundell, Shandro

V. Motion to Approve Minutes from August 7, 2025

RESULT: Approved
MOVER: Shandro
SECONDER: Guerra
AYES: Drybread, Giebel, Guerra, O’Malley, Rundell, Sage, Shandro
Abstain: Hostetler, Ochs

VI. Public Comment

None.

VII. Administrative Announcements

Kirk Inderbitzen, Ranger Supervisor, provided the following updates:

- An injury update on Land Manager/Ranger Janee Petersen.
- Sharptail Ridge Open Space will be closed for hunting on Friday, September 12th through Monday September 22nd.
- Douglas Land Conservancy's conservation easement monitoring is October 14-16th.
- Four members of staff are attending the Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) Conference in Steamboat Springs on October 6-8th.
- Two land manager/rangers will attend the trail symposium on September 16-18th.
- The 30 events for the 30th anniversary of Open Space.
- Trailhead security cameras are being installed at 11 Open Space properties.
- Forestry work is underway at Sandstone Ranch Open Space and will soon begin at Schmit.
- The Office of Emergency Management will be conducting mistletoe removal on Spruce Mountain Open Space.
- Trail work is being completed at Spruce Meadows and will begin at Spruce Mountain.
- Open Space staff are implementing Cartograph to conduct conservation easement monitoring. All monitoring forms will be digitalized and completed in Cartograph.
- Staff will collect dead and downed wood at Dupont Open Space through September.
- Kyle Kowalski, Land Manager/Ranger, is working with Brittany Cassell from Historic Resources and Preservation to inspect historic structures on Open Space.

Dan Dertz, Director, provided the following updates:

- The Evans Homestead restoration at Lincoln Mountain is nearing completion. Staff is working with the County's curator on potential future improvements to this area. The trail network will be extended once the curation of the homestead is complete.
- He proposed changing COSAC meetings to the first Wednesday night of the month in 2026 due to ongoing room scheduling issues. COSAC agreed that Wednesday's will work for individual schedules.
- The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) directed staff to move forward with a funding request from the Highline Canal Conservancy for improvements to the Highline Canal trailhead

located at the intersection of Waterton Road and Dante Drive, near the Ravenna subdivision entrance near Roxborough Park. The Board directed staff to move forward to issue the Highline Canal Conservancy \$450,000 from the Acquisitions and Trails account from the Parks, Trails, Historic Resources and Open Space Sales and Use Tax. This will take place at an upcoming business meeting.

- Cherokee Ranch and Castle Foundation (CRCF) did not accept the \$575,000 that was agreed to per the County's Memorandum of Understanding with CRCF; however, there is ongoing communication to seek an agreement. Staff will follow up at an upcoming COSAC meeting.

Jackie Sanderson, Natural Resources Specialist, provided the following updates:

- She is taking a group from Aging Resources to tour Prairie Canyon Ranch in early October
- On Monday September 22nd, Open Space is hosting a Fall Festival at Sandstone Ranch. Volunteers are offering to help with the activities and preparations.
- She is meeting with a 55-plus community south of Castle Rock to discuss how to live around wildlife.
- Staff continue to work with Ms. Sanderson on special projects before she retires.

Jay Sage, COSAC Chair, provided the following updates

- He will be conducting a proclamation about the sales and use tax at the BOCC business meeting Tuesday, September 9th.
- Brian O'Malley, COSAC member, will be honored at the Douglas Land Conservancy's Oakleaf Symposium on Thursday, November 13th.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

HRCA Backcountry Wildcat Regional Park Presentation by Mark Giebel - No Action Required.

Mark Giebel, Backcountry Wilderness Area Director, presented COSAC an entire overview of the Highlands Ranch Backcountry area and the development plan for the 200 acres of Wildcat Regional Park. Mark discussed the current backcountry trail systems, wildlife connectivity, terrain and trail design for Wildcat, the public trail connections into the park and the overall goals of the project. The purpose of this presentation was to update COSAC on project because the land transfer will occur at the BOCC business meeting on Tuesday, September 9th.

Larkspur Share Back Fund – Motion Required.

Town of Larkspur is requesting their share back funds from Douglas County. They are requesting \$25,000 from the account to create a crosswalk signal at Upper Lake Gulch Road, additional fencing along the trails, new trail signage and improve walkways throughout the community park. COSAC recommends the BOCC approve the town of Larkspur's request for \$25,000.

IX. Motion to Approve Larkspur Funding Share Back Request

RESULT: Approved

MOVER: O'Malley

SECONDER: Guerra

AYES: Drybread, Giebel, Guerra, Hostetler, Ochs, O'Malley, Rundell, Sage

COSAC Budget Subcommittee - No Action Required.

Jim Guera and Jay Sage met with staff on Wednesday, September 3rd to discuss the budget. Jim Guerra and Darcy Wilson, Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator, will be working to finalize the budget spreadsheet with staff before next meeting. The goal is to create an interactive spreadsheet to outline five-year budget requests. There is no need for a budget subcommittee. Darcy and Jim hope to have a draft of the spreadsheet ready to present to COSAC at the October meeting.

X. There was no motion to move into an Executive Session.

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

XI. Motion to adjourn the regular COSAC meeting.

RESULT: Approved

MOVER: Shandro

SECONDER: Rundell

AYES: Drybread, Giebel, Guerra, Hostetler, Ochs, O'Malley, Rundell, Sage, Shandro