



# Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting

*Approved Minutes  
January 22, 2026*

## Summary

OSTAC members and residents received a presentation on the Plaster Reservoir Assessment from Broomfield, Icon Engineering, and the Mile High Flood District representatives. The committee viewed the “We Share a History” video and the “E-Bike 101” video. They were then reminded to submit their Boards and Commissions applications for open appointments by 01/31/26. Finally, open space staff provided updates on events, website changes, and Broomfield’s Bird City designation.

## OSTAC (Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee) Attendance:

<b>Present:</b> Michael McLane (Chair) Renae Stavros (Vice-Chair) Chandler Evey Doug Errett	<b>Present:</b> Jessica “Jess” Crowley Teng Keng “TK” Vang Joel Niles (ALT)	<b>Absent:</b> Alexis Sweet
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## Other Parties in Attendance:

<b>CCOB Staff/Presenters, and Consultants:</b> Kristan Pritz, OST Director Bob Woods, OST Manager Chloe Chalekian, OST Specialist Brian Genge, OST Technician Mikayla Nelson, OST Admin Analyst  Judy Hammer, Principal Planner Rebecca Baker, Flood Plain Manager Leigha Gad, Superintendent of Stormwater Ken Rutt, Director of Water Utilities  Jaclyn “Jackie” Michaelsen, Icon Engineering Charlie Pajares, Mile High Flood District	<b>Interested Residents:</b> Alice Taylor Becky Muñoz Belinda Schrag Cassandra Lewis Christa Stratton David Smith David Vickland Ellen Valek Faye Christensen George Benoit Gigi Greenlee Greg Britham Gwen Reid Jagers Janet Rubinstein Jeff Reid Jennifer VanOrsdale Jerry Taylor Joe Muñoz John Ferraro John Marks Joyce Day Judy Martinez Kate Couture	<b>Interested Residents:</b> Kay Marks Larry Hendrix Linda Hendrix Loretta Cluck Marc Rubinstein Margaret Weisembach Mike Morris Nancy Benoit Nancy Ferraro Nancy Rainwater Pam Wittner Pamela Marcentio Pat Murphy Pat Wittreich Patty Hasslacher Peggy Banks Robin Tempas Roger Wittner Scott Hightower Susan Arcese Terri Macey Terry Haran Wendy Bangs
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## Agenda Minutes

### 1. Call to Order by Michael McLane at 6:00 p.m. for the meeting.

Michael welcomed guests, asked for roll-call of OSTAC members and Broomfield Staff, and read the Open Space and Trails Land Acknowledgement.

### 2. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

- None

### 3. Plaster Reservoir Management Plan

Kristan opened the meeting by thanking residents for attending and highlighted the outreach that was done to notify the Plaster neighborhoods of this opportunity. She then went over the unique site location comprised of surrounding residences and wildlife habitat. Rebecca introduced the Plaster management plan which is needed to gather data on the current floodplain which includes the hydrology (*how much water is coming down from the atmosphere*) and the hydraulics (*what happens once the water is on the ground, shaped by capacity and velocity of water*). The main goals of the management plan are to 1) verify the required live storage in the reservoir which is needed for storm water retention; 2) preserve wildlife habitat; and 3) identify potential improvements to reservoir capacity, overall health of the site, and increase water quality. Jackie provided an overview of main concerns for the reservoir along with potential mitigation recommendations. The next step of the management plan is to conduct a floodplain analysis with the Mile High Flood District and Icon Engineering to determine which recommendations would provide the best outcome. Rebecca wrapped up the presentation by noting that some improvement projects may be able to be done simultaneously while others would need to be completed in a specific order.

- Patty H: Where is the water that may overtop 136th coming from? Regarding cattails, they are invasive and I am curious if they have the potential to overtake the reservoir entirely? Cattails concern homeowners nearby of an increased risk of wildfire as well.
- Jackie: The water that could overtop 136th in a 100-year flooding event would come from generalized local run-off. To your second question, cattails can't survive in water deeper than 2 to 3 feet so they won't ever be able to overtake Plaster Reservoir.
- Kristan: Broomfield has an emergency management team that works closely with North Metro Fire district to coordinate mowing and other fire mitigation techniques to prepare and protect the Broomfield community and its residents. They would be the best people to ask how cattails impact fire risk of nearby homes.
- Christa S: What is the expected date that these recommended projects would be funded?
- Rebecca: The floodplain study, which is the first step to get these projects implemented, has funding already from the Mile High Flood District. Results from the floodplain study will determine what future projects will be done and where the funds needed will be sourced.
- Nancy F: About 2 years ago the City sprayed the cattails to control them, what are the results of that mitigation? Since I moved into the Plaster area 13 years ago, cattails have significantly grown to the east. We must do something to restrict their advancement.

- Kristan: That spraying project was a pilot mitigation technique done with Parks maintenance staff and was not successful. The largest issue was removing the dead material after the vegetation was treated.
- Charlie: Cattail management is very difficult because they grow back very quickly and removal is not often successful. Doing a mix of chemical and mechanical control as well as stream improvements to increase flow of water, helps to control cattails. Mile High Flood District has experience with wetland areas and how to address this concern, though there is not a one size fits all solution.
- Terry H: The assessment done in 2021 is available online, is very informative, and covers a lot of the information shared tonight. Will the new study be comparable to the one done previously? Will it also be shared with the public online? When will the study be available?
- Kristan: The 2021 assessment and the more recently completed assessment done in November 2025, are both currently available on the Broomfield Open Space and Trails website.
- Greg B: If I had known about the cattail odor and encroachment when I was looking at my home in the Plaster area, I wouldn't have purchased it. Why can't the cattails be dredged and removed in a broad 50ft band along the shore, like the City of Boulder did with Trout Unlimited? Dredging the cattails this way might lead to solutions that address other concerns raised.
- Charlie: Dredging becomes expensive very quickly especially in larger areas because of the specialized work it entails as well as the hauling of the dredged material. As a result, we are considering limited dredging in smaller areas, or pockets, so that it is more sustainable.
- Patty H: I like the idea of dredging the cattails and removing them in a 50-ft buffer.
- Rebecca: Broomfield partnered with Aqua Sierra among others to protect aquatic life during a similar cattail mitigation at Ellie's Pond before Covid and it was fairly successful. One consideration is that the established cattail buffer requires maintenance over time. It is possible that something like this could work at Plaster.
- Cassandra L: It seems like there are a lot of problems but no funding or solutions, just more studies. Who from the City and County can residents advocate to, for immediate action?
- Rebecca: I completely understand your frustration, we have recommendations now so once the floodplain analysis is concluded, the data collected will then inform subsequent decisions outlined in this management plan. Funding will also be determined by the floodplain results, but please know things are being done with our partnering organizations at Mile High Flood District and Icon engineering to move things along. I appreciate your feedback and will advocate this point with our staff and consultants!
- Nancy R: Property listings often include data on if the home is in a potential flood plain which can negatively impact property values. Could residents near Plaster receive an overlay map of the current floodplain and the floodplain after the new analysis is completed?
- Rebecca: Floodplains can certainly determine sales and purchases of homes. Of course we will provide overlays for these recommendations that residents can view online.
- Pamela M: Can we talk to the golf course about the types and amount of fertilizer they use? They should contribute to some of the management expenses since they are partially responsible.

- Rebecca: Yes! We plan to talk with the golf course.
- Pat M: Plaster residents are very privileged to live in such a beautiful area but we are not looking to plead with the golf course and need to see action. I appreciate the OSTAC members and staff for their work on these concerns and agree with Nancy Ferraro's statement that we need action, not more studies.
- Kristan: The analysis of the flood plain is an important step to complete before any of the larger projects are pursued. Some of the smaller incremental projects are possible to do during the floodplain study according to the Assessment. Similar to building a home, you must study the soil and complete studies on a variety of other factors before construction begins, otherwise it increases the risk the home could fall apart. The reservoir is much more complex than a house, so studies need to be done to ensure stability over time. At this time we can't say what funds will pay for these mitigation projects but we thank you for your comment about needing action.
- Renae: What is the timeline for the floodplain study? Is there a threshold of when Mile High Flood District takes action, does it depend on impacted structures?
- Charlie: These are great questions! Mile High Flood District will work with Rebecca to determine our scope of work then, depending on the data needed and modeling, the study could take up to 6 months to complete before it goes to FEMA. Rebecca stated that the district works on taxes so the budget also determines the projects and timeline of this work. When determining action, it is important to consider many factors.
- TK: Regarding the wildfire concern, I am a data analyst for North Metro Fire District and Plaster neighborhoods are very close to fire stations and wildfire risk in the area is very low. Broomfield also has a fire risk management team that partners with North Metro Fire to implement fire-safety maintenance best practices. Plaster reservoir would be an ideal place to release beavers to help with fire mitigation!
- Doug: At interlocken, they have put concrete barriers around water bodies to block out geese. If we constructed these barriers at Plaster, would that help block cattail growth?
- Rebecca: Cattails are very resilient and will grow through riprap and concrete.
- Jess: At Tom Frost I have noticed patches of cattails cut flat. Is this a control technique and how often is it done?
- Leigha: Parks did this remediation work once in 2024 around Tom Frost's fishing banks.
- Jess: It seems there are two major issues at play, one a large issue affecting the flood plain and also a second issue of cattail odor and encroachment. Could we break up the two concerns into separate timelines to develop solutions simultaneously?
- Leigha: Cattails grow back very quickly and we need to consider maintenance staff time when considering a temporary control method. Mowing safety hazards are also a consideration with water nearby. Spraying was also talked about earlier but is not often successful. Cattail management and floodplain recommendations heavily rely on each other and have effects that impact one another. A holistic approach is best to determine what maintenance should be done and what the implications are in the area.
- Rebecca: Broomfield is not alone in this issue! The Mile High Flood District is trying various methods in other municipalities, like Boulder.

- Chandler: There is a great representation of residents tonight! Dredging increases the total capacity of the reservoir and reduces risk downstream for Broomfield residents located east of the site. With the utility cost increases, it is important to be good stewards of resident contributions and manage water funds responsibly.
- Renae: Sediment comes from the west to the east, is there a way to prevent more sediment from coming into the reservoir?
- Rebecca: Yes, re-forming Quail Creek channel from Lowell to Plaster could limit sediment coming into Plaster.
- Renae: Is this something we would take on as a project?
- Kristan: Yes, but funding would need to be approved by our City Council. We will be following up on the funding and design concept for this element of the Assessment because it can be completed before or during the floodplain study as noted in the Assessment.
- Michael: I understand the resident sentiment requesting action but it is important to know we need council to approve this plan and its funding before work can begin. To all the residents here today, please show up when this plan is on the City Council agenda to advocate for Plaster. This presentation has been very helpful, thank you!

#### 4. “We Share a History” Video

Chloe talked about Broomfield’s Sister Cities relationship with the Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes and mentioned that this video was made by the Arts and History Department. The video is available on the City and County’s YouTube page for residents to learn more about Broomfield’s history and will be shown to incoming Broomfield City and County staff. Fred Mosqueda, the Language and Cultural Coordinator for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations, is in this video and was the person who suggested the name for the recently unveiled “Water Runs Back Open Space”.

- Becky M: Where is Water Runs Back?
- Chloe: In the northeastern part of Broomfield just north of the Palisade neighborhood.
- Kristan: Broomfield also purchased the parcel to the east of the Water Runs Back Open Space that may provide an adjacent site for recreation and other Broomfield public service buildings such as a police station.
- Joel: Great piece of work, very informative! I see the murals around Broomfield and it is nice to know the story behind them.
- Jess: I agree, I drive past the murals frequently. Does Broomfield have a mural map or legend?
- Kristan: The Arts and History Department has that data on their website so let us know if you would like the link.
- Judy: I am looking forward to the Water Runs Back Open Space development! I am hoping the Arts and History Advisory Committee (AHAC) will be able to collaborate when developing the future site plan. An archaeological survey should be done on this site before construction commences as well.

#### 5. E-Devices 101 Video

Chloe discussed e-bikes and e-devices in Broomfield, noting their increasing popularity. There is a new multi-department team, including Open Space and Trails, Parks Recreation and Senior Services, Police, Code Compliance, Communications, and others, who are working to develop educational

materials, consider safety risks, and determine how to enforce compliance of non-legal motorized vehicles and battery powered devices. From what Broomfield staff has determined, E-bikes are not causing issues but the E-motorcycles are creating many concerns. After the video, Chloe requested feedback for viewers, particularly for making the topic easier to understand.

- Wendy B: The devices I see frequently around Plaster reservoir concern me for the safety of the riders and others. I would happily host a Police officer at my home to observe the incidents.
- Belinda S: The riders are not using trails or sidewalks but instead traveling on the berms, destroying native plant life.
- Joel: Do the incidents happen at the same time each day? If so, residents can reach out to the police non-emergency line to report this behavior.
- Kristan: We are tracking highly trafficked areas in Broomfield and will make sure Plaster reservoir and the surrounding neighborhood is on our list. It is important that people know e-bikes are not the issue, they are e-motocycles.
- Renae: What are the rules for e-scooters?
- Chloe: E-scooters are typically class-3 devices and also not allowed on trail. We are working with our legal team to define and regulate other types of electric devices that are becoming more popular, like e-scooters, one-wheels, etc.
- Renae: I see this a lot because my kids are school-age and I think the other e-devices could fall into some of the already defined categories in the video depending on their wattage, pedals, or maximum speed.
- Kristan: I agree! We will need to check with our inter-departmental team to get an answer.
- Chandler: Did anyone in Broomfield talk to the schools directly about disseminating information to the students or apprehending e-devices on their campuses?
- Chloe: We are having monthly Police enforcement on common trails to help curtail e-device use. Our school Police officers also do counts of e-devices at the schools regularly. I believe the school officers have also completed some outreach to parents and are planning more. If you have other suggestions on how best to share this information we would like to hear them!
- Jess: The beginning of the video was wonderful but it quickly got dense and the talking was too fast to consume the information. No one knows what a 750 watt battery is by looking at the device. Trying to use more common language and features like pedaling, will be helpful, especially since these education materials are going out to younger kids.
- Chloe: Thank you! Yes, some e-motorcycle brands market themselves as e-bikes which causes more confusion for buyers. Another part of the issue that we are working on, is what the process is for people who have accidentally bought an e-motorcycle. What they should do with the device and what can be done to remedy the situation?
- Joel: I agree with Jess that the video was very dense and seemed like the information was repetitive. I like the visual chart and think a handout with this graphic would be a good alternative for identification information.
- TK: I find flowcharts extremely helpful in these situations. This allows people to determine aspects step-by-step.
- Judy: Yes! The flowchart could include pictures or icons instead of bulky text.

- Doug: I am pretty familiar with e-devices and I also thought the video was hard to follow.
- Renae: Recently I have seen Police motorcycles on the trails themselves enforcing these laws.
- Jess: I have seen Police in multiple municipalities do this as well.
- Michael: I agree with all of the above comments, the one thing that is missing from the video is an emphasis on safety. This is an extremely dangerous activity and it is reasonable that injuries could happen to the rider or to other trail users.
- Jess: A medical professional could be interviewed in the video to talk about the recent uptick of e-bike incidents that cause injuries to cover this topic.

#### 6. OSTAC Member Applications and Appointments

Mikayla reminded members and residents of the January 31 deadline to submit their OSTAC appointment applications via [Broomfield.org/BandC](https://Broomfield.org/BandC).

#### 7. Request for Approval of the Minutes of the Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee held on December 04, 2025.

Michael requested a motion to approve the minutes. Doug motioned to approve the minutes and Joel seconded; minutes were approved unanimously.

#### 8. OSTAC Updates:

- Coyote Aware Website Changes - Chloe Chakekian, Open Space and Trails Specialist
- Bird City “*high-flyer*” Designation - Brian Genge, Open Space and Trails Technician
  - Michael: Very well done. The Bird City application is extensive, great job OST!
- Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Results - Brian Genge, Open Space and Trails Technician
- 25th Annual BTA Location - Chloe Chakekian, Open Space and Trails Specialist
- Mix & Jingle Debrief - Mikayla Nelson, Open Space & Trails Admin Analyst
- Boards & Commissions Open House - Mikayla Nelson, Open Space & Trails Admin Analyst
- Broomfield Teen Council Leadership Conference - Mikayla Nelson, OST Admin Analyst
- Upcoming Events - Mikayla Nelson, Open Space and Trails Administrative Analyst

#### 9. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC Members

- None

#### 10. Other Topics as Desired by the Public

- Jagers: I live around Plaster Reservoir and I am curious about the placement for the Open Space identification signage of the site, as it currently faces right at my home.
- Kristan: We are the responsible department who installs signs and would be happy to meet with you to discuss the signage location at a later time.
- Jagers: Thank you for all you do, I will be in touch.

#### 11. Meeting adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Minutes were prepared by Mikayla Nelson.