

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING PAPER

Topic: Van Bibber Park – Canal Agreements

Presented by: Hillary Merritt, Deputy Director, Open Space

Date: 4/8/2025

- For Information
- For Discussion/Board Direction
- Consent to Place on Business/Hearing Agenda

Issue:

Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) proposes to enter into Agreements with three local irrigation canal companies operated by Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company (FRICO/Croke Canal), Farmers’ High Line Canal and Reservoir Company (FHL), and Church Ditch to install and manage trail crossings for the Van Bibber Park trail extension.

Background:

The trail project consists of design and construction of approximately 2 miles of concrete trail, a parallel natural surface trail, multiple bridges, and two at-grade road crossings. When completed, the project will create an important link between the existing Van Bibber Park and North Table Mountain Park via a connection along the Fairmount Trail; ultimately connecting Arvada and Golden Communities.

On March 6, 2025, the JCOS Advisory Committee approved Resolution #25-03 recommending the Board of County Commissioners approval.

Discussion:

The design of this trail has been underway since 2023. JCOS has worked closely with representatives of each irrigation company on design of the trail crossing infrastructure and associated features such as fencing and gates to accommodate and not impede canal operations during construction and when the trail is open to the public. JCOS intends to enter into individual Agreements with FRICO, FHL, and Church Ditch for the purpose of completing these connections.

Fiscal Impact: yes no

SPA Review: Brett Deady, reviewed March 20, 2025. Support, no concern.

County Attorney Review: Anthony Chambers, reviewed and approved, March 20, 2025.

Facilities Review: Support, no concern.

BIT Review: Support, no concern.

Fleet Review: Support, no concern.

County Human Resources Review (new FTE only): N/A

Recommendations:

That the Board of County Commissioners consider the recommendations made by JCOS Staff and the Open Space Advisory Committee in Resolution #25-03, approving the Agreements with FRICO, FHL, and Church Ditch for construction and maintenance of the trail crossings and authorizes execution of the required documents at a future hearing.

Originator:

Hillary Merritt, Deputy Director

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