



## AGENDA INFORMATION MEMORANDUM NEDERLAND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Meeting Date:** January 2, 2024

**Prepared By:** Miranda Fisher, Town Administrator, on behalf of the Sustainability Advisory Board

**Dept:** Sustainability Advisory Board

**Consent** ☒ **Information** ☐ **Action** ☐ **Discussion** ☐

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### **AGENDA ITEM:**

Rights of Nature Guardian Resolution

### **SUMMARY:**

The resolution before the BOT implements the original Rights of Nature resolution 2021 – 11(A) by allowing the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) to appoint a subcommittee of two members as guardians, who will monitor the watershed and report back to the SAB and BOT on its status. They will provide quarterly reports as well as an annual report.

The resolution was presented to the BOT on July 18, 2023. Mayor Billy spoke to a series of changes that he wanted to see to the resolution. The BOT recommended that Mayor Billy work with Attorney Madsen and Attorney Ladd on some of the recommended language changes.

The revised resolution was reviewed by SAB at the October 23, 2023. SAB unanimously recommended approval of the attached resolution.

### **PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:**

On July 6, 2021, the BOT passed resolution 2021-11, which recognized and implemented the legal rights of Boulder Creek and the Boulder Creek Watershed. When the Rights of Nature resolution was initially approved, the BOT did not revise the resolution presented. Upon further reflection, it was determined that some edits were needed. A revised resolution that better reflected the intent of the BOT was passed on October 19, 2021.

### **HISTORY ON RIGHTS OF NATURE:**

Establishing "Rights of Nature" is a fast-growing component of environmentalism and environmental law across the planet and the U.S. The "Rights of Nature for the Boulder Creek Watershed in Nederland" resolution established Nederland as a world leader in this field, and gave local citizens an opportunity to provide input to the Nederland Town Board on behalf of Nature.

More information and resources about "Rights of Nature" can be found on Save The Colorado's website: <http://savethecolorado.org/rightsofnature/>

**QUESTION BEFORE THE BOARD:**

Does the BOT approve Resolution 2023 – 04 Rights of Nature Guardian Subcommittee Resolution?

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Resolution 2023 – 04 Rights of Nature Guardian Subcommittee Resolution
- Resolution 2021 – 11 Rights of Nature Resolution
- Resolution 2021 – 11(A) Rights of Nature Resolution (amended)
- Rights of Nature Presentation by Save the Colorado and Earth Law Center