

Colorado Association of Ski Towns

March 15, 2012

Denver

Meeting Minutes

The following were in attendance:

Steve Skadron - Aspen	Jim White - Minturn
John Warner - Breckenridge	Joe Fitzpatrick - Mt. Crested Butte
Tim Gagen - Breckenridge	William Buck - Mt. Crested Butte
Aaron Huckstep - Crested Butte	Kevin Batchelder - Silverthorne
Susan Parker - Crested Butte	Bill Boineau - Snowmass Village
Paul Ryan - Denver	Russ Forrest - Snowmass Village
Joe Wray - Dillon	Jon Roberts - Steamboat Springs
Tim Westerberg- Dillon	Scott Myller - Steamboat Springs
Bill Pinkham - Estes Park	Dan Gibbs - Summit County
Jeff Durbin - Fraser	Gary Martinez - Summit County
Peggy Smith - Fraser	Stuart Fraser - Telluride
Bill Pelham - Frisco	Andy Daly - Vail
Bill Efting - Frisco	Stan Zemler - Vail
David Hook - Grand Lake	Drew Nelson - Winter Park
Kathy Lewis - Grand Lake	Jim Myers - Winter Park
Jim Peterson - Grand Lake	Nick Teverbaugh - Honorary Member
Judy Burke - Grand Lake	Allen Best - Mountain Town News
Elmer Lanzi - Grand Lake	Tom Ludwig - Grand Lake

The meeting was called to order by President Stuart Fraser at 12:15 pm.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion and a 2nd to approve the January 2012 meeting minutes, which was passed unanimously.

Kevin Bommer - Colorado Municipal League

Kevin Bommer, CML Legislative Advocacy Manager, just returned from a trip to Washington D.C. and updated the group on what happened while they were there. The transportation package passed the Senate while they were there. He also passed around two letters regarding the nutrient rules and regs from Governor Hickenlooper's office to the EPA and the Colorado Dept. of Health and Environment. These represent an unfunded mandate, and add them to the list of water and wastewater regs and it's a big deal for the state, which issued an executive order that state

rulemaking agencies run proposed rules that may have unfunded mandate implications through a process that involves local governments.

Kevin also spent time with Betsy Markey while in D.C. and took a group to FEMA, while Sam took a group to HUD.

On the state level, this is a bit of quiet time right now at the capitol - so far things are on schedule. People are assessing and looking forward to the state budget. It's once again very challenging this year. CML is paying attention to K-12 funding as more school districts approach municipalities to help with funding. Schools are looking anywhere they can. Oil and gas is also a significant topic (mixed impact). Some munis and counties are dealing with this issue for the first time with the increased activity. Some are putting on the brakes and issuing moratoriums, etc. - are there enough eyeballs out there to see violations? This is causing pushback from the industry. There needs to be a common code to abide by instead of different regs.

What about TABOR and the ratcheting effect? Is anyone taking the lead? No one really is at this point, as TABOR hasn't been a problem in a down economy. Probably won't be addressed until after the election. Other issues in the general assembly are the Senior Homestead Act, a new lottery game from GOCO to fund veterans' programs, and medical marijuana. URA - another fight on that coming?

Governor John Hickenlooper

During the governor's address to the group, he talked about partnerships and what bubbled up from the bottom-up process. There were five common themes:

1. Pro-business - less red tape
2. Expand access to capital
3. Education and work force training
4. Innovation and technology
5. "Brand" the state business-wise for entrepreneurs, etc.

TBD Colorado will hold 120 meetings in 40 locations around the state where participants can register their thoughts on issues by means of remote control-style clickers. The meetings will allow members of the public to participate, but those participating have to commit to three monthly meetings lasting three hours each and read background materials.

He also addressed fracking, explained the process, seems to be a proponent of it and can't find any evidence in Colorado of any of it getting into anyone's ground water.

Regarding the Olympic process, he has convened a team to look at things such as cost and liability. Almost all of the potential venues are in place. They have to make sure that assets can be put to use after the Olympics. They would approach the World Olympic Committee with the message that Colorado is the healthiest state in the U.S. and we would use this to help make the world a healthier place.

He addressed transportation and I-70 and the Twin Tunnels. Although it's well known that people need access to the Rockies, most Front Range taxpayers don't agree with this and have never been over the Continental Divide. Public/private partnerships are needed, and he thinks we'll have worked out a solution in the next five years.

The last couple of years have been the toughest budget-wise for the state. When he was a businessman, the best ideas he ever had was when he had no money. It forces you to be creative. Schools are an example as they're going through the same thing.

Al White, Director, Colorado Tourism Office

Al talked about the tourism budget, it is in bad shape, but not as much as it has been. People need to realize that funding tourism helps to fund all the other state programs, such as education, etc. Leveraged return - every \$1 spent on tourism generates about \$3.40 in return (used to be about \$6). That's about \$750 million a year that citizens don't have to pay.

During the fiscal analysis, there was an oversight that cost the tourism office about \$2 million of revenue from gaming. Working with JBC to work on new bill that is hard coded to get \$14,650,000. There is a new ad campaign in the works, they did an RFP last year and are working with a new agency, they are doing more TV and focusing on 8 markets in the U.S. The new tag line "Come to Life" is meant to portray Colorado as somewhere where your life can be realized to its fullest potential.

The Pro Cycling Challenge will be announcing the route next Tuesday. This year they'll have a little more competition. If you're a rider, you want to be in high profile events, so we want to make sure riders come to the PCC. Colorado is providing the Washington D.C. Christmas Tree this year - coming from the Flat Tops. They will take a week to get it to D.C. and will be taking a route through all their primary markets.

Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock

Mayor Hancock talked about Denver's budget, they have cut \$446 million over the last four years and there is no more to cut. A task force is looking at the budget - there would be a \$30 million permanent short fall if they do nothing.

Looking at innovative strategies to grow DIA. DIA is 5th busiest airport in the country and 10th in the world. A train depot and 500-room Westin attached to the airport are in the works. Kicked in half a million towards building "airport city." DIA needs to be convenient, accessible and affordable.

He also addressed transportation, improvements to infrastructure and the big question regarding I-70. I-70 is Denver's gateway to the mountains and the relationship between Denver and the mountain communities is important. He talked about owning Winter Park and they receive about \$2 million a year from Intrawest's operation there.

They are involved in the exploratory committee that the governor talk about. Real costs involved are the cost of competing and cost of bidding. He also feels positive about the Denver Water agreements in the mountains and the ongoing collaboration after all these years of wrangling.

He talked about ways to raise revenue and one idea on the table is de-Brucing their property taxes. This action would make the City's temporary "de-Brucing" policy permanent and extend it to property taxes. In 2005, Denver voters removed TABOR revenue limits until 2014, except for property taxes.

The Mayor is leaving today along with 70 business leaders to travel to D.C. to speak about jobs and the economy.

Don Hunt, Director, CDOT

As was a major theme during the meeting, CDOT is facing very real funding problems. Transportation will be in the mix during the TBD Colorado process. CDOT is focused on five themes. Herman Stockinger has been made Deputy Director and is helping on:

1. make processes more effective - contract improvements
2. more \$\$ to go to construction - found about \$100 million sitting idle in about 6 different projects and will redeploy to projects like the Twin Tunnels
3. more \$\$ from the system - north I-25 a priority right now, re-striping and minimizing shoulders to help create managed lanes (tolls).
4. more private co-funding - Mike Cheroutes is managing this and was very successful with US 36 which involved CDOT, RTD, and managed lanes. Take toll money and pledge to concessionaire to take all the way to Boulder.
5. transparency - state and local governments working together

Experimenting with pacing. Learned a lot, but verdict is still out. There has been inconsistency with police officers. Is there a way to do it with variable message signs vs. officers? During the pacing process, accidents were way down, but not travel time.

Regarding the Twin Tunnels, they have to go through another NEPA process. Tunnel plus the winding road to Floyd Hill. Environment analysis should be done by June with approval by the end of the year, and then 6-9 months to complete. He has a bet with Tony DeVito to get it done by Halloween 2013.

One way to get more money out of the system is using shoulders to create a fourth managed lane. Went to Minnesota to check it out. Widening freeways is not good environmentally. Will explore this more.

Hired consultant who has built and designed AGS - Advanced Guideway Systems - to look at C-470 to Eagle. Price tag is huge. Record of Decision - is this feasible before 2025? Need to know by fall of next year regarding the feasibility.

Updates

The suit against online travel companies (prompted by Denver's suit) filed by the town of Breckenridge in Summit County District Court in July 2011 has been joined by Summit County and the class has been declared. What other communities want to join? The Denver decision has been made (sealed) but it is very favorable. Will be appealed by the online travel companies.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.