

Colorado Association of Ski Towns

August 26, 2011

Grand Lake

Meeting Minutes

The following were in attendance:

William Buck	Mt. Crested Butte	Jeff Durbin	Fraser
Joe Fitzpatrick	Mt. Crested Butte	Tim Westerberg	Dillon
Tim Gagen	Breckenridge	Devin Granbery	Dillon
John Warner	Breckenridge	Jim Peterson	Grand Lake
Stuart Fraser	Telluride	Judy Burke	Grand Lake
Jacquie Halburnt	Estes Park	Kathy Lewis	Grand Lake
Drew Nelson	Winter Park	Steve Skadron	Aspen
Barb Atwater	Winter Park	Michael Penny	Frisco
Susan Parker	Crested Butte	Bill Pelham	Frisco
Vicki Mattox	Stifel Nicolaus	Gary Wilkinson	Frisco
Matt Sugar	Senator Udall's Office		

The meeting was called to order by President Stuart Fraser at 8:10 am.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion and a second to approve the June 2011 meeting minutes, which was passed unanimously.

Ralf Garrison - MTRiP

Ralf Garrison took the group through each component of the "Mountain Travel Intelligence Pack" which is CAST's current subscription components. These include Travel News Talker, Mountain Travel Newsletter, Econometrics and Mountain Market Briefing. Our current two-year subscription ended 7/30/11. Ralf's assessment was that MTRiP needs to make data more accessible for the CAST subscription to be effective, however, there is a slight hitch as town municipalities are used to making data public and not all Ralf's data can be used publicly. Some CAST towns are not aware of the MTRiP's data or don't use it, and some use aggressively. His recommendation was to continue the basic program with some add-ons such as: dedicated ski town staff member, subscriber orientation via the web, "push out" notices of briefings and reports, and clarification of distribution rights. CAST board will review his new proposal and subscription rates.

Michael Berry – National Ski Areas Association

Michael Berry has been with NSAA for about 20 years. Used to be based in the east, it's now in Colorado. Ski industry IS growing despite economy. Two record years out of last 4 - set record this last year. Everything has advance in lockstep, no one's really fallen back. For more details about Michael's presentation, contact Joyce Burford for a copy of his Powerpoint.

James Newberry - Grand County Commissioner

James gave history of where we are today which started with the water shortage in Colorado in 2002 - Denver Water and other providers looked at inventory. Grand and Summit Counties also did inventory. Things came to a head in 2002 when DW came to Grand and Summit and offered \$1 million each for water improvements if you support firming projects with no comments. There was no common ground between east and west slopes. Negotiations started - had to get all the decision makers to the table. There was a big learning curve and no one trusted anyone. Concept - are we going to destroy headwater counties for more Front Range homes? Had to reach the common goal of water and the environment

Grand County took the approach of we want healthy streams - fish are indicators. Took scientific approach to what is healthy; spent about \$3-4 million to protect water resources. Talks brought in the environment community - tried to include everyone as early on as possible. Implementation agreements - where are we? Close on some, not on others. But all have to be agreed upon to move forward - all or none. We and the western slope have to protect future projects and not get picked off as we have in the past. At this point, could all still be blown up. Side groups could still come in and go the EPA.

Matt Sugar - Senator Mark Udall's office

Matt Sugar highlighted some of the water issues that exist in the rest of the state. Brought us up-to-date on the Ski Bill. Definition to Forest Service about what they can or can't do with permitting. Use the mountains for summer recreation - gravity based activities only. He also discussed the J1 Visa issue - bringing employees overseas to work in national parks - is it being abused? There are also several wilderness proposals; Senator Udall is going to vet them. San Juan bill is not being ignored; will be re-introduced.

Updates

Tim Gagen updated the group on the CAST VRBO and OTC efforts. All the legal documents for the VRBO tax compliance project are ready. There are about 6-7 communities under contract or about to go under contract with our vendor, VRCompliance LLC. All of Summit County is now on board. Tim reminded everyone to require that their short-term rental owners get a business license if they don't already have one, as this can easily cover the fee that VRCompliance charges per lead.

Regarding the OTC class-action suit, Breckenridge has taken the lead. The attorneys' are starting the process of approaching towns. Towns will pay nothing up front, only if they get a settlement. No word on the Denver case yet.

We also said farewell and thank you to Michael Penny, who took a position as Littleton City Manager.

The next meeting will be held in Park City on October 27-28.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.