

Colorado Association of Ski Towns

January 29, 2010

Mt. Crested Butte

Meeting Minutes

The following were in attendance:

William Buck	Mt. Crested Butte	Tom Filchner	Mt. Crested Butte
Jim White	Minturn	Melanie Rees	Crested Butte
Steve Skadron	Aspen	Gary Kelser	Mt. Crested Butte
Allen Cox	Mt. Crested Butte	Jonathan Greenspan	Mtn. Village
Russ Forrest	Snowmass Village	Michael Penny	Frisco
John Warner	Breckenridge	Stu Fraser	Telluride
Tim Gagen	Breckenridge	Susan Parker	Crested Butte
Jim Schmidt	Crested Butte	Greg Sparks	Mtn. Village
Gaspar Perricone	Senator Udall	Dick Cleveland	Vail
Matt Sugar	Senator Udall	Stan Zemler	Vail
Drew Nelson	Winter Park	Bill Pelham	Frisco
Sam Mamet	CML	Kevin Batchelder	Silverthorne
Walter Magill	Steamboat Springs	Jon Roberts	Steamboat Springs
Gary Wilkinson	Frisco	Jeff Durbin	Fraser
Joe Fitzpatrick	Mt. Crested Butte		

The meeting was called to order by President William Buck at 8:20 am.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion and a 2nd to approve the October 2009 meeting minutes.

Ken Stone - COO Crested Butte Mountain Resort

CBMR is focused on their brand and small town spirit. Look for things that tie them all together. Dedicated to keeping things the way they are even though they have to grow. No longer as concerned with skier days, more focused on guest services, length of stay and guest experience. Need support on the Snodgrass expansion - asking for letter of support.

Susan Kirkpatrick – Executive Director, DOLA

DOLA's Sustainable Communities Initiative looks at problems solving, partnerships and collaboration, provides financial assistance and technical expertise, and planning and investment. \$145 million granted in 2009. Created or supported 5,321 direct jobs. A lot smaller grant program

in 2010 - only \$10 million. Rural resort communities face revenue challenges being tourism and recreation based economies. Face need for affordable housing and more transportation options. Strategies for a communities include prioritize problems, seek innovative partnerships, and communicating with DOLA regional managers.

Joani Matranga – Western Region Representative, Governor’s Energy Office

Federal ARRA funding to GEO over three years: Energy efficiency and conservation block grants, weatherization assistance program, state energy program, competitive grants to GEO. Address barriers to deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy. Currently grants open and due 2/16. Rebate program offers \$20 million for energy efficiency and renewal energy. 70,000 rebates and offered state wide. Launches March 31, 2010.

Total GEO EECBG funds around \$9 million. GEO required to distribute around 60% to small local governments. GEO plans to distribute at least 77%. On a local capacity, GEO works with many community energy coordinators. GEO financing provides loans for residential and partners with financial institutions and other federal programs to create lending opportunities for Coloradans. Supports PACE loan program. For weatherization program, GEO received \$79.5 million in ARRA funding. Historical production of 4,000 homes per year and moving towards 8,000 - weatherizing single family, mobile homes and multi-family dwellings. 400k households in Colorado are estimated to remain eligible.

Susan Innis, Colorado Carbon Fund Manager, Governor’s Energy Office

Colorado Carbon Fund provides technical assistance with emissions inventories, climate and energy plans, strategies to reduce CO2 for local governments, support for outreach and educational efforts in communities and funding for projects which reduce emissions. CCF operates by buying and selling carbon offsets. Visit website ColoradoCarbonFund.org. CCF has many outreach partnership. First project committed \$230,000 to purchase offset from a landfill gas-to-energy project. RFP open to provide funding for solar hot water projects. \$250,000 for up to five projects.

Donations to CCF are tax deductible. Carbon offset support only Colorado projects. Supports local clean energy and climate goals through re-investment programs for outreach, education and clean energy projects in the local communities.

Sam Mamet, Executive Director, Colorado Municipal League

CML has released their State of Our Cities and Towns, which includes a 14-minute video – they are encouraging towns to use the report and link the video to their websites. The next elected officials workshop will be next weekend. Trying to do a lot of webinars. The budget shortfall and

declines in revenue are the most serious issues in the state. \$80 million in energy impact fund lost. Schools have lost over \$100 million. Governor Ritter trying to push package of 12 bills (targeted exemptions), will generate \$130 million if they were to pass.

Keeping an eye on the medical marijuana issue. Wants as much flexibility for towns as possible and protecting local regulations. Constitutional amendment is clouding the issue. CML supporting SB-107 and SB-109 regarding doctor-patient relationship. Other bills that CML is supporting is HB-1107 regarding urban renewal authorities and HB-1017 concerning affordable housing.

There are three significant initiatives - Amendments 60 and 61, and Proposition 101 - that would reduce local government revenues. These affect vehicle taxes, lowering state income tax rates, and local and state taxes on telecommunication services

CAST Roundtable Discussion

Snowmass Village – 14% down.

Breckenridge – 12% down. RET down.

Telluride - 14-15% down.

Crested Butte - 11% down. 2006 revenues. RET 50% down.

Mountain Village – 20% down.

Vail – 14% down. Lift tax down 2%. RET down 72%.

Winter Park – 12% down. December flat to 2008. RET down 75-80%

Frisco – 14% down. RET down about 33%. Lodging tax down 24%. Budgeting 2010 tax revenue to be flat to 2009.

Silverthorne - 13% down. December might be better than 2008.

Steamboat Springs – 15% down. Cut general fund expenditures by 18%. Another 10% sales tax cut projected for 2010.

Fraser – 10% down. Operating at 2004-2005 levels.

Mt. Crested Butte - 15% down. Don't have RET.

Aspen - 15% down. Dramatic drops in construction. Destination visitors rebounding. Tracking on 2006 revenues.

VRBO Update

Comments:

Telluride - Need consistent enforcement plan. Estimates over 400 units in Telluride/Mtn. Village.

Vail - Hotels losing business as well as municipalities losing revenues.

Mtn. Village - Extra revenue could help them offset gondola maintenance.

Breckenridge - Need cooperative collaboration.

Fraser - Doesn't have money to chase this.

Snowmass Village - At least 200 units advertising on internet in their area. Resources to chase them down?

At the executive board meeting on January 28 in Mt. Crested Butte, the board was in favor of putting together a hiring committee to look into hiring a contractor to work on behalf of CAST participating towns to research and track down VRBO's, develop methods and strategies for tracking, and develop and implement a plan for uniform, consistent sales tax collection from appropriate VRBO's. The committee will also develop a job description along with compensation plan.

A show of hands at the regular meeting showed that almost all CAST towns are interested in participating. Joyce Burford will follow-up and send an email to all members asking for town participation as well as participants willing to sit on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.