

Colorado Association of Ski Towns

March 4, 2010

Denver

Meeting Minutes

The following were in attendance:

William Buck	Mt. Crested Butte	Mark Achen	CCCMA
Stu Fraser	Telluride	Stan Zemler	Vail
David Oyster	Telluride	Dick Cleveland	Vail
Jeff Durbin	Fraser	Larry Brooks	Avon
David Pratt	Fraser	Jonathan Greenspan	Mtn. Village
Devin Granberry	Dillon	Dave Ferrill	Denver
Kevin Batchelder	Silverthorne	Jim White	Minturn
Judy Burke	Grand Lake	Beverly Breakstone	Summit County
Kathy Lewis	Grand Lake	Michael Penny	Frisco
Jim Peterson	Grand Lake	Bill Pelham	Frisco
Drew Nelson	Winter Park	Jim Stevens	Nederland
Barbara Atwater	Winter Park	Matt Sugar	Senator Udall's Office
Bill Pinkham	Estes Park	Leah Williams	Crested Butte
Steve Barwick	Aspen	Susan Parker	Crested Butte
Torre	Aspen	John Warner	Breckenridge
Steve Skadron	Aspen	Russ Forrest	Snowmass Village
		John Wilkinson	Snowmass Village

The meeting was called to order by President William Buck at 12:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion and a 2nd to approve the January 2010 meeting minutes, which was passed unanimously.

CAST Restated and Amended Bylaws

There was a motion and a 2nd to accept the CAST Restated and Amended Bylaws. The motion passed unanimously.

NEPA letter discussion

President William Buck asked for feedback and support of the letter to the U.S. Forest Service regarding the NEPA process for the proposed expansion of Crested Butte Ski Resort. It was suggested that the letter be re-drafted on behalf of all CAST communities to ask for fairness in the

NEPA process for all Colorado ski areas and not be specific to Crested Butte. The CAST members present reached consensus to support a re-drafted letter.

VRBO update

A VRBO project committee has been formed and will have their first meeting in March. There was discussion and input on ways to tackle the issue. It was suggested that county assessors need to get involved in the process. Mtn. Village talked about a company that had developed software specifically for tracking VRBOs. Should process be automated and a website developed for collecting tax? Grand Lake uses an enforcement officer to help track and make private rental owner compliant, and their program has been working well.

John W. Hickenlooper – Mayor, Denver

Mayor John Hickenlooper addressed the membership to give an update on how Denver is doing. Denver water customers have cut consumption by 20% since 2000. Denver has been prioritizing and mitigating for climate change, i.e. planting trees and getting buildings insulated. Colorado can own the brand on climate and energy and become known for this, which can attract businesses. Regarding the economy, we need to get around people's fear. This year will be tough but next year will be better - might grow faster than we think.

Tourism in Denver has been doing well. From 2003, visits have gone up 26%, and spending 50%. The number of groups to the Convention Center has gone from 26 groups to 73 groups. They have successfully branded Denver as part of Colorado.

If he were elected Governor, he would focus on management, budgeting, cutting red tape and building a team. He feels his private sector experience would give him an edge in running the state. Colorado's pine beetle epidemic is a matter of getting the science right and the political will to get it done.

Denver is still working on the medical marijuana issue. It is clear that the voters think it shouldn't be illegal. Government should get the most out of it and consider taxing dispensaries.

Jason Schrock – Colorado Legislative Council

Jason Schrock, an economist for the Colorado Legislative Council gave a presentation on “ ‘The Great Recession,’ its Aftermath and Impact on the State Budget.” The debt-fueled boom has busted, leaving us with a mountain of debt. The loss of wealth due to the bubble and burst in the house market and stock values has dealt a major blow to the economy. Up until Fall of 2008 consumer spending took a dive and is only recently starting to stabilize. Consumers are now saving more and paying down debt. Sales tax revenue plummeted, but has begun to grow again.

The job market got clobbered. The “underemployment” rate for Colorado was 13.7% in 2009, the nation’s was 17%. Colorado has lost 125,000 jobs. Indicators are that Colorado’s economy is improving slowly, but it is a fragile, tenuous growth. Job marketing and consumer spending will remain weak. The impact on the state’s budget has created a mess. Budget is operating on a shortfall, with human services, health care, judicial, corrections and education taking the highest hits. Recession has caused this to be worse. Measures being used to address shortfall are increasing revenues, transfer of money from other funds to general fund, federal money, hiring/ salary freezes, permanent and one-time cuts to programs, and use of reserves. Because next year’s budget has not yet been passed and we don’t know what it would have been had the recession not occurred, it is impossible to know the actual amount of the shortfall.

Sam Mamet - Executive Director, Colorado Municipal League

Sam Mamet discussed current legislation including; medical marijuana, state budget, voluntary agreement affecting rent, urban renewal, water conservation, Amendments 60 and 61, and Proposition 101.

State Capitol

At 2:30 the group moved to the State Capitol for a panel discussion with Senator Dan Gibbs, Al White, Bruce Whitehead, Chris Romer and Representatives Kathleen Curry and Randy Baumgardner.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.