



MINUTES
August 26, 2016
Fraser

The following members were in attendance:

Anne Corrock, Ketchum	Jim White, Grand Lake
Bill Efting, Frisco	Joe Fitzpatrick, Mt. Crested Butte
Clint Kinney, Snowmass Village	Lu Berger, Fraser
Darren Burgmann, Jackson	Matthew Birnie, Gunnison County
Dean Brookie, Durango	Markey Butler, Snowmass Village
Drew Nelson, Winter park	Michael Penny, Alumni
Elizabeth Jones, Beaver Creek Resort Co.	Nick Teverbaugh, Honorary Member
Eric Mamula, Breckenridge	Pam Larson, Ouray
Frank Lancaster, Estes Park	Philip Vandernail, Fraser
Gary Sears, Honorary Member	Rick Holman, Breckenridge
Gary Wilkinson, Frisco	Sarah Smith Hymes, Avon
Greg Clifton, Telluride	Scott Vargo, Summit County
Greg Schulte, Pagosa Springs	Sean Murphy, Telluride
Jeff Durbin, Fraser	Stan Zemler, Vail
Jennie Fancher, Avon	Tom Acre, South Fork
Jennie Green, Pagosa Springs	

I. Call to Order and Introductions, Dean Brookie, CAST President

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

II. Approval of June 2016 meeting minutes

There was a motion and a second to approve the June 2016 meeting minutes, which was passed unanimously.

III. Welcome and Fraser Update

Philip Vandernail, Fraser Mayor

Fraser was established in 1953 and has 1200 residents. They are on track to have their highest tax season ever. Recent ballot initiatives passed that dedicates money for transit and Fraser's new bus shelter won an award. A lack of housing is a statewide issue, and Fraser is in the same situation. They have a housing needs study underway, and are working on a strategic plan for housing. Fraser is also working on a broadband initiative with Winter Park and the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Fraser and Winter Park work in collaboration on multiple projects. The community has new committees for economic development, the arts and transportation. A GOCO grant will fund a bridge that will improve the local trail system. They have done a technical energy audit, and are working towards a sustainability plan. They hope to reduce emissions by 20% by 2025.

IV. **Water Quality: Impaired Stream Status & Storm/Waste Water Management**

- ***Lane Wyatt, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality/Quantity Committee***

Lane explained that his organization, with a membership of 40 local governments, does advocacy on water diversions and litigation support. Local governments have land use authority so storm water management falls to local governments. There are several impaired streams in this state and they are found on the 303(d) list. Rivers are broken into segments, given classified uses, and standards are set to protect those classified uses. These standards are re-evaluated every five years so there is no certainty what future standards might be. Then these standards move over to the Basin level, and then a discharge permit is issued.

In 2010, Policy 10-1 was set. This is a biological basis for measuring aquatic life use impairment. They take all the bug info and then a score is issued based on that. This process puts a stream in three categories: Attaining, grey or impaired. If a stream is designated as impaired, there is a public rule making every two years, and that is the only opportunity to get off this Impaired Stream list. The biggest impact to the community is it could impact their discharge permit, but stigma is also a concern. The local government is asked to get the stream back to standard and the State will try to incentivize communities to do so.

Stan Zemler, Town of Vail shared Vail's experience. In 2012, Vail was informed that Gore Creek was impaired. This was a surprise to the community and they weren't sure what that meant. They formed a working group with the water district, the town and others. It was determined they had a "bug problem"- not enough of them. The study became a broad, sweeping report with 219 recommendations so the group was asked to prioritize, outline costs, and determine how to get Gore Creek off the Impaired Stream list. Vail has budgeted to aggressively go after a few things such as infrastructure improvements (replace culverts, sand filters), and address water runoff from I-70. Vail is considering new rules and regs, best management practices, education and outreach, and site specific projects. The more challenging piece is the non-point sources. They adopted some aggressive regulations on the in-town stream corridor. Through that process they determined many developments had encroached on the stream corridor within town limits. They adopted a policy to clear that corridor and got a mixed response as far as cooperation. They are also watching pesticide use on private land that abuts Gore Creek. Two property owners have filed suit but for the most part the locals have taken this very seriously. The plan has a ten year focus, but they are addressing the issue aggressively.

Discussion: Every five years, there are new standards set by the Water Commission, but then those standards might not work, and they change again. So standards are in constant change. Mountain towns care about rivers as much as the state. They are an important scenic and recreation amenity. Ski towns need to make sure standards work for them. Long term, external eruptors (like prescription drugs) will likely become more of a factor in the future.

- ***Gene Riordan, Vranesh and Raisch, LLC***

Gene works with a lot of ski towns, large metro districts and the mining industry. Permits must be renewed every five years and for each renewal the state takes a fresh look at changes to water quality and streamflow conditions. The way the Division of Water calculates, drought years and changes in stream flow impact the standards. This model might increase standards, even though water quality and aquatic data show no problems. So, there are thoughts that the DFLOW model is flawed. Ski towns have special situations since discharge is seasonal, and the water flow is seasonal. What to do? Verify water quality standards are realistic, and verify low flow calculations are reflective of the stream over the long term. Evaluate alternate ways to protect in stream water quality and evaluate treatment options. It might make more sense to evaluate monthly, as it is more reflective of the seasonality experienced by ski towns.

- ***Jim McLaughlin PE, Merrick and Company***

Historically, waste water management has been that water is pulled from a stream, used and then put back with some treatment. Tertiary treatment was utilized to remove ammonia and later removing phosphorous was a goal. All these things are examples of treating things biologically. Today, there is a total shift to address non-biological treatment. Plants are expensive so local governments want to plan out many decades. In Fraser, the drinking water standard meant the drinking water wasn't good enough to discharge back into the stream. So that 50 year piece of infrastructure doesn't meet today's needs/standards. Waste water treatment plants are also expensive to operate. All equations are based on steady state which works for Denver, but don't apply well to ski towns. Waste water plants are designed to that steady state, so mountain towns need to look to see if certain plants will work for their needs. Space is often an issue for ski towns, and then there is the odor factor. Phosphorous can be removed biologically or chemically. There is no one right way to meet criteria. Six engineers will give six different opinions. Towns need to be aware that whatever they build today will need to be changed in ten years. Ideally, towns should build infrastructure that can be adapted to future needs.

V. **Regional Transportation in Resort Communities**

- ***Drew Nelson, Winter Park Town Manager***

In the past, Winter Park Resort operated transit with some contribution from the Town of Winter Park, Fraser, HOAs and charter services. The Resort threatened to cut service in 2010, which led to a public discussion about transit needs. An MOU is in place to transfer the existing service contract from the resort to Winter Park. Since that time a ballot measure that gives a sustainable revenue stream has passed, and a transit committee consisting of Winter Park, Winter Park Resort and Fraser was formed. Voters passed a 2% sales tax increase in Winter Park and a 1% sales tax increase in Fraser for transit, trails and capital projects.

- ***Michael Koch, Transit Manager, Winter Park Transit***

Michael was hired to manage transit and they are starting from scratch. Ordering a new bus fleet was a first task, and they purchased ten used RTD buses, and five used buses from Steamboat. They received some money from CDOT for these purchases. They had a smartphone app, marketing and branding kickoff in August. The Winter Park Express ski train is coming back this winter to further round out their transit offerings.

- ***Dan Blankenship, CEO, Roaring Fork Transportation Agency (RFTA)***

RFTA is the 2nd largest transit agency in Colorado, and the largest rural system in the nation with 100 bus trips per day. Their bus lane allows transit to go by the consistent weekend backups. Trails, bike sharing and covered bike storage are other key features. IT has become a large and valued component of the RFTA system with WIFI and real time passenger info. Customers want comfort and convenience which means structures, heat, and fast and frequent service. Our state doesn't dedicate much to transit and we also can't count on federal dollars. The anticipated population increase will result in more demand on the RFTA system. It is already a challenge to sustain, so increased needs will be an even greater challenge. The state is investing in Bustang which is positive but rural operators need public support as well. Affordable housing plays a role in service demand. Retaining employees is also a challenge. They have the authorization to levy a 1% sales tax increase as well as a property tax. If they are successful in getting a mill levy passed, it would help with funding sustainability. They are planning for the future by working on an integrated transportation plan. Air quality and noise are bus factors and electric technology is on the horizon. Higher speed transit will need to be considered in the long term.

Discussion: Winter Park didn't see any negative impacts of the sales tax increase on their summer business. Sales tax rates are a concern for RFTA, with that area trying to stay below 10%. There aren't many other options beyond taxes to fund transit. Sixteen HOAs outside of Winter Park and Fraser town limits still contribute to transit on an annual basis. There are discussions about Silt/Parachute/Rifle joining RFTA, but they don't have the same kind of congestion issues as other communities. Human services, public health, homeless services, etc. are all so affected by transit. Community impacts that could result from reduced services might surprise some. Before RTFA became an authority, they had IGAs with communities.

Enabling legislation made forming the authority a possibility. Regarding the capacity of their buses, RFTA sees most of its costs in labor so getting more people in each bus is ideal.

VI. Short Term Rentals – Member Updates

Frisco is seeing that HOAs don't want to regulate, but want the town to do it for them. Durango tells HOAs to amend their bylaws to address STRs. Denver and Boulder limit their STRs to primary residences. Dean represented CAST at a conference of the Onsite Property Managers Association and that group is all about leveling the playing field. Grand Lake has an application fee and then an annual fee with some of that fee dedicated to affordable housing efforts. Some homes are being built just for a STR purpose and that begs the question of if they are considered a commercial property rather than residential. Host Compliance is figuring out how to legally scrape the data from STR sites. iCompass is a service Estes is looking at. Towns are looking at this issue, but if the county isn't addressing STRs then it is hard to get a good handle on it.

The board will discuss next steps and if/how CAST wants to continue to lead on this issue. Members encouraged CAST to stay at the forefront.

VII. The Mountain Pact: Update and Community Engagement

- ***Diana Madson, Executive Director & Maddie Rehn, Program Manager***

They have historically focused on environmental, climate change, and public lands issues and they engage with Congress and the administration through meetings and letters. Diana learned that mountain communities weren't active participants in discussions on climate change even though climate change has a potentially large impact on those communities and their economies. The Mountain Pact wanted to help get a seat for mountain communities at the federal table. Policy efforts have focused on 1) public lands and wildfire reform. Currently, USFS has to borrow from non-wildfire funding to address the frequency and severity of wildfires. 2) Coal Royalty Reform. The Dept. of Interior (DOI) is reviewing the coal program and subsidies and Mountain Pact is encouraging them to look at social costs to coal production and how coal is subsidized. 3) Outdoor Economy. There will be a study of Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA) to look at outdoor recreation's contribution to the nation's GDP. This study is not fully funded. The DOI will fund the first year of the three year study. Mountain Pact is also starting a campaign to look at how climate change will impact outdoor recreation. They are seeking funding to organize communities to go to DC and work with the next President's administration. The Dept. of Labor doesn't count outdoor recreation as an industry.

- ***Todd Brown, Telluride***

The Mountain Pact is in alignment with Telluride's values. Telluride sees that Mountain Pact doesn't duplicate other groups' efforts. Mountain Pact makes it possible for small mountain communities to interface at the federal level with a professional presence. Telluride went to Washington DC to meet leaders, provide public testimony on the federal coal program, and wrote letters of support.

- ***Dean Brookie, Durango***

Durango also went to Washington DC with Mountain Pact and found the departments and administration leadership was responsive. It was a good dialog, he made good connections at the federal level, and those connections have already benefited his region. Participation with Mountain Pact can give CAST a bigger reach and voice without having to expand membership.

Communities don't pay to participate with Mountain Pact. Communities can also opt to support individual issues and efforts. Telluride commented that this a la carte approach on issues works for them. Diana mentioned that Aspen is working to form a Colorado Mayors Compact, similar to a group of international mayors that participated at the climate talks in Paris. CAST has already indicated its interest in that effort.

VIII. Updates/Other Business

- **Honorary Member Nominee** - Bill Efting nominated Joyce Burford as a CAST Honorary Member. During her time as a Fraser Trustee she served on the CAST board and as board

President. Her leadership as Executive Director brought more professionalism and structure to CAST. There was a first and a second and the motion passed unanimously.

- **The Board of Directors will have a retreat in October.** Members were encouraged to send the Board any input they might have.
- **Next Meeting:** Pagosa Springs – October 27-28. Greg Schulte, Town Manager explained that Pagosa Springs joined CAST last year and is excited to host the next meeting. Greg highlighted a fun activity planned for October 27 – the Cowboy Fast Draw. More info to follow!

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.