



**March 5, 2020
Denver, Colorado
Minutes**

Lisa Branner, Silverton	Dara MacDonald, Crested Butte
Dean Brookie, Durango	Sonja Macys, Steamboat Springs
Jen Brown, Beaver Creek Resort Company	Ryan Mahoney, Basalt
Todd Brown, Telluride	Eric Mamula, Breckenridge
Markey Butler, Snowmass Village	Mark Mathews, Keystone Neighborhood Group
Dick Carleton, Breckenridge	Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County
Kathy Chandler-Henry, Eagle County	Sue Morris, Silverton
John Crone, Grand Lake	Kathi Meyer, Steamboat Springs
Thomas Davidson, Summit County	Ann Mullins, Vail
Jeff Durbin, Fraser	Jim Myers, Winter Park
Jennie Fancher, Avon	Drew Nelson, Salida
Joe Fitzpatrick, Mt. Crested Butte	Jim Peterson, Grand Lake
Russ Forrest, Gunnison	Keith Riesberg, Winter Park
Boe Freeburn, Gunnison	Scott Robson, Vail
Jack Gilbride, Mountain Village	Jim Schmidt, Crested Butte
Shannon Haynes, Breckenridge	Karn Stiegelmeier, Summit County
Eric Heil, Avon	Jane Templeton, Salida
Rick Holman, Breckenridge	Torre, Aspen
Ryan Hyland, Silverthorne	Scott Vargo, Summit County
Sarah Smith Hymes, Avon	Jacque Whitsitt, Basalt
Liz Jones, Beaver Creek Resort Company	Gary Wilkinson, Frisco
Clint Kinney, Snowmass Village	P.T. Wood, Salida
Elisabeth Lawrence, Summit County	

- I. **Call to Order & Introductions, Dean Brookie, President**

- II. **Opening Remarks: Governor Jared Polis**
Public health will be a large focus due to COVID-19.

- III. **Legislative Update: Meghan Dollar, Legislative Advocacy Manager, CML**

Family Medical Leave-This is a complicated issue that would have a big impact on municipalities.
Minimum Wage-legislation passed and only Denver has implemented it.
Nicotine/Vaping-there are a couple bills on these topics.

CML Initiated Legislation:

The failure of SB10-010, getting rid of pre-emption of local government powers, was a set-back but not a fatal one. It will come back in the house, but the decision will really take place on the Senate floor.

HB1163 establishes a statewide bag fee and preempts local governments from doing anything less stringent than what is in the bill. CML will oppose unless amended with some provision to let local governments decide.

An exemption in the Rent Control Statute: A bill will be introduced and will be a high priority for CML.

A bill to clean up Title 31 election codes will true up local and state election code.

Oppose Bills:

Death and Disability Plans would put more pressure on the employer. CML met with Senate President to talk about a compromise, but bill was run as written and passed. CML is concerned about impacts on local governments.

HB1138: requires all municipalities to report usable real property to the states architect's office, but the County Assessor already has this information.

HB1223- Right to Rest Act. Prohibition on sleeping and camping in public spaces. Homelessness a critical issue. This bill died but this issue keeps coming back.

HB1287-CO Rights Act. Concern is that this could open municipalities to liability. The sponsor asked to kill his own bill, but the committee is expected to pass it.

Transportation: Ballot initiatives failed, and deep pockets don't want to fund another ballot initiative. There is some money from last years' hospital provider fee. Legislators are talking about a referred measure as part of a larger package on a gas tax increase, and possibly raising the SOV tax. CML is not supporting any of those efforts. CML feels any transportation proposal needs to be concrete. A comprehensive funding package, even with a majority, is not an easy thing to do.

SB65 Hands Free-Such bills have been repeatedly killed and it might not make it out of the House this time.

Taxing STRs as commercial: died.

Social Marijuana Clubs- The Clean Air Act was evoked and killed this bill. Marijuana smoke was amended into Clean Indoor Air Act but in the future, it might be amended back out. CML doesn't see a change in this anytime soon.

The CML Annual Meeting will be in Westminster in June. The Municipal Hero award is now called the Sam Mamet Good Governance Award. CAST Members are encouraged to attend and nominate someone. Local government sets a good example of how to listen to one another and get along.

III. Economic Update: Brian Lewandowski, Associate Director, Leeds School of Business

There is a lot more uncertainty nationally than there was last year. The last recession took longer to recover from compared to previous recessions. We are an aging country in general, and with folks aging out of the workforce, growth in GDP will slow. Future growth will come from productivity gains (i.e., technological improvements.) Colorado is the third top job growth state in the country. A tight labor market continues. Consumer Confidence is high.

A \$8.3B federal spending bill to manage COVID-19 is being discussed. If the virus reaches pandemic proportions, it could cause a dip in leisure and hospitality employment, but with a quick recovery. Ski counties might be more impacted than other economies. CAST members might see demand side impacts with folks canceling vacations. Tourism is an expiring sale, unlike an automobile that can be sold later. The Federal Reserve made a surprise, big move to reduce interest rates .5% to stimulate demand in the economy. We are running a Trillion dollar deficit again and during one of the great economic expansions of our time. We aren't out of tools to combat a recession.

Turning to Colorado, this has been one of the best post-recession economies in the country. Colorado's employment growth is slowing. 2020 should be the slowest job growth since 2011 but a lot of this has to do with aging demographics. We can combat that by bringing in workers who are already living here but have not been in the workforce. The greatest job growth in 2020 will be in professional and business services, software, engineers, R&D, bio tech, aerospace, health care, government of all levels, education. Tourism is in the top five areas of job growth. Information/media and extraction are the lowest growth.

Colorado's Average Annual Pay was at 4% growth in 2019 and is accelerating. Costs have gone up, so the "real wage" is less than in past years. We aren't keeping up with infrastructure relative to growth and population increase in this state. Retail, restaurant, and accommodations are at low end of Colorado wages, although those are often part time jobs, so it skews the numbers.

In ski counties, the population change is much more volatile. Net migration is more susceptible to the ebbs and flows of the economy. Ski counties are getting more concentrated in service industries, rather than more diverse. Ski counties area beating the nation and rural Colorado in growth. Housing affordability is top of mind across the entire state, not just resort and urban. This is a big threat to Colorado's competitiveness in attracting talent. Construction costs are limiting the ability to build affordable housing. Federal policy on immigration has the potential to impact the local labor force.

IV. The State of Natural Resources in Colorado: Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Dept. of Natural Resources

Fisher's Peak State Park is an exciting project and will be the first new park in many years. Fishers Peak is the highest point in American east of I-25. This peak is iconic and was in private hands until recently.

The COTREX app is the first state-run app that includes all trails in state. They hope to add real time info that shows status of parking, for example.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is their biggest division and generates \$2B in revenue from hunting and state park visits. It is hunting and anglers that pay into the system to help manage wildlife needs, but that demographic declining. An increased number of others are using our public lands that are not paying into the system. 92% of Coloradans recreate outside. We need to look at a sustainable revenue source. All outdoor users impact wildlife. A "Pay to Play" model will need to be explored. A fee on mountain bikes of a certain value is something that the mountain bike community is considering.

SB 19-181 puts health, safety, and environment first and allows local governments increased oversight over oil and gas operations. DNR is working with CDOT to increase safety in wildlife corridors. They are exploring public access to state land board land that is not currently open to the public. The Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) is under DNR.

USFS and DNR signed an MOU in October 2019 to foster better collaboration among multiple stakeholders on wildfire, recreation, climate change, etc. Core elements: coordinate stewardship, use mapping and decision tools to mitigate risk, use all available tools for active management. Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative in southwest Colorado is a pilot for shared stewardship.

The security of the Colorado River is an immediate issue Mr. Gibbs has been involved in. It forced multiple states to come up with a drought contingency plan. Implementing Colorado's Water Plan is also an exciting effort that DNR is working on. Climate Change has been included in the modeling in this plan.

The Governor has aggressive climate goals, so Dan Gibbs wants climate to be front and center for the whole organization. There are lots of ways for local communities to plug into state efforts. Division of Water Resources did a project with scientists to look at dam safety risk due to climate change. The Colorado Water plan has climate change scenarios. The Colorado Conservation Board is working with FEMA to look at cost of drought wildfire and floods due to climate change projections along with population growth projections. This information should be useful and interesting to CAST for planning purposes. DNR is looking at solar/wind energy on state land board lands, especially on the eastern plains. The State is looking at obtaining water rights as coal fired plants are retired.

V. Colorado Division of Housing: Alison George, Director

Ms. George plans for how to address change and its impacts on housing. They work on increasing and preserving housing inventory in the state, rental assistance vouchers, collaborative approaches to end homelessness, regulating mobile home parks and factory-built structures. Legislation passed last year involved a lot of advocacy from many CAST communities. The Division talks a lot about planning and growth. Rising land values add additional pressure on affordability. The Marijuana Tax Cash Fund contributes to the homelessness fund. A Vendor Fee is new money that will start going towards housing starting in FY22.

The Division of Housing held meetings with stakeholders to talk about housing needs. Ms. George shared the final report which includes recommendations. The report can be found on their website. They are taking applications for a working group to implement these recommendations.

They have been talking with the Telluride Foundation to look at streamlining the process to get projects done. The Division relies on the innovation of local communities.

Resources are needed on how we address our non-documented populations. A legislative fix is likely needed.

\$40M of funding is coming and it can be used for infrastructure. Regional representatives will provide technical assistance to communities on applications for this money.

VI. New Business

The January 2020 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

MT2030, Oct 29-Nov 2, will be hosted by Summit County and Breckenridge. It will focus on climate action and will be an opportunity to learn from one another.

Topics for future meetings: Growth, Workforce housing, climate, arts as a community development tool, teen vaping, Overtourism (Arapahoe Basin's decision to attract fewer skiers), transition to renewables.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.