



**ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING
MINUTES
March 3, 2022
Denver, Colorado**

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Dara McDonald, CAST President

II. Opening Remarks via video: Mayor Michael B. Hancock

III. Economic Update

*Brian Lewandowski, Executive Director, Business Research Division, Leeds School of Business
University of Colorado Boulder*

(Presentation) The national economy is in recovery from COVID and will have challenges ahead. Colorado might expect to be back to full employment in 2022 with some expectations such as leisure and hospitality.

IV. Legislative Update

Meghan Dollar, Legislative Advocacy Manager, Colorado Municipal League

(Presentation) HB22-1151 Adverse Action for Employee Marijuana Use-will likely be turned into a study. CML opposed. The Housing tax credit-extend by 10 years and add money to program. Housing recommendations for ARPA funds that Colorado will receive is \$400M total: local government and nonprofit grants, funding for rehab of existing housing, a middle income program from CHFA, mobile home programs, and creating more opportunities for modular. Housing legislation on these programs is likely coming in April. Addressing homelessness is also part of the program. HB22-1159 builds on last year's plastics bill and creates a Circular Economy Development Center to support end markets and support local governments working to increase recycling rates. CML is supportive. HB22-1028 Controlled Interchanges-CML opposed. There are four grant programs for wildfire.

Break

V. Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office (COREC)

Conor Hall, Executive Director

There are new federal grants, the EDA Outdoor Recreation Grants, which will be distributed throughout the state. Over \$4M to disperse in a competitive process to local government, nonprofits, higher ed, and economic development entities. CTO will also receive roughly this same amount. Grants will be for marketing and asset promotion, technical assistance, and planning infrastructure improvements. In 2019, the national outdoor rec economy had a \$788B economic impact. This office gives voice and organization to the outdoor industry and organizes around key principals that are critical to the industry. The economic impact dropped to \$689 in 2020, mostly due to pandemic. They work with several regional coalitions that keep them connected with local communities and that is a great way for CAST members to plug in and engage at the state level. The Rural Technical Assistance Program is with the CU Master's Program (RTAP) to help rural communities create or develop an outdoor rec economy. They have three phases: education, technical outreach and

implementation. CAST members should reach out. COILS in May is a leadership summit in this space to network and talk through major issues. OREC has not to date funded Front Country Rangers, but the EDA grant might be a fit. That is a great need to CAST communities. COREC is working with the Dept. of Natural Resources to make sure they aren't duplicating efforts.

VI. Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA)

Jacob Smith, Executive Director

CC4CA is represented by forty counties and towns. Redistricting has shifted things this session. There are still some potentially large, transformational bills but there might just end up being a few smaller bills including several Air Quality/GHGs and Solid Waste bills. The Producer Responsibility bill can support local government recycling programs. The Circular Economy HB22-1159 has no opposition. Another bill establishes a floor on building codes to make them more energy efficient and reduce emissions. CC4CA watches for funding programs and advocates for climate-related components. CC4CA feels the Governor's budget is heavy on monitoring and not so aggressive on emission reduction. Jacob stressed the importance of engaging in post-legislation rule making and the regulatory side of these bills.

VII. Colorado Tourism Office

Timothy Wolfe, Executive Director

CTO is focusing on stewardship/destination management with a new division in CTO. They partner with one hundred DMOs and each DMO has their own unique strategy. For example, some want to disperse visitors and others want to concentrate them and their impacts. CTO worked with twenty-eight communities on the Restart program to work with local communities post-COVID. There are grants for meeting/events incentives. The Ouray Ice festival took advantage of that program. They will receive some EDA funding along with OREC. ARPA funding will go to destination management and bi-lingual efforts. Tim Wolfe has met with all the tourism boards in the state. Many of them are members of CADMO and CTO works closely with that group. Communities are invited to participate on CTO subcommittees. They use revenue forecasts to determine if promotion is needed versus destination management. They are developing a regional plan to give all communities a guide for destination management.

VIII. New Business

Housing Task Force Update: The Task Force has provided input on language of HB1117. Taxing STRs as commercial has been a point of discussion but is not an issue the task force is actively supporting. Instead, the group supports enabling counties to tax STRs as municipalities can. Re-instating the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) is part of the long game as it would require amending TABOR. Rep. Dylan Roberts of Avon is serving on the Housing Task considering how ARPA housing dollars will be spent.

Approval of January 2022 Minutes: The meeting minutes were approved with unanimous support.

New Associate Members. There was a motion and unanimous support to welcome Mammoth Lakes and Mono County as new Associate Members.

Honorary Membership: There was a motion and unanimous support for Jim Schmidt to be named as an Honorary Member.

Next CAST Meeting: Salida, August 25-26

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.