



**MINUTES**  
**August 24-25, 2023**  
**The Arts Campus at Willits (TACAW)**  
**Basalt, Colorado**

**Thursday, August 24**

**I. Call to Order and Introductions, *Jonathan Godes, CAST President***

**II. Law Enforcement Liability: How public sentiment & Colorado laws are challenging police departments**

*Tami Tanoue, Executive Director, CIRSA*

*Sam Light, Deputy Executive Director/General Counsel, CIRSA*

There are fewer liability protections for public officials and public entities than in the past. Public and jury sentiment is changing, and social forces and legislative agendas are challenging law enforcement services in Colorado. Liability settlements have been increasing incrementally over the last 10 years. The cost of liability coverage is high. Mandates are increasing in Colorado which is another increased cost of services. Incidences are being litigated in the press. A commitment must be made to adequately fund law enforcement services. Work is needed to bridge the gap between how government's view law enforcement vs how the community views it and communications such as an annual report are a way to work towards bridging this gap. CIRSA makes recommendations, provides resources, and seeks ways to reward members for following best practices.

*Brian Olson, Chief of Police, Town of Snowmass Village*

*Kim Ferber, Chief of Police, City of Aspen*

Lack of trust issue is a bigger issue in metro areas compared to mountain towns. Most citizens of ski towns are unaware of the change in laws. The new laws moved Snowmass Village to use body cam technology probably earlier than it otherwise would have. The cost of this technology has a big impact. Costs have increased for the entire department, including goods and services such as software maintenance for body cameras. Workload has increased as body camera footage review and integrating that into reports takes time. Beyond department

procedure, for any contact that an officer has, specific information needs to be provided to the State via an app. This is very time consuming and is a duplicative practice meaning officers spend more time in the office and less time out on the streets. Profiling concerns is the basis of that. The change in the law directs officers to pursue non-lethal responses before they can move to a lethal response. In some situations, it is impossible to go through all unlethal options before going to a lethal response. Collaborative training is cost effective. SB20-217 led officers in metro areas to retire early. Staffing is a larger problem in metro areas. Chief Olsen implored elected officials to publicly voice that they support their law enforcement. It can be impactful for residents to hear leaders voice trust of department means and this is something that resonates through the staff. Recognize the great work of law enforcement. They are looking at future staffing needs to accommodate the changing landscape. Adding administrative positions so patrollers can be on the street. Most contacts and those jailed in Aspen and Snowmass Village are local residents.

### **III. Colorado's Destination Stewardship Strategic Plan**

*Jill Corbin, Deputy Director, Destination Stewardship, Colorado Tourism Office*

CTO wants to encourage responsible and respectful tourism and has the first destination stewardship office of its sort in the U.S. They are offering grants for communities to focus on stewardship. Economic Vitality, Industry Leadership and Destination Stewardship are the three pillars of the CTO Strategic Plan. Care for Colorado provides stewardship messaging. Do Colorado Right is larger than Care for Colorado and has international reach. They are focused on many issues, including being mindful of carbon footprint, transit/bike/ped use and balancing quality of life for residents with the visitor experience.

The Destination Stewardship Strategic Planning Initiative is bolstered by the American Rescue Plan. Solimar is a consulting firm helping with this effort to create one statewide plan and eight regional plans. CAST Members are encouraged to join a regional action team. The State wants visitors to be good stewards. CTO is engaging with local communities, federal land managers, DMOs, tour operators and others. A public survey will go out this fall and CAST members are asked to share it with their constituents. They will soon launch a campaign focused on supporting the local workforce. They are building the workforce through CMC partnerships. Do Colorado Right is always looking for new messaging. CTO is well aware that there are communities where tourism is not valued or seen as a benefit. CTO is the entity that communicates with visitors so let CTO know what issues they should be talking about.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

### **Friday, August 25**

#### **I. Call to Order & Introductions**

*Jonathan Godes, CAST President*

#### **II. Welcome to Basalt**

*Mayor Bill Kane*

### III. Sustainability & Net Zero Building

*Ryan Honey, Executive Director, The Arts Campus at Willits (TACAW)*

When the Basalt community was being planned, land was set aside for an art center and a RETA helped fund it. It is due to the forward thinking town government that made TACAW possible. It is the first net zero performing arts center in the country. A \$60,000 grant from CORE funded the solar panels. The net zero distinction also brought in donations. The facility is all electric, solar, and they have space for future battery storage. The community is proud of the facility and its part in combating the climate crisis. They are working to eliminate plastic and consider the trucking/transportation of visiting artists and what they can do to encourage artists to electrify their fleets.

*Auden Schendler, Senior Vice President of Sustainability, Aspen Skiing Company*  
Aspen Skiing Company should be building structures that others could build. Communities need to think about this differently. You don't need to make every building perfect. Make a lot of buildings pretty darn good. Codes to require all electric on new buildings and working with utilities to provide the grid are important steps. He suggests that natural gas should be banned. Sustainable buildings TACAW and the ski area are educational. The Basalt Vista project was developed with no gas line. Climate needs to focus on the built environment to make a significant impact. Retrofit existing for electric will be a huge lift.

#### *Discussion:*

- Contractor education is a huge need. CORE has done some training.
- Holy Cross is at the tip of the spear on renewable energy. The utility was reformed by the community. Utility Coops are old boy networks with uncontested elections. Run candidates and ask media to cover utility elections. Brats and Kilowatts is a sample community event where the utility and community can have conversation.
- Regarding battery safety and disposal: Need to solve climate or battery disposal doesn't matter. Battery storage needs to be explored. Battery recycling is being worked on. Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) actively working in the area of sustainable battery. Pitkin County is doing a micro grid project at the airport with lithium ion batteries. Texas is incentivizing battery storage. Regarding impacts of battery components and mines that are damaging, society focuses on small things as it is easier than the big issue of Climate Change. Going all electric will result in less extraction as a whole.
- Political will is just one of the challenges. Eagle County needs to update their code but there is concern about the grid's capacity for going all electric. The Public Works Dept in Glenwood Springs is hesitant to electrify fleets due to concern of the national grid. Communities should ask the utility directly as they often respond that there is capacity.
- Aspen passed Building IQ that includes doing an assessment of energy efficiency of buildings. Aspen has gotten pushback from the building community on the cost of retrofitting. Tax benefits, private sector support, and CORE funding are ways to get this done.
- Natural gas snowmelt for outdoor spaces in Mountain Village. Is paradigm shifting around snowmelt system? Mr. Schendler suggested mountain towns need to bite the bullet and change code if it requires snowmelt systems.

- There is good data that supports going all electric. There was no political backlash to the change in Crested Butte.
- Carbondale will phase out gas by 2032 and will require renewables.
- Lost jobs in extraction can be the next renewable workforce.
- CAST member communities can and should model solutions for the world!

#### **IV. First and Last Mile Mobility**

*Moderator: Ryan Mahoney, Manager, Town of Basalt*

*Mirte Mallory, Co-Founder & Executive Director, WE-cycle*

WE-cycle was founded in 2013 and is a non-profit P3. This program is an example of communities leading by innovation. The Roaring Fork Valley has 81 stations, 421 bikes with 153 of them ebikes. The bikes are not a rental fleet so by design discourages long time use. The first 30 minutes are free. 54% of WE-cycle trips in 2022 replaced car trips. They have solar powered ebike stations. They are fortunate to have RFTA who is forward thinking with a long term view on building a comprehensive transportation system. The bike share framework is supported by all jurisdictions, but it is community members that have embraced and supported it. 100,000 rides in 2022. The Ebikes have resulted in an increase in ridership.

*Travis Gleason, Basalt Connect Micro Transit & Owner, Downtowner LLC*

Launched Feb 2022 this is a turnkey, on demand, fare free within two service zones. It is a service for homes to services, work and home to transit stations, and trips between downtown and Willits. Micro transit solutions help create more cohesion between Basalt downtown and Willits. An in-house shuttle was cost prohibitive for the Town. The Downtowner has provided a solution more affordably. The cost to Basalt is \$350k. They would like to increase ridership from tourists. The shuttles don't idle in rare cases when the vehicle is stationary. There are small EV shuttles on the market, but next year there will be more models. Service is heading towards an electric fleet.

Steamboat' transit system has issues with kids dominating the service which does not replace a car trip but maxes out capacity such that adult workforce can't get service. Basalt is working on this same issue.

#### **V. Hot Topics Roundtable**

- Congressman Neguse is working on the USFS Flexible Partnership Act and the reauthorization of the Farm Bill as well as firefighter pay issues. The Farm Bill reauthorization is a good opportunity to work on forestry and watershed health. He continues to push on the SHRED Act.
- Salida-Energy and building code adoptions is a struggle for affordable housing projects. Lack of service providers being up to speed on the codes and there are added costs. Developers say code makes some projects infeasible. We need to develop a workforce that knows how to build the new systems. Breck knows they need to contribute money on projects to make it pencil.
- Estes Park-marketing district passed a 3.5% lodging tax that funds housing.

- Basalt housing project-school district donated land, Pitkin County put in infrastructure, Holy Cross put in solar, and Town put in money. Partnerships!!
- Fraser-Changing height variance to 4<sup>th</sup> story helps make projects more affordable. Have project to hopefully be 100% affordable units with commercial on top. Might use market rate to offset costs of affordable units. Having home rule discussions and looking at lodging tax. Looking at a RETA.
- CML has a policy committee that dictates what they focus on. It is heavily represented by Front Range and rural resort communities are under-represented.
- Summit County is hosting a housing tour next week to show legislators how we do projects in the mountains.
- Breck just passed an outdoor energy program. Fee in lieu is what Aspen uses and they find that homeowners pay it, and it doesn't reduce energy use.
- Glenwood Springs-Their lodging tax still goes to marketing. Gunnison/CB shifting of lodging tax away from marketing hasn't been implemented yet.
- Durango-new lodging tax goes to sustainability and shoulder season marketing.
- Steamboat has been consistently reducing the marketing budget. The City is getting local pushback that it is hurting visitation, but they are not sure if that is actually the case. They asked the Chamber to show metrics that support that claim. Resort already markets the mountain and events market themselves, so they question if marketing is needed. The community wants to stop marketing.
- Telluride has collected great metrics around visitation and marketing. Marketing trends take more time to show themselves. The resort does not market, so it falls to Telluride and Mountain Village to do so. Mountain Village sees the benefit of marketing.
- Estes Park shares the marketing district with the county. They are shifting marketing to winter season and focusing on events.
- Park City-Thanks to CAST members that participated in the child care survey. Forest health and fire mitigation is an issue including thinning the forest around town but there is pushback from the community. The Roaring Fork Valley just formalized a wildfire collaborative that is valley wide. This has helped gain traction. A very robust community education is needed to explain the why and having a plan that people can look at helps. Breck/Summit County has been doing cut, pile, dry and burn in winter instead of a controlled burn. Not hauling logs past houses reduces the community outcry.
- Steamboat-There is community backlash on ebike regs requiring kids 15 and under to wear a helmet. Has anyone figured out how to educate on dangers of speeding on ebikes? Aspen has a bike patrol to monitor speeding. Most of the speeders are local. Require tourists to watch a safety video. Teton County has a program to go into schools and give a course to kids on bike etiquette. Melissa will share data when available.
- Summit County has been sued on STR policies with claim that they are unfair and the setting of zones arbitrary. The legal team believes that their regulations are on solid ground. A group raised funds to hire a law firm to create the lawsuit. The people bringing the lawsuit in Summit were part of the working group that helped craft the policies. An STR lawsuit is apparently coming soon to Telluride and Crested Butte. Rural resort communities need to be planning for how to deal with STR lawsuits.

### Housing Task Force Presentation

SB23-213 organized CAST like we hadn't been before. We took a collaborative approach, in contrast to CML. CAST doesn't represent a significant portion of the State's population but we are economically significant. The last session reconfirmed that metro areas don't understand rural resort challenges. CAST had a voice at the table during the last session, and conversations for 2024 have already begun. The Housing Task Force has been discussing potential tax legislation for housing. A RETT conversation will immediately follow this meeting for those that want to join.

With the focus on SB 23-213 we missed the opportunity to weigh in on HB23-1255 regarding growth caps.

#### **VI. New Business & Updates**

- The March 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.
- The Fourth Restated & Amended Bylaws were unanimously approved.

Changes include an update to Membership Section that added "rural resort" to definition of Participating Member. Added more clarity to Associate Membership category. Removed section that would allow for profit corporations to join. The rest of the changes are mostly clean up to have Bylaws to reflect the way we operate, such as when we hold our annual meeting.

- The 2024 Dues Increase was unanimously approved.

This is the first dues increase since 2017. Each member has received an email outlining the dues amount they will be assessed in 2024. Associate member dues increased from \$630 to \$800. Most members will see a 10% increase, but others will see a steeper increase because of the consolidation of two different dues categories into one.

- Upcoming CAST Meetings: Vail, October 19-20. The January meeting location is still TBD.

Meeting adjourned at Noon.