



MINUTES
August 25-26, 2022
Salida, Colorado

Thursday, August 25

- I. Call to Order and Introductions, Dara MacDonald, CAST President**

- II. State and Federal Immigration Issues that Impact Ski Towns' Immigrant Workforce**
Marissa Molina, Colorado Director, FWD.us
Claudia Garcia, Wilkinson Public Library, Telluride
Javier Pineda, Mountain Dreamers, Summit County

FWD.us is focused on finding legal channels of immigration. Increasing and strengthening legal immigration can grow the U.S. competitive advantage. If DACA is taken away, many immigrant community members would not be able to stay in their community. DACA has diversified the mountain workforce, nonprofit organizations and local governments which demonstrates the opportunity that can come out of DACA. If DACA ends, local communities would almost immediately feel impact, with monthly job losses of 500/month in Colorado. This is at a time when we are already experiencing workforce shortage. There is talent within the immigrant community, but their lack of status means they often times can't practice their professional craft. There are 45 DACA recipients in Telluride that are doing important social service or nonprofit work that would leave a significant hole if DACA ended. Immigrants are not necessarily attracted to ski towns for the skiing, but rather to be with family, to raise a family in the mountains, and for the work opportunities. Many immigrants aren't able to access affordable housing services, making the current housing crisis even more impactful to immigrants.

State Successes: Until 2013, undocumented people couldn't obtain a drivers' license in Colorado so that has been a very positive development. Qualifying for in-state tuition and the ability to access professional licensing is another big win. Another success is protecting personal information from immigration officials. Federal State of Play & Opportunities: DACA is tied up in litigation. The presenters requested CAST members push for action at the federal level.

Ways to support Colorado immigrants: Change the narrative. Tell stories and talk about why immigrants are critical to your community and the local economy. Tell Congress immigration reform should be a priority. Bring up these issues in Council meetings, write letters to the editor, celebrate the great talent that your immigrant population brings to your community. Host an event, participate in a roundtable and raise the issue of immigration reform. Marissa offered to support each community with information and suggestions for action. Census data doesn't necessarily reflect reality.

How to support the immigrant community: Building trust, building community, and open lines of communication is a critical first step. Celebrate their contributions, work to include and integrate them into community conversations and leadership roles. Consider language access and outreach plans to reach the immigration community. Invite and seek feedback from immigrant leaders and community members. Remove

barriers to participation in community services and programs. Incentives or compensation might help with engagement as many of that demographic need to be working. Employers can pay for time of employees to participate on boards. Providing food and childcare are other incentives. The Town of Breck has an Equity Commission to engage in some of these issues.

III. Chaffee Common Ground: Forest Health, Recreation Management, Ranch Conservation

Kim Marquis, Outreach Coordinator, Chaffee Common Ground

Greg Felt, Chaffee County Commissioner

Diesel Post, Parks & Recreation Director, City of Salida

Chaffee County is predominantly public lands and is in a period of significant growth. A ballot initiative dedicated money to Sustainable Ag, Recreation and Wildfire Mitigation. It was projected to raise \$1M and it has raised \$1.8M. They worked with a firm on the ballot initiative. Chaffee Common Ground is a local foundation that funded a community engagement process to discuss the community's core values and common vision. They built an action plan from that process focused on Sustainable Ag, Recreation and Wildfire Mitigation and created a 23 person Rec Council to implement the recreation plan that addresses impacts. Public restrooms were identified as #1 priority which is similar in most communities. Trash disposal is #2. Overlay of data helps inform future decisions on trails, camping, etc. and data can be accessed through a new Chaffee Rec Collector app. They explored conservation initiatives with ranchers. A pilot project with virtual electric cattle fences is an innovative way to track cattle and direct livestock.

Friday, August 26

I. Call to Order and Introductions, Dara MacDonald, CAST President

II. Welcome to Salida, Mayor Dan Shore

III. USFS Regional Recreation Investment Strategy

Jason Robertson, Recreation Director, USFS Rocky Mountain Region

The forest service is focusing a lot more energy on recreation, in addition to the more traditional fire and timber focus. Investing in workforce is a "wildly important goal" to employ a diverse workforce by 2028. Shared stewardship is a strategy that includes working with communities. Areas to partner with CAST are the SHRED Act, Housing, and Master Development Plans (ski area plans). They understand the USFS should be working with the communities as they consider these ski area plans. A member commented that there is a perception at the community level that resort expansion plans seemingly get rubberstamped. Unfortunately, the USFS has limited capacity to work with communities on projects. The staffing issue is improving. They focus on equity and finding ways of reaching and serving broader audiences.

The Federal Partnership Act is an opportunity to partner on workforce housing. Mr. Robertson was asked how communities can get through the red tape at national level to get the Federal Partnership Act implemented on the ground. The issue communities are having is that through the Act, leases are limited to a 30-50 year lease which doesn't make it worth the investment at the community level. USFS is piloting expanding that lease length and hopes to have an answer on that very soon.

It would be ideal to view tourism and recreation as similar to extraction where a severance tax is paid to communities for impacts. Some communities have implemented a 1% sales tax for public lands. A member noted that there is interest in lease agreements to use USFS campgrounds that sit empty in winter for those that live in their vehicles. This might be allowed under the Federal Partnership Act. USFS is considering if they can partner on housing that is not on USFS land. There are roadblocks at federal level to such innovative joint partnerships.

IV. Hot Topics Roundtable: Members highlight their 1-2 most critical issues.

- Breck's new STR ordinance includes various zones. Used EPS to do a nexus study. The goal of STR licenses in residential zone is 10%. A \$400/bedroom fee. A Citizens Committee met for over six months to craft the details.
- Aspen also has new regulations. A public survey shows strong dissatisfaction with STRs. Fees will go to administration of the program with three permit types, and tax would address impacts. Looking at investor-owners of STRs.
- Steamboat also has zones with caps. Will have a new fee structure and a tax question to voters.
- Summit County will also have caps and zones. They are looking at how GIS data can be used on STR planning/STR zoning. Talk with state legislators about what you would like to see with a third tax classification.
- Telluride STR enforcement includes fines and two strikes means they could lose their license. It is working. Telluride asked all owners of properties to file an affidavit so owners can't hide behind an LLC. The Federal court of appeals just struck down a case in New Orleans and ruled that you can't have one set of rules for residents and another for non-residents.
- Pacaso fractional ownership is the next real conversation in Breckenridge. Park City is also working on how to classify them.
- New, higher value licenses will hopefully lead to more responsive owners/managers and fewer violations. SANS District has become an ally on STRs. Charge double to STRs because of their high use.
- Housing Assessments: Breck does a housing assessment every 3-5 years and tries to measure the loss of long term rental units. Estes did an impact study that generated this number.
- State Sales & Use Tax System-There will be a 2023 bill on how home rule municipalities remit taxes for businesses across the state. There will be discussion about adding a fiscal note to allow the system to collect lodging taxes. This will increase local governments' ability to collect lodging tax, but also easier for VRBO and Airbnb to remit taxes. Would welcome CAST members to make public comments.
- Leadville is at their STR cap so when folks are turned down for a license, they are given a list of folks looking for long term rentals.
- More diversity and participation on town councils would happen with higher compensation.
- Telluride has an aggressive goal to ban certain single use plastics. They are inviting other communities to do something similar. Avon, Breck, Frisco, and Aspen expressed interest. Telluride is seeking funding to help incentivize businesses to adopt the ban more quickly than the HB1162 timeframe.

CORE ACT- A letter was sent to President Biden asking for protections for several elements of the CORE Act. This came out of Sen. Bennet's frustration with Senate gridlock. The President can use administrative powers to designate a new national monument for Camp Hale and the Ten Mile Range, mineral withdrawal on the Thompson Divide and more protections of Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison National Forest. The Senator will continue to work on the CORE Act but in the meantime, these are steps we can take to put these public lands protections in place. CAST support could really help this process. This will happen quickly. There was a motion to support this effort which passed unanimously.

Implementation of the Federal Partnership Act has been problematic but Sen. Bennet's Office and the USFS are working on it. USFS attorneys are now involved and not following Congressional intent. CAST members are encouraged to put their concerns in writing to Sen. Bennet's Office. Hopefully the SHRED Act will be part of a year-end package. This would mean \$21M could be retained in Colorado every year if it passes.

Inflation Reduction Act and Solar: Will these dollars be available to local government housing projects or just to the individual homeowner? MT2030 will discuss this topic.

The U.S. Postal Service is a broken agency. A bipartisan funding bill will help make that a more functional agency. Funding comes over 10 years. Sen. Bennet's staff continues to invest significant time in advocating for communities experiencing substandard service issues.

Behavioral & Metal Health-Is there anything in the works with ARPA funds to support resources. Crested Butte Council will talk about using nicotine tax to fund school clinicians and grants for mental health.

Homelessness-Summit County has a "safe place to park" program started by a local citizen. Glenwood just changed policies/amended their code regarding allowing hotels to rent long term and they are looking into turning a hotel into transitional housing. Salida's Safe Outdoor Space offers a legal place to park/sleep in vehicles and requires proof of local employment and background checks. Salida nonprofit Caring and Sharing works with chronically homelessness. Telluride utilizes the Town Park for camping. Face of homelessness has really changed but there is still often opposition to programs housing the homeless.

Proposition 123 on the state ballot would dedicate .1% of existing income tax to affordable housing programs. There is concern that this money would really benefit the Front Range and not rural resort communities.

V. CAST Housing Task Force

Dara MacDonald, Task Force Member, Crested Butte Town Manager

Taxing STRs as commercial is a huge hurdle and this task force would prefer to go in the direction of giving counties authority to tax STRs. Re-authorizing RETT is another huge undertaking, but we want to start to plant that seed with legislators. There is strong interest in future legislation that would address STR platform transparency. Getting the state SUTS to include lodging tax is another near-term goal of the group.

VI. Upcoming Ballot Initiatives Roundtable

- Eagle County-Formation of Regional Transportation Authority on ballot funded by .5% sales tax increase.
- Winter Park, Grand County Fraser, Granby-Forming a housing authority for 2 mils.
- Routt County will extend 1.5 mil over 10 years.
- Salida-STR tax and fee. Next year will ask voters to adopt home rule.
- Chaffee County-re-allocate lodging tax for childcare and housing programs.
- Gunnison County – re-allocate lodging tax.
- Telluride- Will take over county lodging tax and re-allocate those dollars annually through the budget process.
- Dillon-increase lodging tax and add a STR excise tax.
- Estes Park-2% tax for housing.
- Glenwood-doubling lodging tax for housing.
- Snowmass-extending lodging tax.

Vacant Home Fee-Tahoe is looking at it and there is good data from Vancouver and Oakland. In Utah, primary residents pay less in property tax than second homeowners.

VI. Business & Updates

- Approval of March 2022 Meeting Minutes- Approved unanimously.
- Upcoming CAST Meetings-Members were asked about the value of the reception CAST hosts at the CML meetings. It was not well-attended this year, but it offers an opportunity to network.

Meeting adjourned at Noon.