



MINUTES

October 20, 2023

Vail, Colorado

- I. **Call to Order and Introductions**, *Jonathan Godes, CAST President*
- II. **Welcome to Vail**, *Mayor Kim Langmaid*

Mayor Langmaid welcomed CAST to Vail. As was highlighted at the MT2030 conference, small town leaders get things done, are doing good work, and doing hard work.

- III. **Extended Producer Responsibility Program: Funding for a Statewide Recycling System**
Gail Garey, Producer Responsibility Program Advisory Board & Steamboat Springs Council
John Hite, Circular Action Alliance (CAA)
Doug DeCesare, Waste Sector Director Senior Vice President, HDR

Colorado's EPR program will fund statewide recycling systems, shifting the burden from local governments and communities to the producers. The goal is ultimately to reduce packaging and to ensure packaging is recyclable. It will reduce confusion and create more consistent recycling guidelines for the entire state. The program puts responsibility on the producer and costs cannot be passed to the consumer. The state will create a list of minimum materials that must be recycled in Colorado. The Joint Budget Committee will consider the Advisory Board's program recommendations.

Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) will manage the financial and sometimes operational requirements of the EPR law on behalf of producers. The Colorado legislature requires a single nonprofit PRO be established. PRO works upstream with producers, develops membership structure and collects fees. They will work downstream managing the compliance of the producers. A Needs Assessment will inform the program plan which will be submitted to CDPHE and the Advisory Board. The Circular Action Alliance (CAA) is a national nonprofit with founding member companies contributing funds. All producers of packaging will start contributing fees when the program launches. CCA has a Colorado board.

An in-depth needs assessment study will look at recycling infrastructure in Colorado and identify where there are deficits. Data will help develop future models and scenarios that will inform the future program. It will look at local government data such as ordinances, materials collected, vehicle types,

personnel, labor costs, annual costs, revenues, etc. There was a great response from CAST members to the local government survey. There is the opportunity to tweak the program year -to-year.

Who determines what circularity really means as an end goal? The primary goal of the State statute is to increase the number of recycled materials and ensure there are responsible end markets. There will be financial incentives for producers to reduce their packaging. Dues will encourage producers to think about packaging and they will pay higher dues if there isn't an end market. There will be oversight from a Colorado state board made up of producers. CDPHE has the final say over the program.

The legislation takes into account composting/compostables as part of the program. It is unclear how the statute addresses PFAS, but CCA is seeing that producers are moving away from PFAS for many reasons.

IV. Reaching Vail's Housing Goals for 2027 & Beyond

Russ Forrest, Manager, Town of Vail

Action starts with a strong goal. The Town of Vail determined to acquire 1000 additional housing unit deed restrictions by 2027. They started with 668 when the goal was set, created 362 soon after and have enough in the pipeline to reach the goal. Businesses are buying into affordable housing projects. The Town condominiumized a recent project and allowed businesses to buy the units. Within hours, businesses bought all 64 units. Employer-purchased units will have employment deed restriction and will be rental units with an understanding that businesses will further subsidize to make rents affordable for employees. Working locally 30 hours per week is the basic deed restrictions. They use AMI as a point of reference for where to set rents. Regarding Land Use Policy, they are creating two new zoning districts. The Town serves as a landlord which is very challenging, but necessary. Employers in the Vail Valley outside town boundaries could participate in business purchase.

V. Stewardship Vail Project: Balancing community and a tourism-based economy

Mia Vlaar, Economic Development Director, Town of Vail

Kristen Bertuglia, Environmental Sustainability Director, Town of Vail

This plan brings together economic development and sustainability. It isn't just destination management, but also about the stewardship of the community. Community-positive tourism shapes a visitor economy that serves locals as well. They defined the community as anyone that loves Vail, and that includes wildlife. They were very intentional about hearing from the workforce in developing the plan. A significant amount of research and analysis went into the study, as did resident and visitor surveys. Vail has the Mountain Ideal international designation.

Vail's Stewardship Roadmap has five major actions and goals in the ten year plan, each with targets and indicators:

- Make Vail more Livable (housing)
- Energize the Vail's Brand (working on developing new brand, determining capacity of # of guests)
- Celebrate uniqueness of community and residents)
- Commitment to environmental stewardship (work closely with utility to help reach carbon emission reduction goal of 80% by 205 from 2014 baseline, wildlife roundtable)
- Invigorate Vail's Spirit (entrepreneurship, non-chain businesses, unique/funky ski Town vibe)

They are working to get more and better data to determine their visitor capacity. The Town constantly works to find the balance between visitors and residents. The lodging tax helps ensure they have the budget to market when needed. They are intentional about who they market to, targeting the visitor that shares the local values.

They worked with employers to reach the Hispanic workforce. It is a challenge, but they are making connections and building trust in the process. The police department is actively working to build trust with the Hispanic community.

VI. Hot Topics Roundtable

Affordable dining options: Aspen is exploring affordability measures such as subsidizing rent on restaurants if they price cap menu items. The program has had mixed success. A food court is being explored, with a subsidy for operations and rent.

PFAS-Park City sent out a survey to CAST members.

Transit bus shortage: Summit County is looking to purchase buses if they are sub 500k miles.

Last mile loading and delivery system: Colorado Motor Carriers (CMCA) is suing the Town of Vail, saying their new system is interfering with interstate commerce. Snowmass Village might have some information to offer. Several members toured the facility, and it is a great piece of infrastructure. If the system is successful in Vail, it could be a good topic for a future CAST meeting. The community appreciates that this effort works toward the vision of a pedestrian village.

Composting: Aspen is rolling out a composting program. They'll work with a wildlife expert for guidance around compost attracting wildlife.

STR Lawsuits: A group won a case in Austin because nonresident owners were treated differently than local residents. Summit County has been sued over their STR regulations. Telluride's regulatory fee might be legally challenged. Breck was the first to adopt this regulatory fee. CAST should stay engaged on STR litigation.

Lift ticket tax: Telluride and Mountain Village are exploring such a tax to financially support their gondola.

Snowmelt systems: Routt County and many municipalities are looking at renewable sources, including geothermal, to power snowmelt systems. Breck has a REMP program that allows a minimal amount of snowmelt for safety but otherwise needs to be fueled by renewal energy or a fee is assessed.

Position on HH: No members present have taken a position.

VII. New Business

The August meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.