

**Minutes
Consortium of Cities
February 4, 2009**

Representatives and Alternates Present: Martin Cheshes, Town of Nederland; Carolyn Cutler, City of Lafayette; Angelique Espinoza, City of Boulder; Bob Gaiser, City and County of Broomfield; Ken Lenarcic, Town of Jamestown; Ben Pearlman, Boulder County; Valeria Skitt, City of Longmont; Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior; Colin Towner, Town of Erie; Julie Waugh, Town of Lyons; and Ken Wilson, City of Boulder; and Staff Michelle Krezek and Sheree Stroud.

1. Approval of Minutes

Lisa Skumatz moved to approve the minutes of September 3, 2008 minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Presentation on Boulder County Transportation Capital Improvement Program

George Gerstle, Director of Boulder County Transportation, told the group that he would be reporting on the status of tax revenues collected per the 2007 sales tax ballot issue. The funds were allocated towards 85% for roads and 15% for trails. The funds are appropriated annually by the Commissioners. Please see the [attached Powerpoint presentation](#) which details the projects, status, goals and assumed funding. Mr. Gerstle also mentioned that the county is embarking on the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan. The county hopes to update the policy to mesh with sustainability goals.

Mark Ruzzin, Boulder County staff, told the group that the FASTER transportation bill is moving through the General Assembly. There is hope that local governments will come together to propose amendments to improve the bill. The bill currently focuses primarily on road construction and only minimally on other transportation modes.

Paul Fetherston, City of Boulder staff, added that this is a good example of maximizing resources. He suggested the Consortium talk about shared services and how the body could coordinate and encourage projects.

3. Discussion of March 4 Revenue Stability Forum

Megan Davis, Boulder County Commissioners' staff, discussed the draft agenda. She told the group that each municipality would want to be sure to meet their noticing requirements and also asked the group to recruit council and board members to attend.

4. Discussion of 2009 Work Plan

Ben Pearlman explained that several years ago, the Consortium got together to identify some top regional concerns and prioritize projects for the Consortium to tackle. One was environment/sustainability and that has made amazing strides through the Energy Strategy Task Force and the resulting County Sustainability Plan. Another was development around FasTracks. This didn't get as much attention but is wrapped up in the Revenue Stability project that is currently underway and was another concern identified by the Consortium. Regional libraries was also on the table and some work was done on this issue, but no consensus or solution was reached. Commissioner Pearlman asked the group what issues the Consortium concentrate on now. A brainstorming discussion ensued and the following topics emerged: Combining services to reduce cost of government -- FASTER or other legislative/policy issues where Consortium can come together (Forest Health is a good example); Revenue – services side great next step/economic vitality for region; Green Jobs Summit – leverage money when opportunities evolve; Look at Consortium and see if can be restructured to work better regionally/get more people involved; Re-visit Library Issue; Stimulus package and what it will mean in future; Work together to submit grants for stimulus funds; Environmental issues; Comprehensive water issues – looking at sustainability – re-use, conservation; Shared computer systems; Emergency operations; Youth League – way to regionalize or be a shared service?; Election coordination; Local agriculture; *Implementation of Elements of the Countywide Human Services Master Plan such as* Anti-bias; Human Services – catching those falling through the cracks/safety net; Child welfare; Bridges out of Poverty program is exciting/empowering; Coordinated efforts for affordable housing; Youth, education gaps; Gang prevention.

It was agreed that staff would send out a survey of these ideas so that they could be ranked by representatives and their councils/boards. There can be further discussion on the topics of most interest at the next meeting.

5. Introductions and Reports from Cities and Towns

Ken Wilson, City of Boulder, introduced Angelique Espinoza, who will serve as alternate for Boulder. He also said that Matt Appelbaum was appointed mayor after Shaun McGrath relocated to Washington, D.C. for a post with the Obama administration serving as liaison to governors. Boulder is monitoring the economic situation carefully and considering a staff cut-backs. He suggested that county-wide economics might make a good agenda topic.

Malcom Fleming, City of Louisville, will implement a pay as you throw program in June that includes a composting element. There is a good framework in place for library services for Louisville and Superior. They will work on an IGA and Superior will go to their voters re: a mill levy. The city is mourning John Breaux. It is amazing how much impact one person can have on a community.

Bob Gaiser, City and County of Broomfield, said they have many projects, including working on their comprehensive water plan.

Martin Cheshes, Town of Nederland, said the big topics are water and wastewater. Their loan was approved for a new water plant. Boulder is also helping fund this project and they are working on an IGA. Nederland also voted in new water rates and will be looking at a master plan.

Colin Towner, Town of Erie, reported they are moving along with their wastewater plant. They are getting public input for a park design for the community center/library.

Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior, told members they passed residential energy and buildings codes. Some businesses are coming to the area, but some are leaving. They received a good response to their library survey. She thanked the Boulder and Boulder County staffs for working on the FASTER bill.

Valeria Skitt, City of Longmont, said the council held a retreat in January. They discussed the downtown area, including a mixed use parking proposal. They will continue work on environmental issues and involve community. They are planning to phase back on the expenditures approved for 2009 and may plan the 2010 budget differently – either budget on priorities or outcomes.

Ben Pearlman, Boulder County, said the county is working on a Climatesmart loan program. It is going to be remarkable when it's rolled out, but it is a complicated process. One aspect is finding the right time and amount for bond sales. He said that he would really like to see all the elected officials get together for a work day/team building exercise -- hopefully this summer. Staff will send out a survey to get preferred dates.

The next regular meeting of the Consortium will be April 1.