

**Minutes**  
**Consortium of Cities**  
**February 7, 2007**  
(Not Yet Approved)

**Members Present:** Don Brown, City of Louisville; Doug Brown, City of Longmont; David Callahan, Town of Erie; Carolyn Cutler, City of Lafayette; Ben Pearlman, Boulder County; Mark Ruzzin, City of Boulder; Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior; Jim Stevens, Town of Nederland; and Staff Dickey Lee Hullinghorst and Sheree Stroud

**1. Introductions and Brief Reports from Cities and Towns**

**Carolyn Cutler**, City of Lafayette, told the group there will a vote on the annexation of 32 acres that will most like be developed as a Lowe's. The campaign has been an active one and the vote will be interesting.

**Karen Imbierowicz** reported that the Louisville library issue is still a big topic.

**Erin Minks**, staff to Senator Salazar, said that she didn't have much to add to recent reports although they are staring to circulate appropriate forms for this year's budget cycle. They are due March 2. There was some discussion on the President's budget and the many significant cuts in programs. Ms. Minks said the new Congress will be addressing the budget and perhaps they won't include all the proposed cuts.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Doug Brown moved moved to approve the January 10, 2007, minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**3. 311 Helpline Presentation**

Mike Harlan, Boulder County Information Systems, gave the group an overview of 311 systems. These are systems that allow citizens to call one number to obtain a huge variety of services and information. Steve Stroud, 311 National Practice Director, Fujitu Company, gave a more detailed presentation, demonstrating how these systems work and how they can improve service delivery. See attached PowerPoint document. He also explained that systems can be multi-city or regional. Denver is a regional model.

The group discussed next steps. Don Brown wondered about costs. Although it increases service, where is the cost recovery? Mr. Stroud said that aspect was part of an assessment that covers many areas, including how to fund the system. Valeria Skitt noted that it was intriguing and worth looking at county-wide and it is definitely the wave of the future. Doug Brown thought technical staff should take a look at it. Ben Pearlman indicated it was something everyone should be thinking about – whether we join Denver or create something county-wide, that needs a lot of research but also has a lot of potential.

**4. Update on Revenue Stability Working Group**

Ben Pearlman said that the working group was very impressed with the presentation by BBC. The company seems to understand what it would take to develop a concrete plan but it comes with a \$49,000 price tag. He also thinks Tom Pippin would help create a presentation for councils to help sell them on the idea of funding the program. There was discussion on how to split the costs. Commissioner Pearlman envisioned a fairly equal split with the county perhaps taking a little bigger portion. There is also the possibility of grant funding from DOLA later in the project. The group decided to suggest a range of funding to councils – “no more than \$7,000”. They also

thought a team should be formed to make the presentations to city councils and town boards. Don Brown moved to go forward with efforts to hire BBC and obtain funding from councils and boards. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. A committee was formed to work on the presentation and plan including Don Brown, Karen Imbierowicz, Ben Pearlman, and Carl Castillo.

#### **5. Election of Vice-Chair**

Doug Brown moved to retain Lisa Skumatz as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **6. 2007 Priorities**

The group discussed priorities, with the reminder that task forces carry with them a lot of additional commitment and work. Doug Brown thought that emergency preparedness should be a priority in 2007. The group agreed that a report on this would be helpful. There have been some efforts in Boulder, but it hasn't branched out to the other communities yet. Don Brown thought informational items were good but that the group shouldn't add any big projects as there is a lot on the plate already. Lisa Skumatz said Superior is still interested in the regional library issue staying on the table. Don Brown said he hoped that the suggestion to staff regarding an IGA or other ways to track statistics might go somewhere but since it didn't, he is unsure where to go from here. Ben Pearlman said that the library issue is a big one and keeps meeting roadblocks. The group agreed to keep it on the table and perhaps someone will form a committee to come up with new ideas to present to the Consortium.

Ben Pearlman felt that the 311 system is compelling and thinks it is something that ultimately governments will have to do. He likes the idea of a regional Boulder County system. The county will be moving forward on this – perhaps the Consortium could be a vehicle to take it county-wide. Don Brown suggested coordinating with Chuck Sisk to see what is going on at the Metro Mayors Caucus to avoid duplication. This will go on a future agenda. The group also agreed to keep working on the revenue sharing project.

The next meeting will be April 4, 2007 at the Boulder County Courthouse.