

**Minutes
Consortium of Cities
June 3, 2009**

Representatives and Alternates Present: Ben Pearlman, Boulder County; Bette Erickson and Bob Gaiser, City and County of Broomfield; Ken Lenarcic, Town of Jamestown; Carolyn Cutler, City of Lafayette; Sheri Marsella, Karen Benker, City of Longmont; City of Louisville; Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior; and Staff Michelle Krezek and Mark Ruzzin.

2. Update on Energy Strategy Task Force

Ann summarized the release of the Sustainable Energy Plan in April, 2008. Some goals were to draft commercial codes and to implement a financing mechanism for energy saving projects. A subcommittee and stakeholder group are working on a model code and recommendations to improve energy savings by 30% with proposed adoption in 2010. The codes would need to be adopted by cities and local code. The Climate Smart Loan Program has provided a financing mechanism via loans to homeowners for energy improvements which then can be paid off via their annual property tax. Bonds to finance the loans were issued in the amount of \$6.6 million. This is a groundbreaking program that is getting a lot of interest county-wide. 1700 citizens participated in the workshops. Some people used other financing mechanisms to fund their energy improvements. An added bonus is the economic development aspect of this in that it creates green jobs. The second round will be in the fall of 2009 and will include \$20 million for residential loans and \$12 million for commercial loans. The group then had some specific questions.

- Can the assessment be deducted from taxes? No tax advice is given by the county; principal is not deductible.
- How will improvements affect property values? Will this increase taxes? The measures don't automatically increase valuation. The county may look at state legislation if this becomes an issue.
- What about commercial programs? This will come soon but it will be a bit different and will most likely have fewer applications and less money to lend.
- Is there a lot of interest for round 2? Yes.
- Will there be a state-wide program at some point? There would need to be some state and federal legislative fixes to make the program more affordable and easier to administer.

The ESTF is beginning joint programming discussions for inclusions in budget processes. The staff is looking at a matrix of opportunities for stimulus funds. June 25 is the deadline for allocation and August is the deadline for non allocated/competitive grants.

3. Discussion re: Joint Lobbying Efforts

On a federal level, both Boulder and Broomfield have a federal lobbyist on retainer. Cities and towns can work together at the state level to identify areas of shared

interest. A possibility would be to adopt a shared legislative agenda so there is the ability to make a difference at both state and federal levels. Internet sales tax is an example of a shared issue that needs to be re-visited. The Consortium could look at ways to use internet sales tax revenues – perhaps in a revenue sharing manner to assist in neutralizing the peaks and valleys caused by the competitive winner take all sales tax environment in Colorado. There was discussion regarding the best way to evaluate a legislative agenda and it was agreed that City Managers and Mayors would meet to look at the issue. Mark Ruzzin and Carl Castillo will look at ways to put this together.

4. Discussion re: Service Sharing Opportunities

The group talked about whether a task force should be formed and whether it should be a Consortium initiative. Small towns were interested in getting better access to county services. Examples of services that could be discussed are libraries, recreation services, purchasing/procurement, legal services, health insurance, GIS. These tough economic times might be the right time to look at this issue; however, there needs to be sensitivity to staff workloads. The City of Boulder proposed that a task force be formed (perhaps using the Revenue Stability Working Group membership). They would need information re: financial background/costs and staff allocated to specific tasks by cities and details of services to see where there are gaps and overlaps. The County will convene a meeting of City Managers to discuss this issue.

5. Further Discussion/Prioritization on Projects/Goals

Examples of environment issues that are county-wide are water, recycling (C&D, composting – how to address facilities for these uses), and electricity. Could the group look at models locally and nationally to look at funding, necessary facilities, programs, resources already in place, and gaps? The group could create a policy framework for a C&D program. The ESTF is already at work on service sharing, recycling – C&D/composting, and legislative agenda.

6. Update on Consortium of Cities Elected Officials Work Day June 26, 2009

This was scheduled for 1-4 p.m. at Walker Ranch for a trail building project. (The work day was later cancelled due to schedule conflicts resulting in lack of attendance.)

7. Reports from Cities and Towns

Broomfield reported that their Sustainability Committee consists of 40 citizens. They received a \$75,000 grant from the National Civic League to look at a Comprehensive Master Plan to reduce carbon footprint and adopt a new plan.

Lyons completed their draft Comprehensive Plan. They passed a catch and release ordinance for the St. Vrain. DOW is re-stocking the river. Sales tax are down

20% and build-out will be fulfilled in five years. They will ask for a sales tax increase in the November election.

Longmont doesn't have any sales tax related issues planned for the ballot at this time although they are looking at fees. Sales tax is down 8% and more cuts to the budget will be needed for 2009 and 2010. There will be no salary increases this year. They received \$785,000 from EEBG and a \$250 grant proposal is being submitted to GEO/DOE. They asked for council agenda setting advice. Right now their mayor and manager set the agenda. Representative responded with information. Superior adopted a policy where two members can add items. Broomfield has a standing agenda item to ask for future items. Lafayette has a rule where three members can add items. Boulder has a Council Agenda Committee comprised of Mayor, Deputy and one additional Council member and staff work requires council approval depending on time involved.

Louisville reported they have a new trash/composting system starting June 4. They considered bees and chickens at the previous council meeting but didn't reach a decision.

Lafayette reported their City Manager is a finalist for a Lakewood position. The Festival Plaza opened in May. The boat house reopened. Sales tax has stabilized.

Jamestown has issued a RFP for restoration of the Town Hall and will also issue one for the restoration of Legion Park. There was a mudslide in April and the County and US Forest Services assisted. Bicycles will be a hot topic at the upcoming Community Meeting with the Commissioners.