

**Minutes
Consortium of Cities
June 4, 2008**

Representatives and Alternates Present: Karen Benker, City of Longmont; Martin Cheshes, Town of Nederland; Carolyn Cutler, City of Lafayette; Bette Erickson, City and County of Broomfield; Bob Gaiser, City and County of Broomfield; Ken Lenarcic, Town of Jamestown; Sheri Marsella, City of Louisville; Ben Pearlman, Boulder County; Harry Pink, Town of Erie; Valeria Skitt, City of Longmont; Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior; Jim Stevens, Town of Nederland; Ken Wilson, City of Boulder, and Staff Megan Davis, and Sheree Stroud

1. Introductions and Reports from Cities and Towns

Ken Wilson, City of Boulder, reported that they are considering whether to put any tax issues on the ballot. They will probably de-Bruce property taxes that have not already been addressed. They hope to renew one 3/8 cent sales tax that expires in the next few years but won't renew a 1/8 cent tax. They are working on a study regarding excess taxes to see if rates should be raised. It has been a long time since an increase and the rates are probably inadequate.

Karen Benker, City of Longmont, said they are re-assessing the Twin Peaks Mall. Tax revenues are steadily down. Their first community meeting on the budget was being held the night of the Consortium meeting and will focus on how to cut the budget and prioritize. The budget is at least \$1 million short, so they are looking at cuts. Another big issue is with Firestone, who is building right up to the border.

Bette Erickson, City and County of Broomfield, told the group that their budget is all right. They will celebrate National Trails Day and also have a new bike route. They are working on a City Center Master Plan. Children's Hospital will be relocating to a new location near Highway 7 in the fall.

Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior, reported the board held a productive goal setting/budget retreat. They plan to start work on an historic park and approve a trash contract soon.

Martin Cheshes, new mayor for the Town of Nederland, was introduced by Jim Stevens. Mayor Cheshes has many credentials, including acting as a former ambassador/diplomat. Mayor Cheshes said that 5 out of 7 of the Trustees are new. They are in the design stage for a wastewater treatment plan but are hold to see whether Boulder would like to chip in so they can build a better system. They are going to start soon on a new drinking water plant. This will be the first year of using the ice rink for tennis and they are looking at constructing a skate park. They are also bringing a carousel to town.

Sherri Marsella, City of Louisville, told the members that they approved a final public notice of intent for a 350-unit project with commercial. They are starting the public process for a trash contract. They approved the Eco-pass for employees and thanked Boulder County for their help. She invited everyone to their great Friday fairs with live music and food. There is talk about an historic preservation tax on the ballot.

Bob Gaiser, City and County of Broomfield, reported that the old Lord & Taylor site at Flatirons is not occupied and the Village Park is losing tenants so they are looking at some changes. The mall project at Highway 7 and I-25 is not yet underway, but there will be a lot of opportunities in that area. They are re-negotiating the Eco-Cycle contract. They have installed photo-voltaics on three buildings which will save a lot of carbon dioxide emissions. The project was a great public/private partnership.

Ken Lenarcic, Town of Jamestown, said they just adopted the Boulder County Sustainability Plan. They will be holding their annual July 4th event with a pancake breakfast, parade, and fireworks. It will be a zero waste event. Jamestown will have their website up soon. Legion Park and the Town Hall are going through restoration which is over-budget and behind schedule but they're hanging in there.

Harry Pink, Town of Erie, reported they had an election in April. Andrew Moore was re-elected as mayor. Two incumbants were also re-elected and there is one new Trustee. This is a fairly experienced board that works well together. They opened their new recreation center and a branch of the Weld library. This is catalyzing some good development in Erie Commons and attracting commercial. There is also some interest in retirement development that will capitalize on the new services. He thanked Boulder County for their assistance in getting the new bus route to Erie. A major capital improvement is a new, state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plan. They will break ground this year and it will re-use waste water. Last summer, Erie began a very successful concert series that will continue this year.

Carolyn Cutler, City of Lafayette, said that Public Road is considered "Old Town" and they want to revitalize this area. They have approved a contract with an architect to lead the public process on this project. Plans include a plaza for concerts and events. The Chamber moved into City Hall. The project will be funded with a DOLA grant and urban renewal funds. Also of interest is the series of banners on Public Road which feature artwork by children. There will not be a wine festival this year, but there is an upcoming auto show. There was a park dedicated to Lafayette citizen Mike Romero who passed away and whose son was killed in Afghanistan. It was an incredibly moving event.

Ben Pearlman, Boulder County, reported that a .05 cent Worthy Cause tax will be on the ballot this year. Funds from this tax are given to local non-profits for capital expenditures. Boulder County is considering adding a ballot issue this year or next that would allow homeowners to get low interest loans from the county for energy improvements. This is allowed via the recently enacted HB1350 and the county would

issue bonds to cover the loans. The homeowner pays back the loan through an assessment on their property tax.

2. Approval of Minutes

Lisa Skumatz moved to approve the minutes of April 2, 2008, as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Update on Boulder County Sustainable Energy Plan

Ann Livingston, Boulder County Sustainability Coordinator, told the group that HB 1350 was one of the first policy changes that the county worked toward as a part of the Sustainability Plan. One goal of the plan was to create a funding mechanism for energy projects. The county is going to hire a consultant to work on program development. The Sustainability Plan was formally released on April 24. Most cities and towns have signed off on the plan except for Erie and Ward. If all 20 suggested actions are implemented, it will double the governor's recommended reductions. There is lots of interest at ICLE about the plan. There is also work on convening a summit to discuss a 5-year plan to address financing and reporting. The plan is rolling ahead with good steam and good reception.

Ben Pearlman added that the Consortium prioritized some issues back in 2005 that the group wanted to tackle. They were revenue sharing/stability, energy, library, and development around FasTracks. He noted that the Consortium and the ESTF have taken a giant step toward addressing energy issues and that this is a tremendous accomplishment.

4. Update on the Energy Strategy Task Force Commercial Building

Lisa Skumatz said that the ESTF is also working on commercial building codes. They have identified some quick-hit items and are also working on longer-term items. They will work to get building officials on board to help work on the codes. The county has funded a facilitator to run about 20 meetings. They are using the LEED framework and ranking scores and trying to craft a forward-moving process.

5. Presentation/Q&A/Discussion of FasTracks Quiet Zones

Chris Quinn of RTD updated the members on the Northwest Rail Corridor Status. He said a fencing subcommittee has been formed. Commissioner Pearlman noted that this issue has been debated and the local preference is to avoid fences. The no-fence scenario is more open and lighter. The benefits of fencing do not outweigh the significant impacts related to people, weeds, trash, and wildlife. Commissioner Pearlman wanted to be sure RTD understood how important no fencing was to the county and other jurisdictions. Bob Boot presented a Powerpoint presentation on quiet zones. He explained the safety requirements of trains such as blowing the horn at every crossing. Safety is the primary consideration. Local jurisdictions have the option to apply for

quiet zones although operators still have to blow the horns if there are safety or railroad reasons to do so. To obtain a quiet zone, the crossing must be as safe without the train horn as with it. Quiet zones require the installation and maintenance of various warning devices, lights, gates, bells, and supplemental and alternate safety measures. RTD is committed to funding grade crossing improvements for safety improvements and noise mitigation required due to impacts from corridor projects but Local Jurisdictions are required to provide additional funding for improvements necessary for quiet zone designation. The process to establish a quiet zone includes grade crossing inventory (RTD), diagnostic reviews (RTD, FRA, CDOT, PUC, Railroads, Local Jurisdictions), crossing risk analysis (RTD), notice of intent (Local initiation with RTD support), and notice of establishment (Local initiation with RTD Support). The FRA and PUC review and comment throughout the process. RTD is committed to assisting local jurisdictions in this application process. RTD has a work plan which is corridor specific to determine roles and responsibilities, coordination, and identify action steps. There is also a coordination/public outreach piece that is integrated with each corridor team's on-going public involvement efforts. ([Powerpoint presentation attached.](#))

Consortium members discussed the possibility of a coordinated quiet zone application. Westminster has offered to take the lead on this. Ken Wilson said this is a huge issue in Boulder and wondered when the cost would be availability for each crossing. The RTD reps responded that the costs are tied to noise analysis, but the route alignment has to be finalized first. Ben Pearlman asked whether a quiet zone can be designated with the local jurisdictions finding the funds to make the improvements later. RTD responded that improvements have to be in place prior to quiet zone designation. Commissioner Pearlman wondered if improvements could be phased in and then the jurisdiction could apply for the quiet zone designation later. RTD responded that they could. Ken Wilson suggested that it is more expensive to obtain quiet zone designation retroactively. The Consortium asked RTD to keep them posted, especially on the costs.

5. Update on Revenue Stability Working Group

Ben Pearlman told the Consortium that this project is of interest to many jurisdictions. The working group is having discussions on what is an appropriate revenue stability model that is fair to everyone. The most recent discussion involves isolating a concrete revenue source such as large retail outlets like big box stores. There needs to be a formula that computes the threshold where the revenue becomes regional and determines what portion should be designated for the host municipality and what portion is drawn from other communities. They hope to come up with a formula that includes the nature of the retailer, the proximity of other towns, and population. Commissioner Pearlman doesn't know whether this will be the final model that is chosen by the working group, but it does seem to capture the essence of the revenue stability quandry. The group has a \$20,000 grant from DOLA for implementation. The working group will study this final model and then decide which model to put forth. Lisa Skumatz reiterated that the goal of the formula is to be fair. Ken Wilson believes the project is exciting. He thinks the big box idea is good because they tend to draw regionally. Martin Cheshes asked how the mountain towns are involved. Commissioner Pearlman explained that the

group has been working on a plan that involves the plains first with the hope of bringing in mountain towns later. A big issue the working group has faced is how to deal with cities and towns on that are on the edge. The working group hopes to have a recommendation to bring to the Consortium at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2008. (Please note this meeting was later rescheduled to September 3. The regular October 1 meeting will be rescheduled to November 5.)