

Minutes
Consortium of Cities
June 13, 2007

Members Present: Nick Angelo, Town of Lyons; Doug Brown, City of Longmont; Ken Lenarcic, Town of Jamestown; Andrew Moore, Town of Erie; Meredith Muth on behalf of the City of Louisville; Mark Ruzzin, City of Boulder; Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior; Jim Stevens, Town of Nederland; David Strungis, City of Lafayette; and Staff Sheree Stroud

1. Introductions and Brief Reports from Cities and Towns

Jim Stevens, Town of Nederland, reported that the community center has been completed and is ready to open. They are working on LEED certification. They are considering building a new waste water treatment plant and are doing a study on filtration.

Doug Brown, City of Longmont, said that the first reading of the Greenspoint program passed and it looks good for the second reading. There was a report at the June 5 meeting from staff on energy efficiency projects. Longmont is doing well in water conservation. They are trying to decide what to do about BOLT service. Annexation to the east is a big issue. If Longmont doesn't annex, Weld County's Mixed Use Development will encroach right next to the Longmont boundary and is zoned for urban density. Longmont's use tax is down but the sales tax is slightly up.

Nick Angelo, Town of Lyons, said they have received three letters of support for the STEPP Foundation grant. The grant proposal is for energy sweeps in every home and RADON gas detection.

Andrew Moore, Town of Erie, told members that they are making progress on balanced growth. The new recreation center is coming out of the ground.

David Strungis, City of Lafayette, reported that the council is exploring bonding for the downtown urban renewal project and streets. They passed a resolution in support of the Consortium building codes resolution. The wine festival will be held June 23.

Mark Ruzzin, City of Boulder, sadly told the Consortium that city council member Tom Eldridge passed away. There was an exceptional memorial held for him. There will be a special election on July 10 to fill the seat. The US 36 MCC has filed a joint application with Denver and RTD to jumpstart the US36 upgrade process. There is an opportunity for funding to build a lane for busses, a HOV lane, and HOV tolling to alleviate congestion. The application is one of nine finalists and they should know at the end of July or first of August. If the funds are obtained, construction could start in 2009. A plaza in front of the municipal building was dedicated to Boulder's sister cities. It features local artists' work. The city is looking at the future of municipal finances through a "Revenue Stabilization Blue Ribbon Commission". The first segment was to examine sales

tax revenues. It pointed to the need to a statewide conversation – perhaps through CML – to look at ways to create better futures for cities and towns.

Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior, said that they adopted an upgrade of their energy codes. They are working with Louisville on recreation and library issues. The first CFL bulb program occurred at Superior Days. It was especially popular because they introduced types of bulbs unfamiliar to most people. They purchased the Arsenault Property for open space. Superior thanked Boulder County for their assistance.

Michael Amodeo from Senator Salazar’s office introduced himself. He believes it very important to keep in contact with local governments. He said HR6 is in the Senate. It is relevant to Boulder because it pushes renewable energy. Senator Salazar believes this is crucial to national security. The senator is a strong supporter of US 36 improvements and will continue to push for funding.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ken Lenarcic moved to approve the April 4 2007, minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Presentation on Keep it Clean Partnership

Donna Scott, Stormwater Specialist from the City of Boulder, told the Consortium about this regional stormwater quality management program. It serves the communities of Boulder, Boulder County, Erie, Longmont, Louisville, and Superior. Information is attached. The program provides many benefits and has received several awards. A 5-year IGA to continue the program will be going to councils soon.

4. Public Hearing on Proposed Expenditures for Transit Accommodation Projects to be Funded in the Next Fiscal Year from the Transportation Projects Fund

Clark Misner, Interim Transportation Director, reported to the Consortium about expenditures of the tax established by the 2001 .10% of a county-wide sales and use tax to fund transportation improvements. When the tax was passed, it was stipulated that a report about the projects would be made annually. 85% of the dollars are used to fund transportation project and the remaining 15% is diverted to the county’s trail program. That split is being maintained. Mr. Misner outlined the various projects that have been completed and the 2007/2008 projects. See attached information. The tax was estimated to bring in about \$5 million per year but since the economy has been slow, that amount was never realized, putting the program in the hole. The county took some funds from the Road and Bridge Capital funds and grants to get the projects started. Mark Ruzzin moved that the Consortium adopt the 2007-2008 recommended list of projects as outlined by Mr. Misner. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

5. Discussion of Energy Strategy Task Force Membership

The ESTF recently lost two environmental community members. The two former members were representatives from Center for Resource Conservation and Western Resource Associates. They were chosen both for their affiliation and for personal knowledge and attributes. The Consortium directed staff to solicit environmental groups to see if they are interested in representation.

The ESTF received a request from John Canfield, a member of the ESTF Technical Committee, to appoint Bill LeBlanc of the Governor's Energy Office to the task force. The Consortium wondered about the reason for this request and whether this person would be the appropriate representative for the GEO. Ann Livingston, Boulder County Sustainability Coordinator and staff to the ESTF, will be meeting with the Governor's Energy Office soon. She will discuss the ESTF and find out their interest and reasons for wanting to participate.

6. Update on Energy Strategy Task Force

Pam Milmoie, Boulder County Public Health, reported that there is an early draft for the Energy Strategy. They have preliminary figures on the cost per ton to use in budget procedures. The county will be looking for comments and feedback. Ann Livingston reported that the ESTF has also prepared a policy list. These are not legislative targets, but things identified by the committee as opportunities or hurdles. The county will sponsor a facilities managers working group since so many sustainability projects flow through cities' and companies' facilities departments. They will discuss what works and can leverage knowledge and purchases. There will also be an opportunity for fleet managers with the same purpose. Boulder has instituted its Climate Smart carbon reduction plan which includes a carbon calculator. They would like more municipalities to participate.

7. Update on Status of Cities and Towns Approving the Consortium Resolution re: Adopting Modified Building Code Elements

Lisa Skumatz told the group that some cities have already passed a resolution endorsing the Consortium's building code resolution. Several municipalities plan to adopt whatever the county adopts. Louisville is working on their own code update. The City of Boulder adopted a modified version of the Consortium resolution. The Codes Committee is holding a meeting on July 9 at 10 a.m. to discuss the efforts Summit County made on a collaborative effort to pass green building codes. The Codes Committee would like to take information to municipalities outlining what kind of codes will work or not work.

The City of Boulder had a Greenspoint program on the books for two years but the program has already been updated so they are working to update their plan and also to pass some commercial codes.

The resolution has become a tool to focus staff and resources on this goal.

Doug Brown is happy that cities and towns are moving toward improving codes. He thinks a phased in approach will help keep things improving until a “norm” is reached. Mark Ruzzin is pleased there is interest from so many groups. It provides a great deal of momentum and we can expect to see more aggressive programs evolve incorporating both incentives and regulations.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be August 1.