

**Minutes
Consortium of Cities
August 5, 2009**

Representatives and Alternates Present: Ken Wilson, City of Boulder; Ben Pearlman, Boulder County; Bette Erickson, City and County of Broomfield; Ken Lenarcic, Town of Jamestown; Carolyn Cutler, City of Lafayette; Valeria Skitt, City of Longmont; Sheri Marsella, City of Louisville; Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior; and Boulder County Staff Michelle Krezek, Mark Ruzzin, Garry Sanfacon, and Sheree Stroud.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ken Wilson, City of Boulder, moved to approve the April 1, 2009, and June 3, 2009, minutes. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

3. Presentation on Housing and Homelessness Needs Assessment Data and Request for Input on Expenditure of federal HOME and CDBG Block Grant Funds

Ben Doyle, Boulder County Attorney's Office, explained to members that 12 localities make up the HOME Consortium group and they are preparing a Consolidated Plan. A plan is required to obtain federal funds. It's also a 5-year strategic plan for the region and includes a 1-year action plan for 2010. There is an accountability document and a statement of status quo on housing, homelessness and community development. Other groups' plans must be consistent with the Consolidated Plan going forward. He explained the background in forming the plan, which started with the Super IGA. That document included an agreement to pursue regional approaches to revenue sharing for affordable housing. The types of federal funding include HOME funds that are for housing only and are allocated to a lead agency (City of Boulder) for allocation to Boulder County and Broomfield county regions. CDBG funds are for housing and community development and include 3 entitlement cities (Boulder, Longmont and Broomfield) in 3 separate allocations. ([Presentation outline attached with more specific details on the plan background, status, methodology, feedback, etc.](#))

The data collection for the housing market analysis and homelessness needs assessment is almost complete and they are in the process of formulating goals. The draft plan will be posted on the website:
http://www.buildinglivablecommunities.org/Conplan/Regional_Consolidated_Plan.html

The presenters asked for suggestions and input from the municipalities on the plan prior to release of the draft at the end of September. A public comment period will begin in October and the final plan incorporating public comment will be submitted to HUD in early November.

Ben urged the members to contact the housing staff with any local needs.

3. Update on Shared Legislative Agenda

Mark Ruzzin told the group that staff met after the June meeting to discuss the Consortium's direction in formulating a shared legislative agenda. Such an agenda could serve as a tool for state level advocacy and bring more power to the message. It also provides an opportunity for the Consortium to be pro-active. Boulder and Louisville both have good documents outlining their legislative priorities. It would be valuable to bring a solid draft legislative agenda to the Consortium in October so that they would have time to share it with their councils and boards prior to a December adoption date. He suggested that each municipality list the top three issues they would like to see on the agenda. That poll could show where common ground is and what issues could be included. The group will also need to discuss process, i.e. who would guide which bills through and whether the Consortium would take a position on certain bills. Mr. Ruzzin suggested starting small, building collaboration, and seeing where it goes over time. Ben Pearlman recommended picking a few issues/bills and taking a position early. Consortium members were asked to send in their priorities by August 28th. The group unanimously agreed to pursue this project.

4. Further Discussion/prioritization of Consortium of Cities' projects

Ben stated that shared services rated very highly on the Consortium's list of priorities. The cities and towns provide similar services, so there might be many opportunities to improve efficiency, cut costs, and share best practices. The group agreed it is timely but feel they need staff input. It was agreed that City and Town Managers would be convened to discuss the substance and process of such a project. The Consortium would like to hear from the managers and then take information to their boards and councils. Ben Pearlman said that this type of project might benefit from outside consulting and, if so, it's good to have the boards and councils involved from the beginning. There was concern that other priorities were not being considered. Ben Pearlman stated that this is not necessarily true, but that the other goals needed someone to further define them. This particular project offers some very tangible results and is timely.

5. New Business

The next meeting will be October 7 and priorities can be a discussion topic. Ben Pearlman suggested that if someone has a good idea of how to advance any of the other prioritized ideas, they could bring those ideas forward at that meeting.

Ben Pearlman told the group that the county would have a few issues on the ballot this November. One will be to add a bonding authority for the Climatesmart Loan Program. The county hopes to go to bond for an approximate \$45 million so that they continue with the program when the current funding runs out. Some of the additional funds would be used for partner counties who can't administer the program themselves, which would help with the bond rate. The county also will have a ballot item to extend the open space tax. This would extend the bonding capacity to \$50 million so the county

can take advantage of the opportunities that abound now. The District Attorney has requested that a term limit question extending the DA's term from two terms to three terms be added. There may be one more ballot issue re: bonding for environmental projects. Longmont told the group they will add a quality of life service fee on their utility bills.

The meeting was adjourned.