

**Minutes
Consortium of Cities
December 3, 2008**

Representatives and Alternates Present: Karen Benker, City of Longmont; 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; Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior; Julie Waugh, Town of Lyons; and Ken Wilson, City of Boulder; and Staff Michelle Krezek and Sheree Stroud.

1. Introductions and Reports from Cities and Towns

Julie Waugh, Town of Lyons, reported that the mayor of Lyons resigned. A new mayor will be approved next April. They now have an Economic Development Committee and plan to hire someone to market the town and plan more events.

Bob Gaiser, City and County of Broomfield, said Broomfield will be part of a sustainability study by a national civic group. They picked three cities in the country as models. They will be doing a carbon footprint study. Sundrop Energy Research has submitted a new, exciting proposal involving the focus of sunlight on a 60 foot tower with the goal of developing biofuels.

Bette Erickson, City and County of Broomfield, added that Broomfield approved a conservative budget.

Sheri Marsella, City of Louisville, told members that they have issued an RFP for a pay as you throw program. Recycling would be included. They passed a historic preservation tax that will bring in \$340,000 per year. It will be used for historic preservation and to incentivize the downtown area. Louisville completed a modest, flat-line budget and is also in the final stages of approving amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Santa is coming to the city this weekend. There will also be a historic tour and ice skating in downtown.

Ken Wilson, City of Boulder, reported they hired a new City Manager, Jane Brautigam. The former manager, Frank Bruno, is still in the community, serving as Vice-Chancellor at CU. They passed a .38 cent sales tax and also passed some permanent de-Brucing measures on the remaining portion of the property tax. The budget was almost complete when the financial crisis hit, so they plan to phase in the new spending and are not filling some empty positions and take a wait and see approach. Sales tax revenues were down about 1-2% in 2008 and they are waiting to see the results of the holiday season. A composting program is going into effect throughout the city. Boulder cancelled its spring clean-up program.

Karen Benker, City of Longmont, said they started single-stream recycling a few weeks ago. They plan to pass an ordinance re: campaign finance reform. Backyard chickens has been a controversial subject recently, receiving lots of public attention. They finished their 2009 budget but may be cutting that in light of the financial situation. It will be a big topic at the Council Retreat in early 2009. They formed a Department of Economic Development. Projects will include a shop local campaign and projects on Main Street. The October sales tax revenue was down 10%. FasTracks is also a big issue.

Carolyn Cutler, City of Lafayette, reported that all ballot issues put forth by the council passed, including the hotel tax and an increase in property taxes to support the fire department. They cut five staff and cut the budget that was previously approved by about 1%. A Target store will be built but Lowes has put their project on hold. They are working on Festival Plaza in their urban renewal area in old downtown. The plans have been approved and contractors should start soon.

Ken Lenarcic, Town of Jamestown, said they are still working on the restoration of Legion Park and the Town Hall.

Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior, introduced Debra Williams. She will serve as Superior's alternate to the Consortium. They opened a historic park. They re-acquired an old mining camp house and restored it to its original 1930's condition. It will serve as a museum and is named after the longest serving mayor in Colorado, Ted Asti, who served as mayor of Superior for 32 years. The park will also include a xeriscape garden and mining equipment. They are planning a road reconstruction project in the original town. Superior has 20 energy audits to give away. They are doing okay on sales tax revenues.

Harry Pink, Town of Erie, reported they completed their budget the night before. They are feeling relatively comfortable since their tax revenue base is fairly small and doesn't have a huge impact. Their current staffing is 138 full time staff and they just added a 1 ½ staff position to the police department. The new Rec Center has been very successful and generated more memberships than expected. It has been less of a financial burden to the town than anticipated. The solar hot water heater is saving money and convinced board members that energy efficient measures are the way to go. The new water line from Boulder Reservoir came online and the next big capital project is a wastewater treatment plant. They went to market on the bonds and that went well.

Ben Pearlman, Boulder County, told members that the county's two ballot measures passed. One is an extension of the Worthy Cause tax, generating \$2 million a year to give to non-profits for capital improvements. The other issue was the Clean Energy Options measure. The county will sell bonds and lend money to citizens to finance energy efficiency improvements. The loans will be paid off over time via property tax. The program will roll out early in the year and he hopes the cities and towns will help spread the word. He suggested that the Consortium consider convening on a Parks & Open space work day in 2009. Invitations could be sent to all the elected

officials and it would be an opportunity to complete a project and do some team building. He asked that members think about it and discuss it more in dept at the next meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Lisa Skumatz moved to approve the minutes of September 3, 2008 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Presentation on Boulder County Sustainable Energy Plan Implementation

Pam Milmoie, Boulder County Public Health, gave the Consortium members a little background on the plan. In 2005, a county-wide inventory of greenhouse gas emissions was coordinated. It revealed that we were on a steady incline and the 2012 trajectory was expected to be 85% above the Kyoto Protocol Target (7% below 1990 levels by 2012). The Energy Strategy Task Force was formed in 2006 to provide a countywide clearinghouse for information and education on energy issues and to also provide a framework for local and regional action on energy sustainability. They spearheaded the development of the SEP and most of the cities and towns in the county have now adopted a resolution supporting it. The plan Identifies 35 strategies (20 “Key” Strategies), focuses on main GHG emitting sectors, and includes voluntary, educational, regulatory, and legislative actions. [Attached is a copy of the presentation outlining the various strategies and projected results](http://www.bouldercounty.org/bocc/Consortium/Consortium%20materials/SEP%20Implementation%20Consortium%20Update.pdf)

<http://www.bouldercounty.org/bocc/Consortium/Consortium%20materials/SEP%20Implementation%20Consortium%20Update.pdf>.

The group discussed their various efforts to begin implementation of the plan. Ben Pearlman encouraged the municipalities to implement the plan as the results will be quite remarkable.

4. Discussion of Revenue Stability Project and Possible Presentation to Councils and Board

Ben Pearlman summarized the recent Consortium action in September when the group passed a resolution that endorsed a proposed model for revenue stability. It is expected that individual cities and towns will forge their own agreements that reflect the specific interplay between those parties, but the goal was to come up with an equitable plan to use as a model. The benefits will be better land use planning, less overbuilding, less environmental impacts, and smarter growth. In addition, it will result in steadier, stronger revenues without the peaks and valleys that challenge cities and towns. The municipalities originally pitched in about \$7,000 each to hire BBC Research and Consulting to study various options. The Consortium now has a DOLA grant for \$20,000 to use on implementation measures as soon as the group determines the next steps. In addition, we really haven't sought buy-in from the various cities and towns. The group discussed various ways to bring the topic to the councils, boards, media, and public, and how to best to encourage or facilitate agreements between entities. The group agreed that would be helpful to have a model agreement and a document outlining

the various options, what has been tried elsewhere, and other background information. In addition, they thought a large meeting that included all the elected officials offering a detailed presentation by Tom Pippin and break-out group discussions would be effective. It was also suggested that a guest editorial be submitted on the topic. Other, state-wide revenue sharing options were also discussed. Ben Pearlman suggested that if we were successful on a local level, it might bring other groups to the table. The group decided that, if Pippin were available, March 4th would be a good date for this Revenue Stability Forum. A subcommittee will be formed to help plan and draft the documents. Lisa Skumatz volunteered to serve on that committee. In addition, the Revenue Stability working group will meet in January to discuss the draft documents.

The next regular meeting of the Consortium will be February 4.