

**Minutes
Consortium of Cities
December 5, 2007**

Members Present: Suzy Ageton, City of Boulder; Carolyn Cutler, City of Lafayette; Bette Erickson, City and County of Broomfield; Ken Lenarcic, Town of Jamestown; Sheri Marsella, City of Louisville; Valeria Skitt, City of Longmont; Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior; and Staff Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, Megan Davis, and Sheree Stroud

1. Introductions and Reports from Cities and Towns

Ken Lenarcic, Town of Jamestown, reported that they have just re-applied for an EPA grant that was denied last year. It's a Brownfield grant for their town park which sits on a tailings pond and they are optimistic they will receive funding.

Bette Erickson, City and County of Broomfield, told members that as of November 20th they have 2 new council members and a new mayor. They approved a new, eagerly awaited Senior Living Center. They just approved the Brunswick Family Entertainment Center, which is expected to open in 2009.

Carolyn Cutler, City of Lafayette, said they also have a new mayor. They also passed two bonds for street repairs and a family changing center in the recreation center. The Target development recently pulled out.

Valeria Skitt, City of Longmont, reported that Karen Benker will likely be the new Consortium representative, but they haven't officially voted on it yet. They will hold a special election for Roger Lange's seat in late January. The Lifebridge Development will also be going to voters. They passed an Open Space tax, New Lodging tax, and Storm Drainage tax in the last election. There is a lot of new energy on the City Council!

Susie Ageton, City of Boulder, told the group that she is serving as an alternate. The Council has not appointed the representatives to their committees yet. The official representative will attend the next Consortium meeting. There were several new council members recently elected. There were a few charter changes approved in the election, but two that didn't pass.

Sheri Marsella, City of Louisville, reported that she is now the official representative for Louisville. The citizen's initiative for URA board oversight was defeated. Currently the council is working to initiate a trash ordinance in the next year and are interested in hearing what others have done with solid waste. She looks forward to serving on the Consortium.

Lisa Skumatz, Town of Superior, said that their elections won't be held until the spring. They're in the midst of the Town Center development. The negotiations with the

Louisville Library continue. They are involved in a study to create a state road map for recycling at the local level and this should be a good resource. They are looking at the

PAYT (pay as you throw) initiative that the EPA is offering. She encouraged the group to go to PAYTwest.org and take a look.

Bob Gaiser, City and County of Broomfield, told the group that he has been heavily involved with CML. He attended an energy summit and said there is a grant available for E* rated homes and a PV solar grant through the Governor's Energy Office.

2. Approval of Minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes of June 2007 and August 2007 as with the corrected spelling of Lisa Skumatz' name. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ben Pearlman presented a resolution to the Consortium that recognized Dickey Lee Hullinghorst for her service to the organization since 1985. Sherri Marsella moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Update on Energy Strategy Task Force

Ann Livingston, Boulder County's Sustainability Coordinator, reported that the ESTF has looked at a wide scope of energy/sustainability issues and identified strategies. The ESTF can now prioritize the issues and will report their findings to the city councils and town boards, as well as the Consortium of Cities. With support and input from the communities, the report can be fine-tuned and implemented. Ben Pearlman told Ann that a matrix of the issues/strategies would be helpful. The county has applied for several grants that would assist in the implementation phase. Ann told the group that another big project currently underway is the Codes Committee who is looking at commercial codes.

4. Shared Computing Task Force

Mike Harlan, Boulder County Information Technology Manager, told the group that he recently met with the city and town managers to talk about the possibility of sharing technology and resources. There was a lot of interest and they discussed a wide range of topics, such as a 3-1-1 program, common web services, and other shared technology. One goal of sharing resources is to save money. The meeting revealed that GIS services and disaster recovery topped the list in interest. There was some interest in sharing software applications. The 3-1-1 project was moved to backburner as it would be very difficult to implement on a county-wide basis. The managers agreed to appoint a representative to this task force and the first meeting will be in January.

5. Human Services Strategic Plan Update

Robin Bohannon, Boulder County Community Services Director, reported that great progress has been made on this shared effort. The group has studied how services are delivered and are working to develop a plan that will result in a dynamic, accessible, coordinated, community-wide human service delivery system. They took a classic approach to studying the situation – what would a caring community provide? They hope to present a final report on the Human Services Strategic Plan to the Consortium in February. The final draft will also be presented to planning participants, funders, and non-profit services agencies for feedback and input. They hope for adoption of a final plan by policymakers, funders, Human Services Alliance and St. Vrain Community Council in spring, 2008. (See attached.) They hope this can be a state-wide model. Ms. Bohannon commented that it is important to have human services planning in place just like other areas, such as Transportation or Land Use.

6. Discussion of Proposed Orientation for Newly Elected Local Officials and/or New Consortium Representatives

Ben Pearlman asked the group what kind of background information would be helpful for newly elected council and board members to help understand the Consortium of Cities. It's important for municipalities to understand the process and thus give the Consortium's projects a better chance for approval by the jurisdictions. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst added that there have been some requests from municipalities to do a presentation to councils and boards. In the past, there have been packets with information for new Consortium members. Lisa Skumatz felt that copies of resolutions or other adopted actions would be helpful along with some information on the levels of authority and action – how far can the Consortium go? What has its role been in the past? She believes that her fellow board members don't fully recognize the role the Consortium plays and agreed that an orientation to board members could demonstrate the constant opportunities that arise through this organization. Sherri Marsella said that there has never been any presentation like this previously at Louisville council meetings and it would be helpful. Carolyn Cutler suggested preparing a matrix – make it short and easy to read. She suggested adding more information to the website.

Dickey Lee Hullinghorst told members that a common denominator is the importance of Consortium members keeping their councils and boards up to date on the Consortium projects and information sharing. When there is an initiative, they can try to make sure they get their councils' and boards' ears. This is a very important role to take this information to the elected officials and bring feedback to the Consortium members. The Consortium has no power on its own – it only works when the Consortium can convince councils and boards to act.

Valeria agreed and suggested that this fact be a key part of a presentation. A road show would be a good way to help the councils and boards understand that this group can really help with regional issues and encourage them to give their Consortium representative some authority.

Suzy Ageton agreed that new council members would certainly not understand the Consortium and suggested that the presentation highlight successes where collaboration leveraged new projects. This would really show the potential.

Bette Erickson mentioned that she is a non-voting member, but she still gains a lot of information through the meetings.

Ben Pearlman told the group how much he appreciates having everyone at the table. He believes some projects are easy to sell – such as energy/sustainability work, but others such as revenue stability require a tremendous amount of legwork. He summarized that staff will prepare a presentation to take to the councils and boards that will include successes, history, current projects, and an understanding of how issues can be brought forward.

Valeria Skitt suggested some topics for the next meeting – 1) defining Consortium representatives' role as communicators and 2) members could talk about their strategies in working with their councils and boards.

7. Revenue Stability Working Group Update

Megan Davis, Boulder County Policy Analyst, reported that they are closing in on the end of the analysis portion of the project. The next step will be to determine what might have potential for the Consortium to pursue. The working group has received a \$20,000 grant from DOLA to use toward this next phase.

Ms. Davis told the group that representatives from BBC met with each municipality for an in-depth conversation on what models they wanted to study. The consultant discussed 20 different methodologies. The votes were brought back to the group and they narrowed it down to four models for further study including population, spending power, leakages, and a land pool concept (the most ambiguous). The consultant will present a draft report at the next meeting.

Ben Pearlman said that they have lost several members of the group who no longer serve on their councils. He suggested that Boulder and Louisville appoint new members so this important work can continue. He also said that one model may not work – the final result may end up as some sort of hybrid. He emphasized that this is an exciting project and will result in real data and a real opportunity to create something new.

The next Consortium meeting will be February 6, 7:00 p.m., at the Boulder County Courthouse.

