

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments eNews June 2017



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From the Director's desk...



Writing this from the summer CML conference in Breckenridge has me reflecting on the tremendous learning curve facing a new board member, or a board that has added a new board member. For me as a new Trustee in 1998 in Eagle, it was like embarking on an advanced learning on the job seminar. Call it an advanced course in, "Our Town."

Fortunately, then, town hall was full of people staff, citizens and other trustees with more experience and knowledge than me. So, I observed, asked a lot of questions and built a library of books and articles at home. I treated it like a self-directed class, and saved each board packet which quickly filled up two file drawers. But as a full-time carpenter, husband, and trustee, I didn't have time to build relationships outside of town let alone go conferencing.

Looking back, I wonder in what realm do we assume a new team member will get up to speed on their own, or a new team will work well together and be effective right out of the box?

Before raft guiding last summer, I passed 14 days of training with other guides, and had to pass a "check out" run with customers. In Centennial, new board members are oriented with mock meetings with a facilitator. The Dillon Council recently invited me to facilitate a conversation about what their expectations were of each other and discuss how they could improve as a team. Relations were not dysfunctional or broken-they just wanted to do better. One outcome, they radically changed their seating chart to adjust some dynamics between each other and with staff.

Over time, it has become clear to me that we in the public sector could do a lot more to provide professional development, like "onboarding" elected officials more systematically. We have staff professional development plans, so how can we formalize training for elected leaders, and continue to expand a council's toolkit for them to be more effective in their service? Our 2017 NWCCOG member survey underscored that elected officials desire more tools and training. I'm eager to find ways for NWCCOG to do just that.

And relationships-like listening, as Georgia O'Keefe said, take time. So does continually improving how a group works together. Especially if there is healing to be done. We don't often block out time for that. Speaking of healing, the Steamboat Council has brought the tradition of dining together before a meeting. These small things matter.

So why conference? My answer is this: we are only as good as the sum of the things we have learned and bring to the table combined with the circle of people we have to draw upon. What is your circle and are you tending to it?

Jon Stavney

2017 Leadership Summit Graduation

Erin Fisher, Director of the Alpine Area Agency on Aging (bottom row, second from left), completed the nine-month leadership class through Colorado Mountain College. Leadership Summit's mission is to educate community and business leaders by providing experiences that will increase awareness, develop leadership skills and motivate participants to be actively engaged in Summit County.



About the experience, Erin said, "I am grateful to have had this opportunity to learn more about our community and to be exposed to so much relevant knowledge about becoming a stronger leader."

Each month, the group was introduced to experts in the area of communications, problem solving, how to deal with people with divergent goals, and other useful tools. They met with community leaders and were given the opportunity to provide input on some of the most pressing problems being faced in Summit County. For more information about the Leadership Summit Series, contact Colorado Mountain College at 970-453-6757.

Around Region 12
By Jon Stavney

Support for Local Immigrants

At the May 25th NWCCOG Council meeting, Patti Clapper, Pitkin County Commissioner, shared an update on the swirl of attention Pitkin County's April 26th passage of a "Welcoming Community for Immigrants" resolution has created. [The resolution, which is posted on NWCCOG website](#), states that Pitkin County departments (notably the Sheriff) "shall not perform the functions of a federal immigration officer" and that "participating in immigration enforcement" hurts public safety by eroding trust in in local governments." The week of NWCCOG's meeting, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions narrowed the definition of "sanctuary cities" as places that "willfully refuse to comply" with federal immigration law.



Pitkin County was recently notified that they now fall within that "sanctuary city" definition which according to the current administration means they are ineligible for federal grants. Clapper noted that legal counsel for Pitkin County after extensive research and careful drafting of the resolution believe that withholding federal funds for that purpose is illegal. [Summit County recently posted a similar resolution](#). Kelli McDonald, Economic Development Director for the Town of Vail said that Vail has been in discussions with a group called [FWD.us](#) and may be considering similar action. Stay tuned. It could get interesting.

Immigrants and the mountain resorts from the beginning have had a kind of symbiotic relationship- economically and culturally. It is hard to imagine the resort towns functioning or being as dynamic without the immigrants from around world which they continually draw. With more than 27% of Colorado's state budget comprised of federal funds most of which find their way to local governments through such means as NWCCOG and an array of state agencies, the issue has become something of a local/federal showdown. There is enough media coverage of this emerging issue that we at NWCCOG will not attempt a comprehensive outline of this story, though at the request of NWCCOG Council at the May meeting, we have now posted the Pitkin Resolution, the Summit Resolution and some other related materials on our website. The issue is not going away. As Clapper noted, "we depend on immigrants to run our communities."

Free Parking - talk to your Open Space Department



Though neither the Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) nor the Colorado Municipal League (CML) conference is in Vail this summer, the Vail representative at the May meeting wanted NWCCOG members to know that parking in the structures will be **free** this summer. Just take a ticket so Vail can use your data.

Breckenridge recently joined NWCCOG partially because of how important our regional broadband efforts are to such matters as their recently adopted parking App which sends a text when your parking meter is expiring, which allows a visitor to put a few more "coins" in over their phone. Aspen is still considering options including light rail to keep visitor parking on the opposite side of Maroon



Creek bridge from town.

Have you ever wondered how much money is spent on parking in the region? All those cars on I-70 have to park somewhere. There are some innovations that don't require building structured parking at \$50,000 and up per space. One elegant solution to parking challenges came from Jefferson County Open Space. Yes, the Open Space program in collaboration with their GIS department together gathered resources from more than 25 local, state and federal agencies into the Jeffco Outdoors Regional Map Series. The GIS project resulted in paper maps, but the platform was designed to become an on-line tool and be easily editable and scalable by participating agencies. The maps have trail difficulty ratings, details about resources and permitted activities in local parks. So back to the part about parking and data; the driving force behind the mapping project was severe parking issues at popular park and trailhead locations where underused parking lots often existed nearby just a short pedestrian connection away. If you have ideas, innovations or stories about parking, share them with us at NWCCOG. Do you see a role for NWCCOG in gathering data or information about parking that would be useful to your community coming up with solutions? Let us know.

Mountain Connect Broadband Conference

At the Mountain Connect Conference in Keystone recently, amid all the technical talk-operating process models, scalable backplane, vehicle to vehicle infrastructure, hierarchical QoS-we thought about what a local government official would want to take away from the conference. Takeaway number 1 was that many departments at the state - DOLA, OIT, CDOT and OEDIT were represented by their leaders who continue to say all the right things about the need for investment in rural broadband. Irv Halter, Director of DOLA summed it up best when he said, "If you don't have a high speed connection, you can't be in business anymore." The challenge for the team which the Governor has assembled is that the "one year clock" is ticking on his term to address the issue.

Also at the conference were a variety of emerging "smart city" tools which are helping early adopting departments. The tools included sensors on trash bins which let city workers bypass dumpsters that still have capacity, smart mousetraps so the rodent exterminator knows which to reset (no joke), utility metering which identifies anomalies by consumption monitoring and issues monthly bills directly to a computer program (without all that driving around to read meters), smart lighting systems with central command which can tell if a bulb is out, and allows lights to be turned up in an emergency situation, sensors which identify available parking spaces. These applications are benefiting from advances in low power wide area networks (cheaper than cell service, battery powered devices that last for years). At Mountain Connect, Comcast sent their MachineQ team which is seeking to work with innovative public sector departments in developing smart city solutions with their Low Power Wide Area Network (LPWAN) devices. The project is in beta stage so they are not looking to charge for the service at this point. Also, the jurisdiction doesn't necessarily have to be served by Comcast. If you have a department which has ideas they would like to explore, contact jacob_murphy@comcast.com. (254-931-3455).



Smart Rodent Trap

9th Annual Caregiver Conference



The annual caregiver conference took place in Glenwood Springs on June 5th. A collaboration with Garfield County, Northwest Options for Long Term Care, and the Alpine Area Agency on Aging, this event drew 138 attendees and providers.

This year's event focused on caregiver self-care and tools to manage the stress of caring for a loved one. When original keynote speaker Jane Barton had to drop out due to a medical emergency, Lori Ramos Lemasters with Care Partner Resource stepped in and led all three presentations.

Satisfaction surveys received after the conference indicated that participants rated the event highly and comments were positive: "This was my first conference and I got a lot out of it," "There is always something valuable to take away," and "I learned a lot about self-care and outside resources."

2017 NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Full Council Meeting

Location: Community House, Grand Lake

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Primary Agenda Items: Approval of 2018 dues; approval of 2017 budget revisions; discussion re: Annual Planning Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 24, 2017

Full Council & EDD Board Annual Planning Meeting

Location: Airport Operations Center (AOC), Aspen

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Agenda Items: Strategic Planning for 2018

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Full Council Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Primary Agenda Items: Review of draft 2018 budget

Thursday, December 7, 2017

Full Council, EDD Board & Foundation Board Meeting

Location: TBD - Summit County

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Primary Agenda Items: 2017 budget revisions; approve 2018 budget; adopt 2018 meeting schedule; annual NWCCOG Foundation Board meeting.

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

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