

Governor Ritter Addresses More Than 300 County Officials

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CCI DISTRICT MEETINGS	2
CCI BUSINESS MEETING	4
OPENING SESSION	5
CONCURRENT ISSUE SESSIONS	5
CONFERENCE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS	8
CONCURRENT ISSUE SESSIONS CONTINUED	10
EL PASO COUNTY AWARD	16

Counties Profiles Featured

Boulder County	11
Crowley County	12
Garfield County	13
Morgan County	14
Park County	15

Governor Bill Ritter joined the CCI Summer Conference at the closing lunch, addressing an audience of more than 300 county officials.

The Governor praised local government officials for the way they dealt with recent local disasters throughout the state. FEMA has said the response to the tornados in Weld County deserved to be written up as a template on how local governments should address disasters on the ground, according to the Governor. He also stressed that Colorado's local government officials are role models for promoting volunteerism for citizens during and after disasters.

Governor Ritter recapped the legislative session saying he signed 470 bills – 270 in the second week of June alone. He also vetoed seven bills. Strong successes from the session included education capital construction funding, expanding coverage for children in the CHIP+ and Medicaid programs, protection of water and forest conservation easements, and a continuation of implementing Colorado's new energy economy. The Governor specifically spoke to SB 128 which removed the 6.9% sales tax limit for counties enabling them to increase sales taxes in order to meet the needs of constituents.

With the need to balance priorities every year in the legislature, transportation did not get the attention many felt it deserved. Even though federal transportation dollars are decreasing by a third and state revenue is also decreasing, maintenance, repair and construction costs are continually



Governor Bill Ritter speaks at the closing luncheon of the CCI Annual Summer Conference in Vail. He made a significant announcement that the Blue Ribbon Transportation Panel will be extended.

increasing. The Governor called for a transportation education campaign to help Colorado citizens understand the need to improve transportation in Colorado. Governor Ritter surprised the audience by announcing that the Blue Ribbon Transportation Panel will continue to refine their recommendations from last year with specific legislation for the upcoming session. Governor Ritter singled out Commissioners Melanie Worley, Kevin O'Malley, Will Toor and Wayne Williams as individuals who made strong contributions to the Transportation Blue Ribbon Panel.

In the conclusion of his speech, Governor Ritter expressed optimism for CCI's new initiative, Counties Helping Counties, as an effective way for counties to work together sharing ideas and common concerns.

District Meetings

Eastern District Meeting

With seven of ten Eastern District Counties present, Morgan County Commissioner and Eastern District President Tony Carlson and Yuma County Commissioner and Vice President Trent Bushner were recognized by the district for their year of service. Commissioner Bushner was then elected President of the district while Kit Carson County Commissioner Dave Gwyn was elected to serve as the Vice President.



Washington County Commissioner Dennis Everheart and Morgan County Commissioner Andy Anderson look over materials at the Eastern District meeting.

Following the election, Michelle Halstead, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Local Governmental Liaison, gave a brief presentation on the state of CDOT's budget. She said that four of the 122 structurally deficient bridges are located in the counties that comprise CCI's Eastern District. She also distributed a table which identifies what portion of the state's highways are located in each county and are considered in poor condition. In Washington County, for example, there are 213 centerline highway miles in the county and 102 of those miles are in poor condition.

Washington County Commissioner and CCI Eastern District Board Representative, David Foy, gave a brief explanation of the new Counties Helping Counties program. Two resources were identified to add to the new program's inventory. They are a Lincoln County Courthouse Solar Panel Study and Logan County's Development Permit for Wind Generators.

Front Range District Meeting

The Front Range District meeting at the summer conference began with the election of Douglas County Commissioner Jack Hilbert as District President and Boulder County Commissioner Cindy Domenico as District Vice President. Several state legislators joined the lunch meeting. Senator Steve Johnson

complimented the CCI lobbying staff on its good relationship with the legislature. Representative Jim Riesberg spoke of the bipartisan collaboration that he experienced during the past session. Representative Claire Levy expressed great interest in hearing county concerns and being able to better address them in future sessions.

Another important item on the meeting agenda was the introduction of the Counties Helping Counties program by Larimer County Commissioner and CCI Board President-elect Kathy Rennels. She described it as a resource for commissioners to facilitate communications between counties. As the counties discussed the challenges facing them, they spoke of how to apply legislative proposals and Counties Helping Counties program in addressing these different issues.

The specific issues discussed by counties, as updates, were shared around the room provoking healthy discussions. Adams County is adding to the Justice Center to prepare for seven new judges. Arapahoe County is completing a road corridor study. Boulder County is in the process of completing a health and human services master plan. The City and County of Broomfield mentioned collaborating with the City of Westminster on a project. Some of the issues concerning Denver are the



Members of the Front Range District observe and take notes during their meeting in Vail.

Democratic National Convention and environmental sustainability efforts.

Douglas County was proud to report that in a poll 74% of constituents feel the county is going in the right direction. El Paso County shared stories about their struggle in balancing the budget and having to make huge cuts. Larimer County echoed the difficulty with budgets, which began a discussion about the effects of unfunded mandates on budget shortfalls. Weld County ended the conversation by talking about the devastating tornado that swept through the county, and the aid that Larimer and others provided.

Mountain District Meeting

The Mountain District elected Commissioner Jim Ignatius of Teller County as its new District President and Commissioner Nancy Stuart of Grand County as its new District Vice President.

The district expressed its appreciation to Commissioner Larry Lasha of Fremont County for his service as the District's President over the last year.

Commissioner Bob Campbell of Teller County reported on the creation of a strategic committee to allocate extra Colorado Works funds and the availability of county positions on the committee if folks were interested.

Commissioner Jeanne Nicholson spoke to the group about Gilpin County's experience providing woody biomass heating for the county's new road and bridge shop. She noted four principles they used in evaluating options: it may be worth spending capital now to save on operating later (Gilpin had been paying \$500,000 per year on utilities), the building should be both functional and attractive, if possible local materials should be used, and the option selected should be doable, on time and on budget. Gilpin County and the architect held a series of public meetings to involve the community in the process and to provide education



Fremont County Commissioners Ed Norden and Larry Lasha listen to a presentation at the Mountain District meeting.

about the available options. Although it may not be appropriate for all counties, Commissioner Nicholson was enthusiastic about this choice for Gilpin County.

CCI President Commissioner Dorothea Farris reported on the development of the CCI Counties Helping Counties program noting that Commissioner Nicholson's presentation was a good example of the model. The program will help connect counties with resources they can share to counties in need of the same resources. CCI will endeavor to be proactive in connecting the two and hopes to build on the existing email systems maintained by administrators, attorneys, social services directors, emergency managers and others to make these connections.

Representative Claire Levy noted that the state is developing an interest in fee increases since the state is not as successful at passing these fiscal questions as locals seem to be. She discussed transportation legislation considered last year and her feeling that new funding will not be approved until we have a more comprehensive plan for our overall transportation needs. She indicated interest in pursuing workforce housing options for counties.

Department of Agriculture Commissioner John Stulp advised the district of new forms of funding assistance available to counties, including noxious weed funding. Department of Local Affairs

field representative Greg Winkler discussed the new changes to the energy and mineral impact grant program.

Southern District Meeting

Southern District President, Commissioner Gene Millbrand, called the meeting to order. Quorum was established and the District elected Southern District Vice President Commissioner George Wilkinson to be President and Commissioner Spike Ausmus to be the new District Vice President. Commissioner John Sandoval explained CCI's new initiative, Counties Helping Counties, and enlisted the help of fellow county commissioners in identifying issues and solving common problems.

Commissioner Wilkinson asked commissioners about the hazards the district was facing with the wildfire season upon the counties. Looking at the recent wildfire in Crowley County, members stated the abundance of weeds in the fields and along homes and roads did little to mitigate the speed of the fire spreading. Additionally, the fire knocked out electricity to most of the communities around it, including the Ordway firehouse, which was about four and a half blocks away from the fire. It was generally agreed the lines of communication between the Division of Emergency Management and the counties must be kept open during the fire season.

Alamosa County discussed the salmonella outbreak the city of Alamosa faced and lessons learned. Officials praised the level of support they received from the county, DoLA, DEM and citizens, however, it was difficult to manage the crisis at the onset because Alamosa's mayor, deputy mayor, city manager and assistant manager were out of town. Information glitches were ironed out fairly quickly and Alamosa expressed thanks to all involved with helping solve the problem.

Commissioner Sandoval spoke about the problems in southern counties with pre-1976 trailers. These old trailers do not meet modern codes yet are difficult to sell because of their age. Often people abandon the trailers leaving them for the county to deal with. Additionally, since mobile homes are taxed differently than the land they are on, the Assessor carries these trailers on the tax rolls for years. It costs more to collect the taxes/fees than it does to deal with the issue. Several counties have land use regulations prohibiting these trailers in the county, however, with limited law enforcement patrols and many back roads, trailers arrive without county officials' knowledge.



CCI staff member Andy Karsian discusses issues with Prowers County Commissioner Gene Millbrand and Alamosa County Commissioner George Wilkinson.

Western District

Commissioner Elaine Fischer presented data on early child care education and the urgency for local government action. San Miguel County has a three-quarter cent question on the November ballot to raise \$650,000 for pre-school education.

Discussion focused on the pros and cons of splitting the district. Historically, the district was the Western Slope and in 1984 split into Mountain and Western Districts, the Western district remaining the largest with 16 counties. Commissioners viewed the strength of the district to be its large size, diversity and power of a collective voice of 48 commissioners speaking on common issues. The primary con mentioned was the cost of travel to meetings.

Ouray County, faced with spiraling fuel costs for the county and employees commuting costs, requested information on what other counties are doing to combat the problem. Several counties subsidize employee vans to outlying areas. Other counties subsidize public vans that employees ride. A county is providing employee transportation stipends which is causing concerns from constituents.

There were several presentations at the district meeting. An update by the Associated Governments of Northern Colorado on the "Cumulative Impact Statement" of oil and gas on four northwestern counties was presented. The short answer is that the impact will be significant over the next 20 years. A follow-up social impact study is the next step.



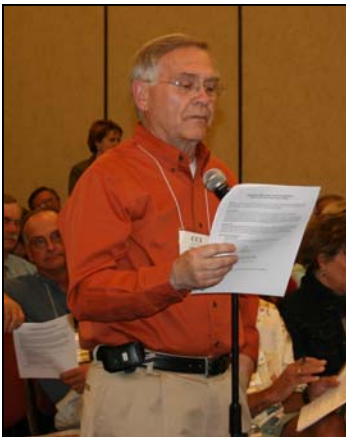
Members of the Western District listen as Montrose County Commissioner Allen Belt discusses items on the agenda.

An update on the Federal Mineral Lease and Severance Tax bills that passed in the 2008 session was given. Agriculture Commissioner John Stulp reported that the legislature replenished previous year's cuts to the agriculture department. The premises ID program is now limited to the State Fair. County Fairs make their own decision whether to require it.

CCI Business Meeting



On Tuesday, June 10, CCI President Dorothea Farris called the 2008 Summer Conference business meeting to order. President Farris recognized the 2007-2008 district officers, as well as, the CCI's past presidents currently in office. Kaye Braaten, National Association of Counties (NACo) County Services Representative, spoke to members thanking them for their participation and encouraged their continued support and input into NACo.



Otero County Commissioner Jake Klein presents a NACo resolution at the CCI Business Meeting.

Jeremy Broggi of the White House Intergovernmental Affairs addressed the members, bringing a letter and greetings from President George W. Bush. Mr. Broggi spoke briefly on some of the key issues facing the nation including the Economic Stimulus Act, permanent tax cuts and promoting international trade. Broggi welcomed commissioners to contact his office with any questions or concerns.

Commissioners were presented with seven proposed NACo resolutions and one NACo platform change for discussion. Resolutions discussed were: support of the community building code administration grant act, local involvement in expansion of military bases, citing wastewater evaporation facilities, sub-prime bailout, elimination of deduction of prior year payments from PILT formula, federal funding for affordable housing, support veterans with funding and new language for the community and economic development committee platform. With the exception of the sub-prime bailout, the resolutions and platform change were accepted by the membership and will move forward to the NACo Annual Conference in July. The sub-prime bailout resolution was withdrawn and will be presented to the NACo Community and Economic Development Committee for further discussion and refinement.

Following the discussion of proposed resolutions, the 2008 Summer Conference Business Meeting was adjourned.

Respected Colorado Pollster Gives Perspective on Election Trends

Floyd Ciruli, a respected Colorado pollster and founder of Ciruli Associates, spoke to over 300 conference delegates at the opening session of the annual CCI Summer Conference. Mr. Ciruli addressed some of the election year trends developing in Colorado. In this first open race since 1952, the two presumptive Presidential nominees are courting the middle for votes, instead of following previous candidates' models of courting the base of the parties.



Floyd Ciruli of Ciruli Associates presents to conference delegates at the opening session of the CCI Summer Conference in which over 375 county delegates attended.

There has been a record number of new voters registering for this years elections and record turnouts at primary and caucus elections throughout the country. Both presidential contenders face challenges. Senator Barack Obama must reunite a Democratic party divided by a long primary and Senator John McCain must overcome voters' attitudes that he represents more of the same.

Specifically for Colorado, the two contenders are virtually tied, running within the margin of error in the most recent polls. Breaking down the poll into various demographic groups shows Colorado is still a state too close to call. Colorado men are leaning toward McCain (49%) while women are leaning toward Obama (48%). Younger voters, ages 18-29, favor Obama (59%) while older voters, over 65, favor McCain (50%). The last two presidential races had President Bush winning the Colorado vote in both 2000 and 2004.

In previous polls, negative indicators on the economy, the war in Iraq and presidential job approval have hurt the Republican Party and strengthened the Democratic Party. There does not seem to be indications that these numbers will change in the months leading to the election.

In November, there will be many ballot initiatives on which Colorado voters may be asked to decide. Two initiatives affecting counties are a severance tax issue and a gaming limits issue. Other initiatives battling on a crowded ballot this election year include: revising TABOR/Amendment 23, civil rights and affirmative action, life at conception and labor related initiatives.

Statewide Internet Portal Authority

CCI is very thankful to Michael Locatis, Colorado Chief Information Officer and Gregg Rippey, Executive Director for the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA). These two men are on the frontlines of securing the state's variety of networks and are designing tools to help government fulfill the mission.

Mr. Locatis spoke regarding the Office of Technology's mission updating commissioners on the latest successes of the office. Upon beginning his work, Mr. Locatis realized that Colorado has a wide variety of networks, phone systems and data centers that had to be consolidated into a secure network that protects the vast trove of information available online. His office has developed a consolidation plan, so that when new legislation is passed, for example, changes in the CBMS system, implementation can take place quickly and efficiently.

Mr. Rippey discussed SIPA and how counties can take advantage of the variety of services it offers. Colorado's internet portal, found at www.colorado.gov, allows users to find information on biking trails to starting a business in Colorado. The Portal is able to assist counties in developing county websites, offer alerts to county citizens, offer RSS feeds and create databases that track various county data for administrators or citizens. For more information contact Gregg Rippey at sipa@www.colorado.gov.

County Powers Session Proves Productive

Based on a request to explore the limitations of county powers, CCI offered conference attendees a session specifically focused on this issue. Tom Lyons, an attorney with the firm of Hall and Evans and CCI's Legal Counsel, led session attendees through an interactive exercise aimed at 1) dispelling the conception that home rule counties have an abundance of additional powers that statutory counties do not have, 2) exploring the powers that other levels of government have that counties do not have and 3) determining what new powers counties think they need.

Session attendees were challenged to work in groups and identify three to five areas where counties could provide better, more efficient services for their constituents if they had additional authority. Following a 20 minute break-out session, commissioners and administrators identified a list of areas where they sought new authorities. These included: 1) sales tax collection at the county level, 2) county determination of local election methods, 3) authority to inspect schools, 4) unilateral control of oil and gas development, 5) expanded impact fee authority and much more. Throughout this exercise, many commissioners expressed a desire not to have some of these powers. Others voiced concern about allowing their own county neighbors to have these and other powers.



During the County Powers session, Commissioners and Administrators worked together to brainstorm what new authorities they would like to have in their counties.

Dr. John Straayer, CSU Political Science Professor, then reflected on the list of "new authorities" generated by county commissioners. He began by reminding commissioners of the slow and incremental fashion in which proposals move through the legislature. He explained the legislative process, the role of lobbyists and the premium that is placed on establishing relationships and communicating openly with legislators and lobbyists alike. Glancing at the five page list of new authorities, Dr. Straayer commented that it appeared as if counties had declared war on just about every interest group represented at the state capital.

Mr. Lyons concluded the session by crediting Beth Dickhaus, Special Counsel for Hall and Evans, for the documents she created identifying the extent of county powers and the differences between home rule and statutory counties. CCI board members Dorothea Farris, Pitkin County and Kathay Rennels, Larimer County, reminded commissioners of CCI's legislative proposal process and encouraged members to submit their 2009 legislative proposals to CCI no later than Friday, July 11th.

Transportation Updates

While commissioners would later hear that Governor Ritter extended the life of the Blue Ribbon Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel, the session on Transportation featured Colorado Treasurer Cary Kennedy and Russ George, Executive Director for the Colorado Department of Transportation, both of whom updated commissioners on the state of transportation finance in Colorado.

Treasurer Kennedy began by describing Colorado's transportation infrastructure as the state's biggest asset and biggest liability. Elaborating on this observation, she explained that the state does not raise enough dollars per vehicle-mile-traveled to cover the costs of the statewide system. She retraced the history of the state's fuel tax which began at \$0.01/gallon in 1917 and now is \$0.22/gallon. The current rate was instituted in the early 1990's.

Since the state's fuel tax has failed to keep pace with the state's transportation needs, the General Assembly has subsidized the fuel tax with general fund dollars. Identifying the crucial policy question of our day, Treasurer Kennedy asked whether we, as a state, want to continue funding our transportation infrastructure with general fund dollars or if we want to rely solely on user fees/taxes such as the fuel tax.

Director George elaborated on the comments of Treasurer Kennedy. He explained that the state is facing a "quiet crisis" in which there are 122 structurally deficient bridges, 40% of the state's roads are in poor condition and 20% of the state's roads have zero remaining service life. These statistics are even more sobering given the fact that Colorado's population will grow by an additional 1.5 million people by 2020, truck traffic will double by 2030 and the population over 65 will double by 2025.

Director George then briefly reviewed the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel. Specifically, he noted that the panel's emphasis was simply on maintaining existing roads and bridges, completing 7th Pot projects, providing transit and rail options, reducing congestion and sharing a portion of new revenue with local governments.



Russ George, Executive Director of CDOT presents updates on transportation during the CCI Summer Conference.

Ethics of Amendment 41

“Amendment 41 (or Article 29) is the poster child for the problems of our initiative and referendum process,” said Attorney General John Suthers in his opening comments to CCI’s Amendment 41 session attendees. Suthers went on to say that Amendment 41 was poorly drafted and that voters, despite Colorado’s reputation for clean government, did not read beyond the Amendment’s Title: “Ethics in Government”. The Supreme Court’s recent decision declaring the Amendment not ripe for consideration will likely delay, for two to three more years, any direction on how Amendment 41 and its provisions should be interpreted. The Attorney General concluded his remarks by sharing his personal opinion of the Amendment and its ultimate fate; surmising that much of the Amendment will not stand based on the grounds of free speech infringement.



Doug Friednash, of Fairfield & Woods P.C., speaks during the Amendment 41 session.

Boulder County Attorney, Larry Hoyt, followed Attorney General Suthers’ comments by explaining that Amendment 41 consists of three major components. The Amendment: 1.) imposes a ban on gifts, with certain exceptions; 2.) imposes a ban on lobbying or representation of other persons in front of the agency from which a person left and 3.) creates a new “Independent Ethics Commission”. Focusing specifically on the gift ban provisions, Mr. Hoyt highlighted some outstanding questions that will need to be addressed to implement the Amendment.

For example, does the gift ban apply to local government volunteers, including appointed board members? Furthermore, gifts from a personal friend on a special occasion are allowable but how is “special occasion” defined? And, can a “personal friend” include persons who have grown to be personal friends even though the initial acquaintance was through work?

Fremont County Commissioner and Independent Ethics Commission (IEC) Member, Larry Lasha, updated commissioners on the current workings of the IEC. He explained that IEC’s powers include issuing advisory opinions, adopting rules on all government ethics issues and ruling on alleged violations. He then read the actual language of Amendment 41 that established the IEC and shared the qualifications and professional achievements of his fellow commission members. Commissioner Lasha announced that, out of 80 applicants, the IEC had finally identified and appointed an executive director. Finally, the IEC anticipates completing its rules by the end of the summer.



Fremont County Commissioner Larry Lasha represented the Independent Ethics Commission and gave an update on the commission’s work.

Calling Amendment 41 a legal and political train wreck, Doug Friednash, legal counsel for the plaintiffs in the *Developmental Pathways v. Ritter* case, reminded session attendees about the political atmosphere and advertising that was used to pass Amendment 41 in November, 2006. Employing images of Jack Abramoff, Amendment 41’s proponents encouraged voters to “change the culture of politics in Colorado”. Today, Colorado has the strictest gift bans in the nation. Mr. Friednash then summarized the district court’s decision imposing an injunction on Amendment 41’s implementation and the Supreme Court’s ultimate reversal of that decision. Based on the Supreme Court’s decision that “the Commission must first act by, for example, adopting rules governing the complaint process, before there is any enforcement or threat of enforcement of the provisions,” Mr. Friednash argued that Amendment 41 will not be effective until the IEC formally adopts its rules on August 30, 2008.

Upcoming CCI Steering Committee Meetings

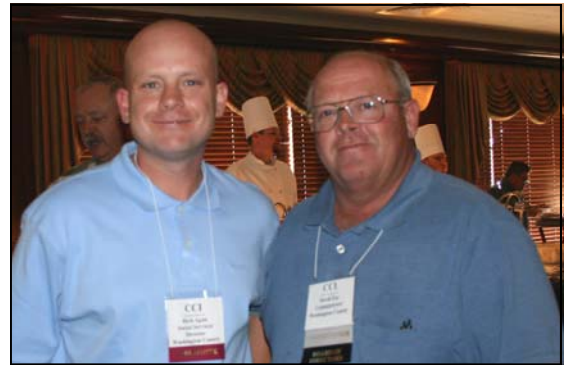
Friday, July 25, 2008
 Tourism, Resorts & Economic Development (9 a.m.)
 General Government (10:30 a.m.)
 Taxation & Finance (12:30 p.m.)
 Transportation & Telecommunications (2 p.m.)

Friday, August 1, 2008
 Public Lands (9 a.m.)
 Agriculture, Wildlife & Rural Affairs (10:30 a.m.)
 Land Use & Natural Resources (12:30 p.m.)
 Health & Human Services (2 p.m.)

2008 Annual Summer Conference



Commissioner Harry Dale (Clear Creek), Dick Cleveland, Mayor of Vail and Commissioner Peter Runyon (Eagle) at the CCI opening reception in Vail.



Washington County Social Service Director Rick Agan and Washington County Commissioner David Foy socialize during the opening reception.



Pitkin County Commissioner Dorothea Farris speaks during the Women Commissioners' breakfast.



Montezuma County Commissioner Steve Chappell smiles for the camera during the business meeting.



Saed Tayyara, Moffat County Commissioner, enjoys the western buffet during the Tuesday evening dinner.



Larimer County Commissioner Kathy Rennels catches up with CCI Project Coordinator Gini Pingnot at registration.



Otero County Commissioner Jake Klein and Montrose County Commissioner Allen Belt discuss items in between sessions.



Commissioner Darius Allen of Alamosa County has Jane Mannon of Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company in stitches during the opening reception.



After speaking to more than 300 county delegates, Governor Bill Ritter takes time to answer questions including one for Pitkin County Commissioner Dorothea Farris.



Larimer County Commissioner Glenn Gibson celebrates winning a basket during the basket giveaway. More than 50 baskets were given away that evening.



Colorado State Treasurer Cary Kennedy chats with Pueblo County Attorney Dan Kogovsek prior to her transportation presentation.



El Paso County Commissioner Jim Bensberg poses a question to the Governor during Wednesday's lunch.



Las Animas Commissioner Gary Hill enjoys the beautiful Vail weather on the patio during the reception.



Conejos County Commissioner Steve McCarroll and John Sandoval relax for dinner during the reception.

Legislative Updates on FML and Severance Tax

CCI was pleased to have several of the key legislative players, as well as, Department of Local Affairs (DoLA) Executive Director Susan Kirkpatrick, present a review of the recent changes to the allocation formulas for the federal mineral lease and severance tax allocation programs.

Senator Gail Schwartz discussed the work of the interim committee and the wide array of interests that were involved in the committee's work. They toured sites, listened to input from all areas of the state, received input from other states that deal with similar issues, and ultimately developed a series of bills intended to bring more certainty and transparency to the distributions of both severance tax and federal mineral lease revenues. Senator Schwartz indicated her feeling that these bills were a good start and that there may be further tweaking but the kick start for higher education and preservation of the grant program were important achievements.

Representative Bernie Buescher focused on the federal mineral lease bill (SB 218) and gave a general overview of the new allocation methodology. He also observed the difficulty of the negotiations and gave credit to Senators Schwartz, Penry and Isgar and Representative Curry for working on this throughout the session. His overriding message was the lesson learned – that you do not have to introduce a bill on the first day to be successful, but you do have to keep everyone at the table working on it. He suggested this was an important thing to remember as we launch into the transportation funding discussions next year.

Senator Josh Penry reiterated the significance of everyone staying at the table talking, even as revisions were coming fast and furiously at the end of the legislative session. He noted his support for the revenues sent to higher education and his belief that

this will also help impacted communities. Senator Penry pointed out the importance of distinguishing severance tax communities from communities with lots of activity on federal leases (the FML communities) because of the property tax offsets applicable to severance tax and that the legislation makes this distinction. Senator Penry's points for special emphasis were allocation legislation will not do anything without a thriving industry to provide revenue to allocate and that the severance tax initiative (#113) is flawed because it does not ensure that new revenues get back to impacted areas.

Director Kirkpatrick posed the question of how we go forward now that this legislation is enacted. She discussed the revisions to the grant program being considered and implemented by DoLA. If DoLA is to respond quickly and appropriately, it needs to engage its regional partners and make sure the grant program can be responsive. Creation of the tiered grant program should enhance the department's ability to respond quickly to emergency needs and to consider larger, regional projects. Director Kirkpatrick asked counties to remember to engage all of DoLA's divisions and technical assistance options when they have needs. The department has more than just the energy impact grant program to assist counties.



Senator Gail Schwartz, Representative Josh Penry and Representative Bernie Buescher look on during the Federal Mineral Lease and Severance Tax session. The session concluded the CCI Annual Summer Conference.

NACo expands Green Government Initiative

Through the National Association of Counties (NACo) Green Government Initiative, the association has launched a "green counties" searchable database of counties implementing pro-environment and energy efficient practices, policies and programs.

The database contains copies of county policies, program descriptions, case studies, job descriptions, resolutions and more. Users can search by keyword, state, county size, type of document or issue areas such as climate change, green buildings, renewable energy, land use, purchasing and waste management to learn about their programs and initiatives.

"America's counties are at the forefront laying the groundwork for more environmentally friendly ways of delivering critical services to residents and implementing more energy-efficient ways of doing business," said NACo Executive Director Larry E. Naake. "Our green counties database is where you will find the most up-to-date information on what counties are doing."

Through the database, for example, a user would learn that Maricopa County, Ariz. is replacing its county fleet of 2,000 vehicles with hybrids and fuel-efficient vehicles. A user would also learn that San Bernardino County, Calif. waives building permit fees where solar panels, wind turbines or tankless water heaters are installed and gives priority planning review to builders meeting the state's green builder standards.

For more information, visit www.greencounties.org or contact Kelly Zonderwyk at kzonderwyk@naco.org.

Boulder County

A party of Nebraskans in search of gold became Boulder County's first settlers when they established an encampment at Red Rocks (Settlers' Park) in Boulder Canyon on October 17, 1858. Long before that, Apache and Cheyenne tribes inhabited the plains.

Boulder County experienced a boom during the 1860s when the Overland Trail, approximately where US 287 is now, became one of the more heavily traveled routes of westward migration. Meanwhile, the discoveries of gold in the mountains, coal in Marshall, silver in Caribou and tellurium in Gold Hill attracted settlement.

After World War II, a new kind of growth came to Boulder County, scientific research and development, including the National Bureau of Standards in 1954. Today, Boulder County's features include the University of Colorado, numerous scientific and research institutions, dozens of high-tech companies and a burgeoning alternative energy economy.

Boulder County's popular Open Space program was founded in 1975 and residents passed the county's first open space sales tax in 1993. Since 1978, the County's Comprehensive Plan has helped maintain the county's rural and agricultural character by focusing new development in cities and towns and maintaining buffers among the unique municipalities. In 2003, every municipality in the county signed the countywide Super Intergovernmental Agreement, which created a comprehensive development plan within the county, establishing rural preservation areas, unincorporated rural land areas and municipal areas of influence. The agreement preserves the individual characters of the municipalities while protecting against the negative effects of urban sprawl and aggressive annexation in pursuit of increased revenues.

Boulder County residents are known for their support of progressive policies. Residents are forward thinking, taking the steps necessary to preserve quality of life for future generations. This includes taxing themselves to support open space, funding programs that serve the disabled, helping local non-profits obtain and improve facilities, improving transportation and transit

and implementing programs that promote sustainability. On April 24, 2008, governmental entities representing 97 percent of the population of Boulder County set forth on a bold mission to significantly reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions countywide through the implementation of the Consortium of

Cities Sustainable Energy Plan, a collaborative guiding document that recommends 35 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make communities more sustainable.

Boulder County residents are also among the healthiest in the nation with numerous world-class athletes calling Boulder County their home.

Hot topics in Boulder County focus on sustainability and land use. Last year, the Boulder County Planning Commission added a sustainability element to the countywide Comprehensive Plan. Since then, the County Commissioners have been working to incorporate sustainability into the Land Use Code. The Commissioners have approved BuildSmart, a residential green building code that regulates the energy efficiency of residential buildings in unincorporated Boulder County, reducing fossil fuel energy use by 30 to 90 percent compared to current code.

This year, the County launched an aggressive forest health management initiative aimed at combating the dual threats of wildfire and mountain pine beetle infestation. The initiative will more than double the amount of forest thinning performed by Boulder County while simultaneously seeking public and private partners to optimize outcomes and implement the most economic and environmentally sustainable solutions.

A countywide collaboration has completed a Human Services Strategic Plan and is now working with local non-profit organizations to determine implementation strategies. Meanwhile, the Commissioners are considering the possible extension of the Worthy Cause tax, which funds capital improvements for non-profits.

Revenue stability is a top priority among Boulder County's municipalities. The Boulder County Consortium of Cities has convened a task force to explore solutions for revenue stability issues. This working group has been examining strategies to address both revenue stability and the current development and patterns that have resulted from municipal revenue needs.

Boulder County's employees, leaders and residents hope to make Boulder County a truly sustainable place to live – environmentally, economically and socially. The counties goal is to create a healthy, welcoming community with adequate opportunities for health care, employment, housing, education, mobility, recreation and a high quality of life for ALL residents.



Above is the Boulder County Courthouse located in downtown Boulder.



CCI District: Front Range

Commissioners:
Cindy Domenico
Ben Pearlman
Will Toor

Location: North Central Colorado

Square Miles: 740

Population: 288,603

Assessed Value:
5,031,140,476

Crowley County

Crowley County was created by the Colorado legislature on May 29, 1911 out of the northern portions of Otero County. The county is named for John H. Crowley, Colorado Senator from Otero County. Its original inhabitants were Native Americans, however during the early years of the county, groups of Germans, Hispanics and Japanese made Crowley County their home.



Crowley County recently constructed a new fire and ambulance hall .

With the coming of the Colorado Gold Rush more settlers and development began in the county. The Missouri Pacific Railroad produced “whistle stop” towns along the railroad. The current towns of Sugar City, Olney Springs and Ordway were formed. Ordway, established in 1890, later became the county seat.

A few years later, developers brought a canal east from the Arkansas River, with ambitious plans to irrigate 57,000 acres along its length in Crowley County. This turned Crowley County into a lush agricultural area. Crowley County was known as a sugar beet processing community with Colorado’s

second oldest beet processing plant constructed in Sugar City. Some other agricultural items produced were: watermelons, cantaloupes, tomatoes, alfalfa, corn and feed crops.

By the 1970s almost all the water rights were sold from what is now called the Twin Lakes Canal to the fast-growing cities of Colorado's Front Range corridor. The area's economic activity then shifted toward ranching. Much of the land has reverted to its original sparse prairie grassland condition.

Crowley County also hosts a state and private prison. The 2006 census showed 6,643 county residents, of which 2,500 were prisoners, giving Crowley County the highest

percentage of incarcerated prisoners of any county in the U.S.

The county boasts two major recreational areas: Lake Henry and Lake Meredith, located east of Ordway, providing great places to swim, water ski, windsurf and boat. There are sites to camp, picnic and fish. The many farmlands in Crowley County have attracted large and small game. Antelope and mule deer like the open grassland, while whitetail deer enjoy the dense areas near the Arkansas River. Lakes and cropland attract waterfowl such as Canadian and snow geese to the area. Ring-necked pheasant, doves, turkey, quail and duck also provide good small game hunting.

Crowley County has many annual celebrations. Chief among these is Crowley County Days. Activities such as a ranch rodeo, mud races, parade, pancake breakfast and 4-H activities highlight this full week during the summer.

Crowley County has seen a great deal of growth during the past five years. A new courthouse was built in 2003 followed by the new Combined Community Library. During the past two years, a new county shop, and fire and ambulance hall have been constructed. The current board has worked diligently on many projects to ensure that Crowley County is in a strong fiscal management position.

One of the biggest concerns of the Commissioners is protecting and enhancing the economic growth of the county. Crowley County remains one of the lowest of Colorado counties in terms of assessed valuation. The board is enterprising in researching business alternatives that will build the economic base of the



In 2003 the county proudly opened a new courthouse.

community yet preserve the pristine quaintness that residents have always enjoyed. Currently renewable energy sources and ethanol production are strongly being considered for this area.

Crowley County has experienced many changes in its history. It has gone from an agricultural producing county, to a livestock raising area and now serves as a community with two major correctional facilities.

Crowley County continues to attract residents who want to live in a small community and still have ready access to the amenities of a major metropolitan area within a hour drive.



CCI District: Southern

Commissioners:
T.E. Allumbaugh
Matt Heimerich
Kathy Medina

Location: Southeast Colorado

Square Miles: 800

Population: 6,092

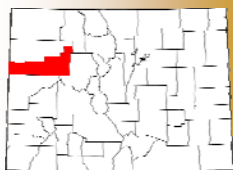
Assessed Value: 33,009,670

Garfield County

Garfield County was founded in 1883 and named in honor of President James A. Garfield. The oldest known human habitation in the county was on Battlement Mesa where an Indian pit house was discovered dating back approximately 3,000 years. Along the Colorado River and especially along the Roaring Fork River, was the land of the Tabogauche Utes who enjoyed 7,000 square miles of prime hunting ground and the healing waters of the Glenwood Hot Springs. The first known white men to visit the county were two Spanish Franciscan Friars who entered Colorado in 1776.

Prospectors from Leadville had reported carbonate deposits in the area as early as 1870. Several parties entered the territory and built Fort Defiance, three and a half miles east of the Vapor Caves in eastern Glenwood Springs. Another camp was made on the Flat Tops (now the Flat Tops Wilderness Area) and named Carbonate City. This later became the county seat, but was eventually abandoned. In August of 1883, the Commissioners made Glenwood Springs the permanent county seat. The first election in the county was in November of 1883.

Garfield County is roughly 3,000 square miles which equates to the combined size of Delaware and Rhode Island. Almost two thirds of the land mass in the county is public land. Six municipalities are in Garfield County with the City of Rifle (8,500) as the largest. The county is experiencing staggering growth (5-7% per year) because of extensive gas exploration in the western part of the county and because of dramatic increases in out-commuting to tourist destinations in Pitkin and Eagle Counties. The current population is approximately 55,000. In addition there's an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 undocumented residents who support the tourist and construction activities in those resort areas. By 2025, the county population is projected to swell to over 120,000.



CCI District: Western

Commissioners:
Tresi Houpt
Larry McCown
John Martin

Location: West Central Colorado on Utah Border

Square Miles: 2,958

Population: 53,020

Assessed Value:
2,566,472,930

Overtime Garfield County is developing a diversity of cultures. The traditional culture of the county was rural, conservative and focused on a strong work ethic. With the migration of retirees, second home owners and people attracted to the resort aspects of Garfield and the surrounding counties, the traditional culture of the county has shifted to a more cosmopolitan lifestyle. This has changed priorities of service delivery and has necessitated that the county be a catalyst for more dialogue within the community to resolve divergent viewpoints.

The explosive growth creates demands for immediate attention. Affordable housing is a huge issue. The extensive out-commuting from



The Glenwood Hot Springs are one of the biggest attractions in Garfield County.

our county was caused by the unavailability of affordable housing in neighboring counties.

Now, with the influx of the oil and gas industry, housing is no longer affordable even in traditionally affordable enclaves

such as Rifle and Battlement Mesa. This becomes particularly problematic when one considers basic community service needs for police, fire, nursing, teaching and other professionals who can no longer afford to live where they work. Day care has become another pressing problem. There are literally hundreds of families dependent on day care centers in the western part of the county. Home based operations cannot keep pace with the demand. Partnerships for both housing and day care must be developed to assure that basic community needs are met. The county must grapple with significant demands to maintain and construct additional infrastructure. Roads are the biggest issue as the oil and gas industry has had a devastating affect on rural farm to market roads. The county is working with these companies to improve these roads to heavy haul capability. In addition, with 5-7% growth in the population, we are experiencing concomitant growth in staffing and in service delivery demands. This translates into more equipment and more facilities to satisfy customer expectations.

For the past several years, the county has been focusing on the airport as an additional economic engine for the western part of the county. Hangar space has been added along with fueling capacity and significant improvements are being made to taxi ways, aprons and to support facilities. In April 2008, the new airport operations facilities were placed into service. The facilities will house the county airport staff and the BLM fire fighting staff. By far the most challenging project has been the re-alignment of the runway to improve safety and to elevate it to a DII designation. This 32 million dollar project begins in earnest this year. It involves leveling the runway, expanding safety zones at each end and changing the alignment to provide safer approaches. When completed in 2011, the airport will be the premier general aviation airport on the western slope.

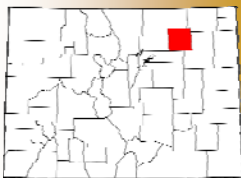
Garfield County faces many challenges. The continued growth of gas exploration, as well as the prospect for oil shale exploration places greater demands on the infrastructure. In addition, the county will need to find a balance between extraction of vital energy sources and protection of the fragile environment. The county will need to mediate cooperation between these competing interests.

Morgan County

As Colorado's only "square" county of mixed short grass prairie, sand hills and river bottoms, standing on the high plains of Northeastern Colorado, Morgan County is situated eighty miles northeast of Denver. The river valley of the South Platte River was used as a corridor in the county's history. The river roughly bisects the county from east to west.

The Native Americans of the Arapahoe, Southern Cheyenne, Lakota and Pawnee tribes used the river as a migration corridor with the uplands for buffalo hunting. The area along the river with its tributaries was a resource for plants and animals not found on the prairie. With the discovery of gold in the Rocky Mountains and the founding of Denver in the 1860s the valley became a major corridor traversed by the Overland Stage Line for passengers heading for the Rockies and points west. By 1864 Indian attacks had become common enough to justify the establishment of a military post, which was named for Colonel Christopher A. Morgan.

One unusual aspect of the fort is that it was constructed and partially garrisoned by "galvanized Yankees." These were Civil War Confederate prisoners of war, who had agreed to join the Union Army on the condition that they would not be



CCI District: Eastern

Commissioners:

Andy Anderson
Jon Becker
Tony Carlson

Location: Northeastern Colorado

Square Miles: 1,294

Population: 28,540

Assessed Value: 367,379,070

required to fight their former comrades in arms. Regiments of these "galvanized Yankees" were recruited in eastern prisoner of war camps and sent west to provide security on the western trails. This allowed Union volunteer and regular troops to be sent east to fight the Confederates.

In 1867 only three years after building Fort Morgan, the Indian threat was quelled so that it was abandoned by the US Army with only a granite monument remaining today. This security provided by the Fort set the stage for homesteading along the river in the 1870s, for the Goodnight-Loving cattle trail to be crossed from south to north and by the early 1880s for railroads to be built. Specifically, the Union

Pacific was on the north side of the river, while the Missouri and Colorado Railroad (now the Burlington Northern Santa Fe) on the south side. These homesteaders brought the concept of irrigated agriculture. The Fort Morgan Canal, built to supply up to 25,000 acres with irrigation water, was completed in 1884, in the same year the town of Fort Morgan was founded.



The Morgan County courthouse is located in Fort Morgan.

Consequently, Hillrose, Brush, Fort Morgan and Wiggins were established along the present BNSF route, while Snyder, Weldona, Goodrich and Orchard grew up along the UP railroad line. The increased population justified the organization of Morgan County in 1889 carved from a portion of Weld County with the county seat at Fort Morgan.

As a point of interest, Morgan County sent a significant percentage of its young men

into military service in World Wars I & II. During WWII a glider pilot training facility was based in Fort Morgan. The pilots who trained there flew their unpowered, aluminum tube and fabric aircraft in the assaults in Normandy, Holland and Germany.

Morgan County has become a major energy center with the construction of the coal fired Pawnee Power Plant (500 megawatt capacity) in the 1970s, the natural gas fueled Manchief Plant (300 mw) in the 1990s and the natural gas fueled Co-Generation Plant (150 mw), which also uses its waste heat to heat green houses raising hydroponic tomatoes. Several ethanol production plants have been proposed. Natural gas, produced elsewhere, is stored underground at several sites.

Irrigated agriculture supported by canals and homesteading continued into the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During this time agriculture became and remains the primary economic basis for Morgan County. The economic landscape today supports beef slaughter and processing, cheese production, sugar beet processing, oil and natural gas exploration, cattle feed lots, dairy operations and major energy generation. Morgan County has progressed from being a land to be traversed by others on their way to somewhere else to a place offering its residents unique and exciting opportunities. It has all the advantages of both small town and rural living while urban amenities are little more than an hour away. Few places can offer such a winning combination.

Park County

Established in 1861, Park County is approximately 45 miles wide from east to west and 60 miles long, encompassing 2,166 square miles. Within its borders are portions of three wilderness areas, two state parks, twelve state wildlife areas and more territory above 9,000 feet than any other Colorado county. Federal lands comprise 51 percent of Park County's landmass. State-owned lands account for about eight percent and privately-owned land for about 41 percent. Notable features on Federal land include the 644,000 acre Pike National Forest, Lost Creek, Mt. Evans and Buffalo Peaks Wilderness Areas, Elevenmile Canyon Recreation Area, Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area, Wilkerson Pass Visitor Center and the Colorado Trail.



The historic Park County Courthouse is in the county seat of Fairplay.

As the incorporated seat of Park County, Fairplay is the center of county government. According to the State Demographer, about 700 people now reside within the Fairplay town limits. It is estimated that about 2,000 more reside in outlying areas. Businesses in Fairplay include two motels, two hotels, a grocery store, seven restaurants, three service stations, bank, a number of gift shops and other small businesses.



In 2001 the Board of Park County Commissioners adopted the Park County Strategic Master Plan as a blueprint for new Land Use Regulations that were subsequently refined and adopted in 2003.

Recommendations and policies contained in the Master Plan largely reflect the results of a community survey that was mailed to all 7,588 households. In addition, several community workshops were held in every area in the county where hundreds of residents participated in crafting "preferred development scenarios" for their communities and areas. From the survey, workshops, interviews and other public forums, several guiding principles emerged for Park County government including:

- Ensure that growth is sustainable (i.e. consistent with existing resources and carrying capacities)
- Encourage new commercial development that will add value to each community (i.e. grocery stores)
- Protect the rights of private property owners
- Ensure that the rate of development allows the county and others to provide adequate levels of service
- Protect surface water and groundwater resources
- Maintain the rural character of the county and rural areas through conservation of open space
- Protect and preserve access routes to public lands
- Promote new recreation opportunities for residents
- Requiring new development to pay its fair share of the cost of providing services to such development.

Park County exemplifies the trend seen in many rural areas: the local economy has become more dependent on tourism and real estate development. In effect the area has become a bedroom community and outdoor recreation area for Metro Denver, Colorado Springs and neighboring resort counties. At the same time, the number of annual residential building starts declined 57% countywide between 1995 and 2006.

Many existing businesses are enjoying a steady increase in annual income and several have now reached the point of expanding their operations. However the demand for jobs still far exceeds the number of employment opportunities. Recent advances in transportation and communications have made it practical to conduct business internationally from an office in Park County. As a result home-based and entrepreneurial businesses appear to be fast growing industries. Notable examples include homebuilders, software programmers, wholesalers, engineers, writers, desktop publishers, craftsmen and artisans.



The ghost town of South Park City is an attraction in Park County including a museum pictured on the left.

CCI District: Mountain

Commissioners:
John Tighe
Leni Walker
Lillian Wissel

Location: Central Mountains

Square Miles: 2,209

Population: 16,802

Assessed Value:
357,367,586

CCI's August District Meetings

Southern	Thursday, August 7, 2008 10 a.m.—2 p.m.	Walsenburg (Huerfano) Community Center Gym 928 Russell
Front Range	Friday, August 8, 2008 10 a.m.—2 p.m.	Littleton (Arapahoe) 5334 South Prince St
Western	Thursday, August 14, 2008 10 a.m.—2 p.m.	Montrose (Montrose) Ute Indian Museum 17253 Chipeta Dr.
Mountain	Thursday, August 21, 2008 10 a.m.—2 p.m.	Silverthorne North Branch Library Blue River Room (Summit) 651 Center Circle
Eastern	Friday, August 22, 2008 10 a.m.—2 p.m.	Fort Morgan (Morgan) Morgan County Admin Bldg 231 Ensign, Assembly Room (basement large room)

El Paso County Receives Award



El Paso County Commissioner Sallie Clark celebrates with Senator Ken Salazar and Ken Sanders, Director for the Center on Fathering, after receiving the Legacy Award for Excellence from NACo.

El Paso County was doubly honored April 10 in Washington, D.C., when it received an Acts of Caring Award for volunteer programs helping children and fathers, and the Legacy Award for Excellence and Innovation for its Center on Fathering program during a ceremony on Capitol Hill. The awards, presented annually by the National Association of Counties (NACo), recognize the top county volunteer programs in the country. Sallie Clark, El Paso County Commissioner and liaison to the Department of Human Services and Ken Sanders, the Center on Fathering Director, attended the breakfast ceremony.

The Legacy Award is the Acts of Caring Awards most prestigious honor. It is presented to the single county program that most fully embodies the spirit of volunteerism, whose work is creating a lasting impact on those it serves, and sets itself apart by providing unique volunteer service. The 2008 Legacy Award includes a check for \$1,500 which will be used to enhance services at the Center.

"I'm proud that El Paso County has received this national recognition," said Clark. "Most importantly, this award honors those assisted by our Center on Fathering program. Credit for this innovative approach improving fathering skills, goes to program director Ken Sanders and our Dept. of Human Services staff. These people work each day to strengthen families, thereby lessening dependency on government services and creating a healthy home environment for children and adults to be successful in their lives and their future."

The Center on Fathering grew out of the county's awareness that the engagement of fathers in their children's lives is connected to positive outcomes. The program is administered through the Department of Human Services and is dedicated to the concept that children do best when they have loving, involved parents.

CCI Welcomes a New Staff Member

As of July 1, Chris Mendez, has joined the CCI staff and will be lobbying on items related to Transportation and Tax & Finance. He can be reached by calling CCI at 303-861-4076 x232 or emailing him at cmendez@ccionline.org. Welcome Chris!