

MINUTES
CML Executive Board Meeting
January 22, 2021, Denver, Colorado
via Videoconference

Board members present: President Robert Widner, City Attorney, Centennial; Vice President Kathi Meyer, Council President Pro Tem, Steamboat Springs; Secretary/Treasurer Dale Hall, Mayor Pro Tem, Greeley; Past President Liz Hensley, Council Member, Alamosa; Larry Atencio, Council Vice President, Pueblo; Rick Bain, Mayor, Brush; Kendra Black, Council Member, Denver; Barbara Bynum, Mayor, Montrose; Greg Caton, City Manager, Grand Junction; Leah Dozeman, Council Member, Wheat Ridge; A.J. Euckert, City Manager, Dacono; Wynetta Massey, City Attorney, Colorado Springs; Christian Morgan, Town Manager, Kersey; Andrea Samson, Council Member, Loveland; Jessica Sandgren, Mayor Pro Tem, Thornton; Katie Sickles, Town Manager, Bayfield; Russell Stewart, Mayor, Cherry Hills Village; Charlie Willman, Council Member, Glenwood Springs.

Newly appointed Board member present: Laura Weinberg, Mayor, Golden.

Guests: Shad Murib, State Director for John Hickenlooper; Colorado Governor Jared Polis.

Board members absent: Cathie Brunnick, Mayor Pro Tem, Lone Tree; Sharon Craig, Trustee, Ignacio.

CML Staff members present: Kevin Bommer, Executive Director; David Broadwell, General Counsel; Meghan Dollar, Legislative Advocacy Manager; Courtney Forehand, Training and Marketing Specialist; Leslie Hough, Publication and Design Specialist; Meghan MacKillop, Legislative and Policy Advocate; Melissa Mata, Municipal Research Analyst; Karen Rosen, Meetings and Events Planner; Heather Stauffer, Legislative and Policy Advocate; Beauclarine Thomas, Legislative and Policy Advocate; Sarah Werner, Engagement and Communications Manager; Laurel Witt, Associate Counsel; Allison Wright, Finance & Administration Manager; Dianne Backhus, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was called to order by President Widner at 9:00 a.m. Attendance was taken and a quorum was established.

Barbara Bynum MOVED AND A.J. Euckert SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES BE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED. The motion passed unanimously.

In December the Board solicited applications from CML members to fill the vacancy in the Medium Category of municipalities created by the resignation of Darrin Tangeman. Four applications and endorsements were received and considered, and phone interviews were conducted by the Executive Board officers, per adopted CML Board Roles & Responsibilities. After much deliberation, the officers recommended the appointment of Golden Mayor Laura Weinberg to fill the position. A MOTION WAS MADE by Dale Hall AND SECONDED by Jessica Sandgren TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND TO WELCOME LAURA WEINBERG TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Advocacy Manager Meghan Dollar introduced the new Legislative and Policy Advocate, Meghan MacKillop. Meghan replaces Morgan Cullen, who left CML for an advocacy opportunity with Metro Denver Homebuilders Association. Meghan has previously been active in state government as a policy and research analyst with the General Assembly's Legislative Council and brings with her considerable knowledge and many established relationships. The Board welcomed her and looks forward to working with her.

President Widner reported on progress of the Equity and Diversity Subcommittee. Sarah Werner noted that the CML equity and diversity webpage has resources shared from many cities and even other states. There will be an equity and diversity focus in the April issue of Colorado Municipalities magazine as well as at the CML Annual Conference. There is also ongoing collaboration with National Civic League on the age-friendly Next Fifty initiative and El Pomar Foundation's initiative on Women in Government.

Meghan Dollar presented recommendations from the Policy Committee meeting of January 15, 2021. The only action item was a bill creating a National Disaster Mitigation Enterprise. This would provide local governments with technical support and grants to assist in implementing resilience measures, as well as help entities in applying for federal grants for pre-disaster mitigation measures requiring matching funds. The Policy Committee

recommended supporting this item. Wynetta Massey MOVED AND Charlie Willman SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT CREATION OF THE NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION ENTERPRISE. The motion passed unanimously. Meghan, Beauclarine Thomas and Heather Stauffer also gave a brief overview of several other potential legislative items.

In addition, Meghan provided an update on the 2021 Legislative Session. The legislature met for three days in January, passing seven pieces of legislation, then adjourning until an anticipated return in mid-February. Priorities in the coming session will be affordable housing, single-use plastics legislation, clarification of the open meetings law, elimination of the 120% rule for onsite renewable electricity generation, and cleanup of 2020's law enforcement integrity act. Kathi Meyer encouraged Meghan and her team to utilize Board members and other CML members to assist in lobbying legislators whenever needed.

Meghan Dollar and CML Meetings and Events Planner Karen Rosen updated the Board on the Legislative Workshop to be held virtually on February 11, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Several speakers, including Governor Polis, are on the agenda, and the meeting platform will be interactive. Registration is currently open, but will close one day prior to the workshop. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

Municipal Research Analyst Melissa Mata introduced the 2021 State of Our Cities and Towns Report. The statewide survey, conducted last fall, had a 64% response rate. It includes both pure data and individual municipality features. For the first time, the report is in an online format only, with interactive data stories and videos.

Although Senator Hickenlooper was unable to join the meeting due to his Senate schedule, his state director Shad Murib was able to step in. Mr. Murib identified some staff members and several of the teams that the senator is putting together as he settles into his new position: his legislative team, constituent services team, rural outreach team, and Front Range team. He encouraged Board members to reach out to him at any time.

Governor Jared Polis joined the meeting, speaking on a variety of topics significant to Colorado cities and towns. He indicated a desire to maintain open interaction with municipalities, and updated the Board on vaccine distribution issues, economic recovery and stimulus.

Executive Director Kevin Bommer extended his appreciation to the entire Communications team, praising the innovative work done on the State of Our Cities and Towns Report, as well as the continued improvements in other CML publications and press releases. Board and other staff members also commented on the professional appearance of the website, books, magazines, newsletters, and webinars. The next Board meeting will focus on items from the February Policy Committee meeting. Questions were raised about the June conference. There is a possibility of rescheduling it depending on COVID vaccination rates. However, the Annual Business Meeting and elections will be held in June as always, most likely virtually. Barbara Bynum asked if there could be time allotted at future meetings where Board members could share good things happening in their town or district. The suggestion was discussed by the Board and met with approval, with recommendations that items remain brief and that participation would be optional.

A MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT WAS MADE by Kathi Meyer AND SECONDED BY BARBARA BYNUM. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Hall
Secretary/Treasurer