

BROOMFIELD CITY COUNCIL TRAINING AND TRAVEL REPORT



Council Member Denny McCloskey

3-5 JUNE 2013

ANNUAL CCI SUMMER CONFERENCE

<http://ccionline.org/download/county-lines/2013%20summer%20County%20Lines.pdf>

TOTAL COSTS:	\$776.82
BROOMFIELD COST:	\$536.34
CCI REGISTRATION:	\$350.00
HOTEL COSTS:	\$186.34
MILEAGE: 4 X 78= 178 miles@ 51¢=	\$168.48
PER DIEM:	\$72.00

(per government guidelines) (Council Member Paid)

This annual meeting of CCI sets the stage for policy work at our state level, and organizes Commissioners to speak with a unified voice to our nine member Federal Delegation. That will address transportation infrastructure needs. This summer NACo Meeting will be in Ft Worth and will offer another opportunity to engage BNSF and UP freight rail on plans for N and NW Fastracks lines are of specific interest to Broomfield. We know there are activities that will move freight traffic to arc metro areas. We want to position local governments to have first right to any abandoned or expanded Right of Way that may result. For the NW Line, it may be the only way forward!

(Tuesday night I returned to Broomfield for our scheduled Study session on Fracking and what direction council will provide CMO to pursue regarding an MOU for present applicants and frame for future application that may be submitted.)

The major unresolved topic of “fracking” continues in present news.(The 64 Colorado counties, 55 attended and the vote on how to approach legislation on this topic resulted in

a tie. Comments for included the support for a major local commodity for market, increase in jobs, revenue benefit for Colorado and the county where severance occurs. Concerns included the availability of information to medical staff to treat employees and citizens exposed to “fracking” fluid, testing process baseline and markers for tracing new elements introduced in the extraction, the volume of water needed 2-2.5 million gallons per site, 100,000 gallons of special disclosed & undisclosed (proprietary) elements, the containment, reuse, and disposal of fluid (injection wells). A new concern raised was the lack of any attention to the numerous abandoned, inactive, dry sleeves that populate Colorado aquifers. Weld and Garfield County Commissioners extended an open invitation to me to tour some of their well sites and point out their experiences with failures and corrections. They also are willing to share their specific experiences.

This promises to be a closely followed topic of concern.

CORA- Colorado Open Records law and cyber security are present issues for many county staff operations. Having a clear plan and having a specific point person are common sense approaches, but many staffs have been stretched where the plan is good on paper, but not in practice.

Legislative review highlighted what much of council, and our two chambers: Broomfield Chamber of Commerce and MetroNorth Chamber have indicated. The last session and half or a third of the previous session have been marked by a lockdown by leadership in entertaining amendments and debate over legislation under review. Most commissioners were not satisfied because of the lack of dialogue and the unnecessary polarization.

The session on Amendment 64 focused on the reality that local governments will have to be ready to deal with the financial burden, should both tax provisions pass on tis November 5 ballot, and how to handle the problems with neighboring entities having possibly very different limits. The impact will fall to officers on the street, and be confusing to citizens that may be unaware of county to county rule differences. Municipal and District courts will likely have to be the arbiter in incidents that occur.

RAMP, CCI Dues, and Economic Development were the focus of the Front Range District Meeting this year. Many of the early fears about equity and project selection in CDOT’s RAMP project acceleration seems to be lessening. The overall concern of lack of funding and the understanding that a dedicated sales tax may be the best finance mechanism for the lack of sufficient funds over the last twenty year period due to self imposed limits and the resulting deferred maintenance.

The Dues structure has come up again due to the choice of Denver to leave CCI due to their Budget shortfall. They are reconsidering their entire lobbying effort, possibly to create an in-house department. The problem for them is that most of the lobbying organizations would then exclude them from any meaningful/vote action. We’ll see how this unfolds.

The Metro Denver Commissioners (MACC) have been very active in pursuing a marketing of our metro counties as a single unit due to the unfolding changes in

investment and development. Colorado has little, and there is no regional county finance incentive scheme to improve the situation. Counties have been sharing ideas and methods for the past several months to consider a workable structure.

Interesting times for sure.

Call or email regarding any issues or questions.

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