



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

August 30, 2017

9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Lincoln Park Hospitality Suite, 1340 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to order and introductions – Ray Beck, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:08 am; introductions were made. Richard Orf joined by phone.

Approval of Minutes: Andy Key made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Duncan McArthur seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report - Bonnie Petersen presented the financial report noting:

- The Sage Grouse line item shows a negative number which was addressed with the receipt of a reimbursement during the month. However, two additional invoices have been paid on the project so August financials will reflect an even larger negative number.
- Profit & Loss – The OEDIT EZ Grant for 2017 has been received. OEDIT instructed administrators to request the total amount before the fiscal year end. Expenditures for meetings, hotels, and lunches are slightly over budget year to date, but do not expect them to exceed budget barring any unforeseen expenses.
- Accounts Receivable – The oldest invoice is for EZ administration for Clear Creek County, we have not gotten an indication that they will make the payment but have continued to follow-up with them.

Cari Hermacinski made a motion to approve the financials as presented, Andy Key seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

AAoA Report- Dave Norman gave an update for AAoA.

- AAoA hosted two events recently; on the 24th the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging (SAPGA) community listening session and the West Slope Senior leadership conference on 25th. Bonnie Petersen was the featured speaker on the 25th; attendees enjoyed the presentation and would like copies of ideas suggested in Bonnie's presentation.
- There was a health care panel with local doctor's and CMU during the leadership conference and a very good dialogue took place regarding handling medical issues for the aging population. There was tremendous participation with 60 people at both meetings.
- The events received media attention and had TV coverage as well as a Daily Sentinel article.
- AAoA is planning and will host a care giver conference in November and there will be a Resident's Rights conference, with assisted living residents next month.

- SAPGA is planning to start an aging caucus for the next legislative session and have begun to have some talks with the JBC staff. They are getting information on how to pull together state aging budget. Administration is supportive of creating a budget related to aging.
- In response to the first recommendation in the SAPGA report, the group is advocating for the establishment of a strategic planning office at the state level through the administration.

DWC Report – Cheryl McDonald prepared and sent a written report see attachment A.

- The sign the center has been waiting for has been delivered and set up; Cheryl will get the electrical work scheduled. The sign will be functional soon.
- Funding for the sign came through the Moffat County LMD and passed through AGNC.

Legislative Report - Dianna, Ted, and Richard Orf prepared a written report, see attachment B.

- The three of them have been monitoring interim committees over the summer.
- The JBC will hear the Quarterly Economic Forecast September 20th and the budget report will provide a picture of the state budget going forward; it will project what the administration believes will happen with Severance tax and FML revenues.
- Yesterday an announcement was made official at a press conference that XCEL Energy will propose plans to close two coal fired plants in Pueblo. While a closure of this magnitude won't affect the West Slope directly, it still takes away a portion of the market. The Public Utilities Commission will have to review and approve the plan; consumer impacts must demonstrate that costs are reasonable for the PUC to approve the plan. If the plan is approved, the plants will close in 2022 and 2025.
- The task force regarding courthouse issues has come together and is beginning to study the issues brought before them. AGNC is concerned about the unfunded mandate requiring communities to pay for renovations to existing buildings and requirements for construction of new courthouses. Chairman, Don Coram, stated that the task force is in the fact-finding status right now and that the county courthouse problem will still be focus of task force. Don Coram noted that he would like to see funding made available through an enterprise fund of \$20 million per year to assist local jurisdictions with the cost of providing facilities for the courts. He indicated that there may be an option to take the funding out of the marijuana tax fund for 5 years to capitalize an enterprise fund for new/revitalized county courthouses and jails. His anticipation is that it would probably will be a loan rather than a grant with a 1-2% interest rate over 15-20 years similar to water construction loans.
- HB 1313 has now hit national headlines. This bill was designed to kick asset forfeiture back to the state, but it's unclear if it should go to local or state districts and if we will adopt the CAF from federal agencies.
- The Governor issued new Executive Order setting out greenhouse gas emission goals for the state. There were no recommendations on how that would happen, except to direct agencies to work with electrical providers in achieving the stated goals. There are no mandates, but the order provides cover for legislators who may try to put ideas in statute as we have seen over the last two years. Expect to see increased renewable energy standards to be proposed as Governor's race unfolds.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife NW Regional Manager- JT Romatzke introduced himself and provided an overview of his background which includes a pretty solid agricultural background

and 19 years in leadership with Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW). JT's family owned an authentic log homes business, a saw mill and cattle ranch all of which were deeply impacted by the endangered species act. He went to school at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and studied biology and range management with a goal of working on a farm or ranch somewhere. After school, he and his family moved to Grand Junction where he was hired with then, the DOW, in 1998 working on fish biology. He worked on the Roan Plateau when Russ George was the Director for Department of Natural Resources (DNR). JT sees that a disconnect occurs when there are discussions about pure science and how it relates to actual work on the ground. After a workable plan on the Roan was developed, JT began to work with oil and gas companies. He worked with many of the companies and pushed them to achieve a balance and many of the companies have called and congratulated him on his new position. JT believes there is nothing that can't be done if we look for middle ground on things. JT noted that there are always discussions that debate conservation vs preservation; conservation is wise use of land and resources whereas preservation is taking away use of land and resources. JT is opposed to only preservation as a model for use of land and resources; he does not support the removal of humanity in the decision-making process regarding the use of land and resources.

JT would like to run CPW like a business and acknowledge community uses. Cameo is a great example. CPW is not in a good place financially and JT thinks there are trust and credibility issues; his personal goal is to work on that and rebuild that with local officials and communities. We need to get people outdoors - we are losing hunters; the anglers are holding their own and archery is increasing. We are all facing a battle with natural resources and endangered species - our #1 goal must be not to lose state control over species so CPW can work with communities. The environmental organizations through utilizing the Equal Access to Justice Act have US taxpayers funding management of wildlife through litigation which puts both wildlife and communities in jeopardy. There is litigation taking place right now on the Roan Plateau regarding the predator study CPW is doing.

Last year CPW ran legislation to try to create sustainability for CPW, that bill didn't get through the process; hopefully a workable bill can be brought forward this year. Green Mountain reservoir recently found Quagga Mussel larvae in the water - this is a precursor to the Quagga Mussels which now makes Green Mountain reservoir "suspect." CPW found 20 illegal access points for boats on the reservoir. Three new CPW Commissioners have been appointed, Jim Spehar, Marie Hackett and Carrie Besnet-Howard. The Cameo shooting site is moving forward; the Governor was out in May for a first shot event and there are three benches open. It is the goal to have construction completed in January for the first phase of the site - there is still a lot of interest in the facility from many corners.

Bears and human interactions have been significant this year there have been more than 600 calls to dispatch this summer in the NW region. Should AGNC get a legislative tour to the West Slope set up, it would be a good idea to take the participants to see how much interaction there is. JT believes the counties must be a partner in policy work and that it is important to integrate counties, communities, economic development into policy discussions and decisions.

State Legislator Discussion – 2018 Session Expectations

Senator Don Coram – Will be working on the broadband issue with other legislators. Hopefully will get a bill to fund CPW through this year, senate finance needs to pass it out – that committee stalled a number of issues for rural Colorado last session. Working on legislations for radio towers as well along with other matters.

Senator Ray Scott – legislators need help this time of year to provide an overview of what legislators can help with. Senator Scott sits on the agriculture and transportation committees and is on the select committee on natural resources. Oil and gas operations will be in the news as the Governor is touting new regulations for the industry. Hope to avoid a one size fits all method of regulation regarding Front Range non-attainment for air quality. Highway funding will be a topic next year; the Senator would like to focus on getting back to senate bill 1 where cities, counties and state had a line item in the budget that funds transportation – we have had 7 years of not funding roads and bridges in the state.

Representative Bob Rankin – Representative Rankin noted that he is going into his 6th year in the legislature and his 4th year on the JBC. He ran a bill to look at IT expenditures and also get to move \$10 million of general fund money into severance tax money. The funds were to cover wildfire, species protection, etc. He has been working for 3 years or so to get severance tax exempted from TABOR and will keep chipping away at that. He got an executive order to do an education leadership council for the purpose of taking a hard look at what kind of education we should be providing. Property taxes used for schools is a disaster and he has looked at trying to establish a uniform mill levy which is very difficult to educate legislators on; unfortunately, it did not get off the ground. He will keep working on that and will support Senator Scott's efforts on the energy office and will continue to support digital broadband. He would like to work on conservation easements and have a system that will evaluate the purpose of easements; there is a good deal of concern about the word of perpetuity. It was noted that easements were never intended to be used to close down access to public lands. A discussion was had regarding the challenges for small businesses related to health insurance and the potential 20 to 30 percent premium increases come January 2018.

Representative Rankin noted that a task force from last summer ran four bills introduced but none got out of committee. Health care premiums include about a 40% tax to pay for Medicaid. The state doesn't know what is coming down from the federal government but we have to turn that cost curve down. With only one provider for many of our areas other options need to be explored but for now, we are just in limbo until it is known what federal government is going to do. There is an RFP out for an accountable care collaborative leading nation in managing what we have. Underutilized medical facilities could provide services using telemedicine and push utilization of facilities; defensive medicine costs also drive medical costs up.

Representative Rankin would like to know if AGNC has any concerns about the Governor's budget after it is released on November 1, 2017.

Representative Dan Thurlow – this is Representative Thurlow's third year in the house, he sits on three committees. The statutory review committee is charged with the responsibility to get rid of bills that are duplicative; the committee has gotten rid of 200 reports that were being done that did not need to be done. Some laws are invalid and have been overridden by courts but are still on books – so the committee identifies those for removal. Wildfire matters committee deals with the fact that of the 5.5 million people in Colorado, 2 million live in wildland/urban interface (WUI) areas. The state is in a position that they have to put out forest fires for years now in order to protect houses in jeopardy. One of the questions is how much responsibility should a homeowner have in protecting their houses? The committee is looking at how to build better, defensible spaces through laws or local jurisdictions. Localities are different they probably have their own ideas. We have such a mess of constitutional constraints in budget with TABOR, Gallagher, etc., it is hard to figure out how to manage the state budget effectively. Severance tax pushes the TABOR limit so the tax can't be spent it on what it is supposed to be spent on. There are so many convoluted things in budget process that Representative Thurlow may make an attempt to address them forthrightly to see if we can get some of them out of the way. It is his vision for the state to create a process that works first so we can make better decisions about spending. SB17-267 sort of moved the bar a bit but it will require a look

at long term solutions to TABOR - Gallagher - severance tax. The representative will start with a town hall to see if we can find some sort of logical solution to try to get us out of situation we are in. In regard to the health care question, he would like to find the root cause and solve the problem at that level. Eight years ago the state made a decision to expand Medicaid. That reaction was more demand in marketplace which means the price goes up because the supply of providers is limited. In a marketplace, the second thing that happens is suppliers expand supply, we are starting to see that happen - supply is expanding to meet demand - price should temper and not keep going up but there is no constraint on the demand side. It is hard to roll back when given something free. The state expanded Medicaid at 138% of federal poverty level in addressing the root cause perhaps it makes sense to move to 130 +/- % of poverty to challenge demand.

Representative Yeulin Willett - HD54 - serves on judiciary, Agriculture, natural resources and committee on legal services; as such he deals with issues in all the bills being discussed. He's carried a lot of successful bills over the last three years but does not plan to carry a lot of bills this year as he will be plenty busy in the committee processes. The \$3 Billion marijuana industry has a lot of power - thought a little more law and order would be a factor. He got bill for funding for law enforcement on black and gray markets. Some think other state expansion will address local market. Homelessness is a huge expense for municipalities - police did study and found that it takes \$58 thousand per homeless person per community to deal with all the services they require; if we can get them into some sort of housing it reduces the cost to about half the cost. We can't deal with them all; they are not coming to GJ for Marijuana as the community is not selling it yet - Denver is getting homeless pressure due to marijuana. Mental health has a great deal to do with homeless situation. Rep. Willett is a big proponent of telehealth opportunities; we need to get it established in the West Slope to get services to them.

Representative Marc Caitlin - started out as farm agriculture and water guy ended up in the House of Representatives; he thought he would be focusing on Ag, water and farming but instead has been appointed to committees working on health care, etc. He believes in prior appropriation but he sees a movement toward senior water rights protecting junior water rights. Invasive species is a big deal and will cost more \$\$ than we can even imagine if they become pervasive in Colorado water. Everybody will end up paying the bill; it is hoped that we can find legislation to address issue - need more people helping - would like federal assistance in inspecting, etc. The Representative sits on the young farmer's committee; there is a lot of interest in farming in Colorado - people are interested in knowing about their food source and how it was grown. He is concerned about kids that cannot afford to inherit the family farm. Agriculture is the second largest industry in the state and Marc is concerned about conservation easements as he has had a lot of calls this summer raising the issue that they are not working the way it was thought that they should. He is a believer in storage of water on both sides of Colorado; it's difficult to determine how to pay for it but it should be a priority; a study on storage for front range should be out soon. Don Coram noted that we send 500 thousand-acre feet to the Front Range and they let more than that go to Nebraska.

The following issues were raised by the attendees for legislative consideration:

- Regarding health care, it is important that we know and providers know which providers are covered by health plans – it is possible someone who may be unconscious could be treated by a non-covered provider. The patient then has to cover that expense. Rep. Rankin will incorporate that into his transparency bill.
- There is a crisis in Colorado regarding education and transportation. One third of the state budget goes to some form of welfare so what can be done about education? The suggestion was made that we have a bill to put a one cent sales tax on gasoline giving 50 percent to education and 50 percent to transportation.
- A request was made that the legislators consider a change to the rural jump start program requiring that all coal communities in Colorado be included in the program. Also a question

was asked about including a scoring component to the OEDIT incentive program so that we could see some incentives for businesses flow to rural Colorado as they have all been made to Front Range companies over the last several years adding to the congestion and increased housing costs in that area. Senator Coram is speaking to OEDIT about moving \$10 million of the venture capital fund to projects for rural Colorado; if they don't, he will run a bill requiring them to do so.

- The point was made that CDPHE is out of control; most rural areas in Western Colorado have not recovered from the recession and regulations continue to be added that inhibit investment in the region. Even after all requirements for permitting have been met, businesses in the region still cannot get permits. Senator Coram noted that in some cases, it is necessary to go to the federal level to get some decisions overturned.

Karen Harkin spoke at lunch on behalf of our sponsor CHFA; she noted that they are not a state agency, they were created by the state but not an agent of the state. The organization was created to provide affordable housing and was expanded to do economic development. They have provided home finance service for 100,000 loans for home buyers by providing down payment assistance since the mortgage meltdown. CHFA also provides services for small businesses and they have done about 10,000 loans in Western Colorado. They provide multi-family low income housing credits as well. They provide loans to different projects, help businesses expand real estate working capital collateral and administer state loan funds. She outlined some projects in the region supporting workforce and senior housing as well as business projects that have been supported. She asked that attendees keep CHFA in mind for projects that may need assistance in their communities.

Federal Delegation Updates:

A discussion including Noah Koerper, from Senator Bennet's office and Brian Meinhart from Congressman Tipton's office (both via teleconference) was had regarding AGNC members thoughts about Senator Bennet doing an amendment on the national defense authorization bill in an effort to release Anvil Points funds held in a special account. Some background was reviewed by Commissioners with a history on the topic. Betsy Bair from Senator Gardner's office indicated the Senator has broached the subject with Secretary Ryan Zinke and there is some optimism that an administrative solution may be found for releasing the funds. The AGNC members, after hearing the discussion, indicated that they would prefer to follow up on the possibility of an administrative resolution to the issue and, if it does not work out, then have an amendment to the NDAA presented in 2018. They understand the risks associated with leaving the funds where they are. It was also suggested that there may be a possibility that Congressman Tipton may be able to offer legislation and/or an amendment in the house natural resources committee at some point to get the funds distributed. All staff will continue to communicate about the issue.

A discussion regarding a move of the BLM offices to Grand Junction took place; it appears that Secretary Zinke may be leaning more toward moving the offices to Denver. AGNC members see a move to Denver as ineffective. Mike Samson made a motion that AGNC staff write a letter to Secretary Zinke stating that the BLM office should be moved to Grand Junction as quickly as possible; Cari Hermacinski seconded the motion; motion passed.

A request was made of the congressional delegates to consider making funding opportunities with the Economic Development Administration automatic so rural areas can apply for economic assistance through that agency.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

New Business: *Next Meeting is on September 20, 2017 at the Oak Creek Town Hall, 129 Nancy Crawford Blvd., Oak Creek, CO.*

Adjournment – Meeting Adjourned at 1:28 pm.

Attendance:

Kimberly Bullen, City of Rifle
Drew Kramer, Tri-State G&T
Betsy Bair, Senator Gardner's Office
John Bristol, Routt County, City of Steamboat. & Steamboat Chamber
Pattie Snidow, USDA RD
Katelin Cook, Rio Blanco County
Dan Thurlow, State Rep. Dist. 55
Amy Provstgaard, Battlement Mesa Svc. Assoc.
Kathy Hall, CDOT
Dave Norman, AAoA of NWCO
Yeulin Willett, State Rep. Dist. 54
Grady Hazelton, Town of New Castle
Chris Treese, Colorado River District
Mike Samson, Garfield County
Peter Brixius, Town of Rangely
Greg LeBlanc, City of Grand Junction
Roger Rash, Montrose County
Andy Key, Town of Rangely
Katie Mackley, RREDC
Ray Beck, Moffat County
Karen Harkin, CHFA
Duncan McArthur, City of Grand Junction
Cari Hermacinski, Routt County
Shaun Brennan, Terra Energy Partners
Roger Granat, Town of Palisade
Mike Forman, City of Craig
John Justman, Mesa County
Art Riddile, Town of New Castle
George Rossman, Congressmen Tipton's Ofc.
Shannon Wadas, Senator Bennet's Ofc.
Kimberly Bullen, City of Rifle
Dan Thurlow, State Rep 55

Don Cook, Moffat County
Konnie Billgren, Rangely Area Chamber
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County
Ray Scott, Senator District 7
Don Coram, Senator District 6
Marc Caitlin, State Rep. Dist.
Joyce Rankin, Colorado School Board
Bob Rankin, State Rep. Dist. 57
Glen Davis, Montrose County
John Justman, Mesa County
Tiffany Pehl, AGNC
Kealey Campbell, AGNC
Bonnie Petersen, AGNC
Ted Orf, Orf & Orf, PC
Dianna Orf, Orf & Orf, PC
Richard Orf, Orf & Orf, PC (via phone)
Shawn Bolton, Rio Blanco County
Rose Pugliese, Mesa County
Scott McInnis, Mesa County
Gary Harmon, Daily Sentinel
Keith Caddy, Montrose County

EXHIBIT A

AGNC REPORT AUGUST 2017

We have been busy with end of the season family trips, local county fairs and festivals. The solar Eclipse has generated a lot of traffic through our center both before and after the event. Our new sign is now scheduled to arrive Tuesday August 29th. Next is the task of setting it up. The week of September 11th is our annual study trip to the South Central region starting in Colorado Springs.

Reminder the Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference is October 25th thru October 27th. This year's conference will be in Grand Junction at the Two Rivers Convention Center. Information for this is on the Colorado.com web site.

Cheryl McDonald

EXHIBIT B

Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado
Government Affairs Report
August 30, 2017



We continue to monitor the Air Quality Control Commission activities, particularly as they relate to the Commission's Strategic Plan. For several years, the Commission has included goals to reduce greenhouse gases as part of the Strategic Plan. At the August __ meeting Commission members discussed what impacts the Governor's July 12 Executive Order might on what staff sees as the work plan for the coming year. Air Division Director Gary Kaufman responded that staff is starting to look at that and having discussions with DNR, (thinking about) the GHG reporting rule, Electric Generation Units and other things "in the works" and that they will work with industry. A couple of Commissioners have expressed interest in California vehicle standards, but this is barely in the exploration stage. The CDPHE has no specific goals in mind at present; however, the Air Commission is an independent body and future briefings related to GHGs should be interesting whether they are discussed in terms of regulation (such as a state clean power plan) or legislation. The Commission will also move forward with rules for oil/gas emissions of VOCs to meet the 2015 ozone standard to deal with the non-attainment designation for the Front Range.

Interim Committee Activities. The *Wildfire Matters* interim committee held its first meeting August 28 with briefings on mitigation efforts across the state. Colorado State University, which houses the State Division of Forestry, is a likely competitor for funding with other wildfire related programs since the Tier 2 severance tax funds have been diminished. On a positive note, the Center For Excellence in Aerial Firefighting has developed several compelling short videos as to how their efforts have saved people and made firefighting easier. These videos will aid in future funding requests. The committee will meet again September 8.

The *Sales and Use Tax Simplification* interim has held two meetings, with additional meetings scheduled Sept. 15 and Nov. 1. Our comments and reactions to discussions in the committee are as follows:

- AGNC has home rule cities that have expressed their opposition to sales task unification, making it unlikely that we could take a position on the simplification issue.
- It is hard to underestimate how dependent local governments are on sales tax revenue.
- Colorado does not have the worst multi-jurisdictional nightmare for sales tax collection. Business groups rate us second worst.
- There has been some progress in making a map that will prevent claims against taxpayers that rely on it, but final agreement on it may prove difficult.
- Cities are convinced that the Supreme Court will overrule their decision requiring a nexus for taxation. Predicting court decisions is kind of like relying on the lady down at the fair to predict your love life.

- Pressure to find a solution may be off for a while, since it is somewhat hard to envision Republicans authorizing a new tax on the internet, and the tech giants are largely Democrats and would oppose it from the industry perspective..
- Cities do not trust the department of revenue to collect taxes. Testimony in committee indicated that the cities that started collecting the tax on their own had an increases in revenue. (Audit function)
- Exemptions and deductions are sacrosanct. Each of these fulfills a local priority, and have constituencies behind them with a lot more influence on their local leaders that state bureaucrats' policies.
- Many local jurisdictions do not have a use tax, which makes avoidance of the sales tax easier.
- Generally, testimony was that most legislation would likely be declared unconstitutional as to home rule counties, since it would likely be deemed a matter of local concern
- For all these reasons legislation for comprehensive reform is very unlikely.
- However some progress is possible, though it could require a long stakeholder process, so. Major legislation is likely not possible this session. However, the following concepts could go a long way toward easing the business burden:
 1. A single application for a sales tax license good in all jurisdictions
 2. A single payment system where an electronic payment could be made, which the state could remit to the proper jurisdiction (with a very short deadline for the state).
 3. A single return might be nice but in our opinion looks unduly
 4. There are other similar helpful steps such as these that would help without altering the local prerogative but they will take further time to explore.

The *Water Resources Review Committee* has focused largely on the status of various water projects in Colorado and potential ways to implement the State Water Plan. Requests by committee members for draft legislation must be submitted by Sept. 7 and finalized by Oct. 5. The committee will vote on recommended bills which will then be forwarded to the Legislative Council (leadership committee) for consideration on Nov. 15.

The *Interim Committee on County Courthouse and County Jail Funding and Overcrowding Solutions* held its third meeting August 28. The first meeting raised some interesting points:

- For many rural counties, much of the jail overcrowding issues are directly related to drug cases (and crimes stemming from drug use) as well as mental illness.
- ACLU seems to be gearing up for a fight over secured vs unsecured bonding - they identify jail overcrowding to be primarily the fault of people being unable to afford to bond out of jail. This is something we've seen ACLU fighting on a muni level.
- The courthouse funding issue may boil down to a dollars and cents problem with the state.
- Expect legislation forcing "best practices" of jail use, bonding, and a nexus with sentencing (there is a separate committee for sentencing reform)

Subsequent meetings included briefings on the inmate population of jails (pre-trial detention and parole violations), the need for pre-trial services and flexibility to alleviate jail overcrowding. Some suggested solutions included allowing jails with more space to take prisoners from overcrowded facilities and using video conferencing for court appearances to avoid transportation costs when holding prisoners in an adjacent county.

1313 Task Force (Civil Asset Forfeiture. The HB 1313 - Civil Asset Forfeiture Task Force was formed as part of the Governors signing pledge. It began meeting August 10th, and is comprised of the prime sponsors of the bill, representation by local governments, ACLU, County Sheriff's, Chiefs of Police, Fraternal Order of Police, the District Attorney's, Attorney General's office, Criminal Defense Bar, Drug Policy Alliance, Department of Revenue and the independent monitor of Denver. It will include discussion on a range of issues and coming up with (on a 66% vote) recommendations surrounding:

- Strategies to direct more forfeitures to the appropriate authority – federal or state
- Alternatives to the local agency fining provision
- An alternative agency to DOLA to conduct compliance work
- Streamline HB 17-1313 reporting requirements without compromising any important information
- Operationalizing the proposed grant funding
- Enhanced due process protections
- Guidelines for how local law enforcement agencies use funds collected through federal equitable sharing programs
- Process and timeline improvement for civil asset forfeitures under Colorado law

At the first meeting it became clear that there is ambiguity in the statute: if a law enforcement agency does not participate in a case leading to asset forfeiture (as some have said they will decline to do so if they cannot be assured of reimbursement), most they then still report? The bill sponsor says “yes” but law enforcement has said “no, it is no longer a seizing agency.”

Key issues: how do you define a seizing agency vs. how do you implement? How do you quantify lost revenue in seizures if you don't participate in the seizure? There was some discussion of seeking federal grants to compensate state/local law enforcement for lost revenue they cannot recoup when participating in a seizure. Will those grant monies come from the federal portion of seized assets? Another meeting is set for August 30.

Budget Issues. On September 20 the JBC will hear the Quarterly Economic Forecast which helps to inform the budget that it will develop for 2018-19. The various state agencies are currently developing their own budget requests for the coming year which then will be submitted to the Governor's Office. The Governor, working with the State Office of Planning and Budget, will develop a proposed budget which will be submitted to the legislature. Briefings by JBC staff on the state agencies budgets will begin in November. We will be particularly watching for forecasts of anticipated severance tax and FML revenues.