



News of the Big West

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WMC Western Policy Action

At the May 15th full WMC Board of Directors' Teleconference, the Board unanimously adopted three major policy positions in partnership with the Western Governor's Association and the Council of State Governments – West.

First, the WMC Board adopted the Western Governors Association **Wildlife Corridors Resolution**. This resolution will be formally acted on by the WGA at their meeting in late June. It is an effort to foster cooperation between states and regions to maintain critical wildlife migration corridors.

Second, the WMC Board unanimously adopted the "ENLIBRE Principles for dealing with policy issues." ENLIBRE is simply a set of principles that embody a rational and inclusive approach to dealing with policy issues, especially those dealing with the environment. The ENLIBRE principles have been adopted by WGA, CSG-West, and WIR as the framework for addressing environmental issues. This action will help WMC collaborate with its other Western partners.

Third, the WMC Board unanimously voted to support the new effort of the Western Governors Association to develop "Renewable Energy Zones." The WGA invited WMC to participate as a member in the policy development process. South Dakota League of Municipalities Executive Director **Yvonne Taylor** was appointed to represent WMC. She attended the May 28th kickoff meeting.

The Board expressed support of these initiatives as a means of developing a strong collaborative relationship with its Western partners.

If you would like a copy of the documents mentioned above, please e-mail: lhicks@cacities.org.



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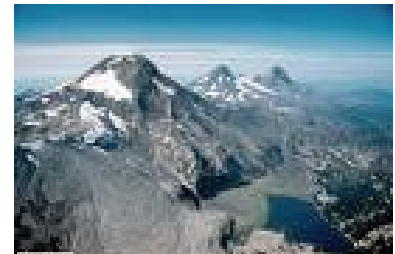
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New WMC Vice Chair and Executive Board Members Appointed

Due to Vice Chair **Dick Traini**, Anchorage, losing his election in April, **Lou Ogden**, Mayor of Tualatin, Oregon was unanimously appointed to fill the Vice Chair vacancy. Lou's experience includes President of the League of Oregon Cities, and National League of Cities Board of Directors. Lou has been an extremely involved member of LOC, NLC, and the WMC.

Two State League Executive Directors, **Sam Mamet** (CO) and **Ken Strobeck** (AZ), were unanimously appointed to the WMC Board Executive Committee.



The beauty of Oregon, from the coastline to the mountains.

WMC Web site Announced

While preparing to enter law school, Josh Traini, Dick's son, made time in his schedule to create the Western Municipal Conference Web site. Working primarily with Linda Welch Hicks of the League of California Cities, the Web site, became a reality in May 2008. Though still in its infancy, it has taken its rightful place in cyberspace. Please take a few minutes to view it at: www.westmc.org.

As this is still a work in progress, your suggestions are welcome and should be directed to: Linda: lhicks@cacities.org, (916) 658-8224.



Alaskan wilderness

WMC on Schedule as a Major Participant in Western Policy

Bringing you up-to-date on what has been accomplished in a few short months, here is a brief recap of goals achieved per the strategic plan set in March, 2008:

- WMC **website** created (www.westmc.org), with special thanks to the California League of Cities and Josh Traini.
- Two of two “Big West” WMC **newsletters** distributed.
- Worked with Western Governors Association on Wildlife Corridors initiative and other mutual policy issues.
- Met with Council of State Governments — West leadership to develop partnerships.
- Initiated planning for a major conference-wide presentation at the next NLC meeting.
- First quarterly full-WMC Board Teleconference held.

WMC Chair Pat Eklund Meets with Council of State Governments-West and Western Governors

Pat Eklund attended a Board meeting of the Council of State Governments — West in Napa. She met with the Chair and Board. The legislators expressed their enthusiasm for working with the WMC. There was discussion of collaboration including joint action on a number of policy issues, developing briefing papers for the new president, and a future joint western state-local government conference, etc. The CSG-West has active policy committees dealing with issues such as global warming, the mortgage crisis, etc.

Pat Eklund and WMC Coordinator **Kevin Ritchie** will attend the Western Governor’s Association meeting in late June. They will meet with WGA Executive Director and staff.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

The April Newsletter inadvertently omitted the fine state of Wyoming from this listing of the Full WMC Board.

Chair: Pat Eklund, Mayor of Novato, California

Vice-Chair: Lou Ogden, Mayor of Tualatin, Oregon

Immediate Past President: Ron Schmitt, Council Member of Sparks, Nevada

Secretary/Treasurer: Chris McKenzie, Executive Director, League of California Cities

Executive Directors: Sam Mamet (CO) and Ken Strobeck (AZ)



Grand Tetons, Wyoming

Under the revised Bylaws of the WMC adopted in New Orleans, the Board consists of the State League Director of each Western State and one other member appointed by each state league:

Nevada: J. David Fraser, ED; and Ron Schmitt, Council Member, Sparks

California: Chris McKenzie, ED; and Pat Eklund, Mayor, Novato

Alaska: Kathy Wasserman, ED; and member to be named

Arizona: Ken Strobeck, ED; and Wayne Ecton, Vice Mayor, City of Scottsdale

Colorado: Sam Mamet, ED; and Steve Rabe, City Administrator, Canon City

Idaho: Ken Harwood, ED; and member to be named

Kansas: Don Moler, ED; and member to be named

Montana: Alec Hansen, ED; and member to be named

Nebraska: Lynn Rex, ED; and Gordon Adams, Mayor, Norfolk

New Mexico: Bill Fulginiti, ED; and Eddie Trujillo, Judge, Las Vegas

North Dakota: Connie Sprynczynatyk, ED; and Jim Brownlee, Administrator, West Fargo

Oklahoma: Carolyn Stager, ED; and member to be named

Oregon: Michael J. McCauley, ED; and Lou Ogden, Mayor, Tualatin

South Dakota: Yvonne Taylor, ED; and James Kanable, SDML President

Utah: Ken Bullock, ED; and Joe Johnson, Mayor, Bountiful

Washington: Stan Finkelstein, ED; and Rich Munson, Mayor, Spokane

Wyoming: George Parks, ED; and member to be named



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION



"Serving Western Legislatures"



What Are Western Issues?

Common Issues identified by the: Western Governor's Association (WGA); Council of State Governments –West (CSG-West); Western Interstate Region – National Assoc of Counties (WIR-NACo); and Western Municipal Conference (WMC) are:

| WGA | CSG-West | WIR-NACo | WMC * |
|---|---|----------------------------|---|
| Energy/Alternative energy | Energy/Alternative energy | Energy/Alternative energy | Energy/Alternative energy |
| Building Efficiency/ Energy Efficiency | Energy conservation | Energy efficiency | Energy efficiency for communities |
| Climate Change | | | Climate Change |
| Water/drought issues | Water/drought issues | Water/drought issues | Water/drought issues |
| Wildlife Corridors | Endangered Species | Open Space | Land Use/ Endangered Species |
| Transportation | Transportation | Transportation | Interstate transportation funding and expansion |
| Border Security/ McCain/Kennedy Immigration Legislation | Border Security/ McCain/Kennedy Immigration Legislation | Border Security | Border Security |
| Action Plan for Public Lands Education (APPLE) | Action Plan for Public Lands Education (APPLE) | Rural School Funding/ PILT | |
| | | Special courts | |
| | | Unfunded Mandates | |
| | | | Defense against ballot initiatives |
| Economic development | Economic development | Economic development | Economic development |
| Western political forums | Western political forums | | Western political forums |
| Wildland Fire Issues | | Wildland Fire Issues | |
| Pollution control | Pollution control | Pollution control | Pollution control |

Help on WMC Presentation at next NLC Conference Requested

One of the WMC's strategic goals is to develop a conference-wide presentation at the November National League of Cities Conference (NLC). WMC plans to have both a business meeting and a major conference-wide presentation in November. The top picks so far are climate change or financial issues for cities. The California League is courting Governor Schwarzenegger to speak on climate change....likely a long shot.

More discussion will occur in the appointed committee consisting of WMC Board members: **Pat Eklund, Sam Mamet, Lou Ogden, Ken Strobeck, and Ron Schmitt** (and staff, Ritchie). Suggestions and help are encouraged.

If you have any suggestions for topics or presenters, please contact WMC Coordinator, Kevin Ritchie: kevin.ritchie@acsalaska.net

A glimpse of the beauty of the Western states



South Dakota



Idaho



Kansas



Utah