



News of the Big West

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Editor:

Kevin Ritchie
WMC Coordinator
kevin.ritchie@acsalaska.net

Design/Layout:

Linda Welch Hicks
WMC Communications Specialist
lhicks@cacities.org

Plan to Attend WMC Annual Meeting in Orlando “Renewable Energy in the West”

The Western Municipal Conference will meet during the NLC Congress of Cities in Orlando, Florida on Friday, November 14, 2008 from 12 - 1:45 p.m. Lunch will be provided. All members of the Western state leagues are invited.

This outstanding program - “Renewable Energy for Western Cities” - will include presentations from:

- **Kevin Moran** - Western Governors Association on the Western Renewable Energy Zones project, and ways for elected officials in the West to work with the Governors.
- **Amelia Ravin** - ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments that provide tools to cities for their sustainable efforts.
- **Thomas Kimbus** - U.S. Department of Energy - Solar Cities and Energy Technologies Program
- In addition, there will be a **brief business meeting to review annual work plans and elect 2009 officers.**

Space is limited to 200 delegates, so please put the WMC on your NLC schedule. To reserve a seat, e-mail: lhicks@cacities.org and provide your name, title and city.

For information about the National League of Cities, visit: www.nlc.org



We hope you'll join us in Orlando, Florida on the 14th!

Average temperatures in November:
High - 77 degrees ~ Low - 56 degrees

Executive Committee

Chair:

Pat Eklund
Mayor, Novato, CA
(415) 883-9116
pat@pateklund.com

Vice Chair:

Lou Ogden
Mayor, Tualatin, OR
lou.ogden@juno.com

Secretary-Treasurer:

Chris McKenzie
Executive Director
League of California Cities
(916) 658-8275
cmckenzie@cacities.org

Coordinator:

Kevin Ritchie
Retired Executive Director
League of Alaska Cities
(907) 957-1599
kevin.ritchie@acsalaska.net

Sam Mamet

Executive Director
Colorado Municipal League
(303) 831-6411
smamet@cml.org

Ken Strobeck

Executive Director
League of Arizona Cities and Towns
(602) 258-5786
kstrobeck@azleague.org

Staff Support:

Dan Carrigg
Legislative Director
League of California Cities
(916) 658-8222
dcarrigg@cacities.org

Linda Welch Hicks
Communications Specialist
League of California Cities
(916) 658-8224

WMC Meets with Western Governors and Legislators



Council of State Government – West:

Pat Eklund attended a Board meeting of the CSG-West in Napa in May of 2008. 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 like global warming, the mortgage crisis, etc.



Western Governors Association:

WMC Chair Pat Eklund was introduced to the Governors at the opening session of their annual meeting on June 29 in Jackson, WY.

WGA Executive Director Pam Inmann introduced Pat as a special guest of the Conference. Pam Inmann has been very active in supporting a partnership with the Western Municipal Conference. During the meeting, Pat met extensively with WGA staff regarding coordination between WGA and WMC. We especially encouraged WGA staffer **Shaun McGrath, also Mayor of Boulder, CO** to work with the WMC. He is the Program Director responsible for water policy, drought policy, climate change adaptation, and the WGA Wildlife Corridors Initiative.

Pat Eklund spoke to **Governor Huntsman, Utah, the new Chair of WGA**, and he was very supportive of further coordination with WGA, especially on a renewable energy and transmission line plan. Huntsman stated that the West needs a "Moon Shot" effort to create the synergy to meet global warming and energy challenges. (The analogy is the coordinated effort and huge amount of resources the U.S. put into getting a man on the moon.)

Washington Governor Gregoire, and other Governors, spoke of the need to "deliver the hearts and minds of our citizens" in order to successfully meet the West's energy, water, conservation needs. The WMC can make an impact by working with state leagues to encourage more support by cities.

Regarding the WGA **Western Renewable Energy Zones (WREZ)** project, WGA staff said that a significant amount of work will be done by teleconference. Both Kevin Ritchie and Yvonne Taylor (Executive Director, South Dakota Municipal League) volunteered to represent WMC.

Eklund and Kevin Ritchie spent an hour with **ESRI CEO Jack Dangermond (largest GIS company in the world)**. He highly encouraged WMC to get involved in regional planning for wildlife protection, energy planning, and combating global warming. He offered to help.

There was considerable discussion by several speakers and Governors on the need to battle global warming through CO2 capture encouraged by "**carbon pricing**," a policy of adding tax charges on industries that produce CO2.

Also discussed extensively was Renewable Portfolio Standard (**RPS**): A policy that requires those who sell electricity to have a certain percentage of "renewable" power in their mix. These policies often start around 1-5% in the first year, often aiming for a goal of 4-20% in about 10 years. RPS policies typically involve a credit trading mechanism so that companies with extra renewable power can sell the extra "credits" to suppliers who haven't met their RPS requirement.

Continued - Western Governors and Legislators, page 3

Western Governors and Legislators, continued from page 2

Summary concepts on a national energy and conservation approach:

1. A 2020 or longer goal for a mix of fuels.
2. A national RPS. (*see preceding paragraph*)
3. Tax incentives for technology development and conservation.
4. College/education focus on preparing experts.

[Note: The name Western Municipal Conference caused some confusion as we described our organization. People tended to think WMC was the name of an annual conference. Pat Eklund suggested that a more descriptive name be considered, e.g., “**Western Cities Association.**” A bylaws amendment will be proposed to make this name change.]

Conference:

Tom Brokaw, News Anchorperson, was the keynote speaker. He was born in South Dakota and owns a ranch in Montana. He said that “America is looking to the West” because of the more intense impacts related to climate change (drought and wildfires) and population growth. He said, “Western leaders have a chance to lead the country ... a regional, bi-partisan approach is necessary.”

Jack Dangermond, CEO of ESRI spoke on protecting wildlife in the West and other GIS applications for land use planning. (ESRI GIS products are used by nearly 80% of GIS users worldwide including cities, national governments, Fortune 500 companies, and colleges and universities.) Regarding global warming, he noted, “There is enough consistency in the science community to say that we have a problem.”

Steve Elbert, Vice Chair of BP America, said, “The West will play a big role in meeting U.S. Energy demand.” He described BP efforts in wind and solar energy. He highly encouraged regional partnerships of government, environmental groups, etc to protect the environment while meeting energy demands.

Brad Udall, Director, Western Water Assessment, said that there is “absolute proof” of global warming. He described the West as a net water loser, with no realistic new sources. He encouraged regional planning for water reuse and conservation efforts.

Jeff Immelt, CEO of General Electric, said G.E. focuses on clean water and energy. G.E. adopted Kyoto Protocol and has found it to be a highly cost effective effort. To meet U.S. energy needs he stated, “We can’t wait one minute.” He said that clean energy and water are the “growth industry of the century” and can essentially save the U.S. economy. The U.S. must have a coordinated effort of:

1. Technology — government and industry support of research and development on energy efficiency
2. Conservation — individual and industry
3. New energy — bio-fuel, coal gasification, nuclear, more transmission lines, additional oil extraction

Rick Ridgeway, of the “Freedom to Roam” campaign sponsored by Pantagonia presented an extremely compelling video production regarding the need to regionally protect wildlife corridors. He offered to work with WMC, state leagues, and cities. ■

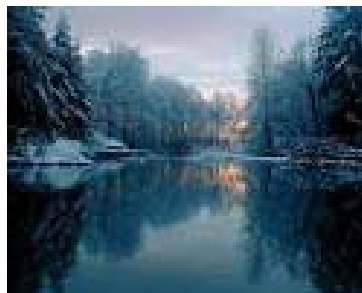
A Glimpse of the Beauty of the Western States



Colorado



Nebraska



Washington



North Dakota



New Mexico

WMC at NLC, continued from page 1

About the WMC:

The Western Municipal Conference (WMC) is an association of Western State Municipal Leagues designed to take on regional western issues. The WMC allows cities to join regional discussions that are being undertaken by western regional organizations that represent counties, governors, state legislatures.

Under the newly adopted WMC Bylaws there are four key purposes:

1. **Policy**
To establish a cohesive, effective voice for a stronger federal-state-local partnership and relationships in the region in the development and implementation of municipal policy issues for the Western Region.
2. **Political**
To provide an effective forum and to develop a coordinated Western legislative effort for members of the western state municipal leagues on national, state, and local issues affecting the municipal governments of the Western Region.
3. **Information Exchange**
To serve as a forum for the exchange of comparative research and information, current issues and emerging trends among participating leagues in the West.
4. **Collaboration**
To facilitate communication and collaboration among Western state and local public officials and their associations.



Western Municipal Conference
Web site

The WMC now has its own Web site, thanks to the efforts of volunteers and the League of California Cities. While still in its infancy, pertinent information can now be accessed, including a membership roster, a chart of common issues among the other political organizations, and WMC's inaugural e-newsletter — *News of the Big West*, created by Kevin Ritchie and Linda Welch Hicks. This Web site is located at: www.westmc.org

Recap of WMC Western Policy Action

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

First, the WMC Board adopted the Western Governors' Association **Wildlife Corridors Resolution**. In an effort to foster cooperation between states and regions to maintain critical wildlife migration corridors, this resolution was formally acted on by the WGA at their meeting in June.

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. **Yvonne Taylor, Executive Director, South Dakota League of Municipalities**, was appointed to represent WMC. She attended the kickoff meeting on May 28. Kevin Ritchie, WMC Coordinator, has been added as a second representative.

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



Nevada



Montana

Photo courtesy of Big Sky Fishing.Com



California



Alaska

To submit articles or photos to
News of the Big West,
please contact Linda Welch Hicks: lhicks@cacities.org

WMC Participates in Western Governors “Western Renewable Energy Zones (WREZ)” Project

What is the Project?

The WREZ project has a dual goal of:

1. Reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil, and
2. Reducing carbon emissions that have been shown to exacerbate global warming.

Western Renewable Energy Zones is a **regional western issue** for two key reasons:

1. Western renewable energy resources must be approached on a multi-state basis to share information, reduce development costs, and develop resources that may cross state lines, and
2. Most importantly, transmission lines must be developed on a multi-state basis to bring the power generated to the appropriate market. Transmission lines and power grid planning may be the most important aspect of developing new or expanding existing renewable energy sources.

How Can Western Municipal Leagues help reduce dependence on foreign oil and reduce carbon emissions?

Support of cities is critical to the success of the WREZ project. The development of renewable energy resources will be expensive. It is the goal of the WREZ to keep all stakeholders connected throughout the project, and to gain their support for implementation.

It is the **goal** of the WMC to have Western State Leagues adopt policy supporting the WREZ Project and to keep their members aware of the progress on the WREZ Project.

Summary of WREZ Project Progress and Timeline:

The WGA staff plan to present the final product, if not a polished report, at WGA's Annual Meeting in June 2009.

WMC Representation

The WMC Executive Committee appointed Kevin Ritchie, WMC Coordinator, and Yvonne Taylor, Executive Director, South Dakota Municipal League, to represent the WMC. Much of the work of the committee will be done by teleconference.

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WREZ, continued from page 6

Three WREZ Work Groups are meeting weekly:

1. Zone Identification and Technical Analysis (ZITA) Work Group: ZITA members have identified for each **wind, CSP solar, PV solar, and geothermal**. Resource definitions are being discussed for **hydro, and biomass** had not been discussed at the time of the Technical Committee Webcast. ZITA recommended using a technology timeframe consideration of 10 – 15 years.
2. Environment and Lands Work Group: The E&L work group will designate protected lands and species. Avoidance of conflict with sensitive lands and wildlife habitat/corridors is crucial.
3. Generation and Transmission Modeling Work Group: The GTM work group is developing models for transmission lines including consideration of sensitive environmental issues.

Upcoming WREZ Meetings

The Technical Committee will meet in person on **October 15 - 16 in Denver, CO.**

WREZ Time Line:

Task	Who	When	Status
Update workplan	WGA	ASAP	In Progress
Update outreach plan to include stakeholder leaders	WGA	ASAP	In Progress
Edit and post on public website workplan, process diagram, premises document and outreach plan	WGA	By Sept 2	In Progress
Send meeting details for October 15 – 16 Technical Committee meeting in Denver, CO	WGA	By Sept 2	In progress
Send workplan comments – as they arise – to WGA	Technical Committee	As necessary	





WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION



"Serving Western Legislatures"



Can You Name Some Western Regional Issues?

Common Issues identified by the: Western Governors' 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

*From WMC Mission and Issues drafted by Western State League Executive Directors Committee.

WMC Proposed Bylaws Changes

The following draft WMC Bylaws changes will be mailed to each state league for consideration, pending approval by a teleconference meeting of the WMC Board of Directors.

Deletions are indicated with ~~bold strikeouts~~; additions are indicated by bold underlining.

ARTICLE I. Name and Office

Section 1. Name

This organization shall be known as the Western Municipal ~~Conference~~ Association (WMA), (hereinafter referred to as the "~~Conference~~ Association." The term "league(s)" when hereinafter used in the text shall also mean "association(s)."

Explanation: The change eliminates confusion over whether the name refers to an annual conference or an organization.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Membership in the Conference shall be state municipal leagues and their members from the following states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, ~~Minnesota, Missouri,~~ Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, ~~Oklahoma,~~ Oregon, South Dakota, ~~Texas,~~ Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Additional state municipal leagues may become members with the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Conference's Board of Directors.

Explanation: This represents a housekeeping action to remove states from the Bylaws that do not consider themselves "western."

ARTICLE VI. Board of Directors and Officers

Section 3. Qualifications, Term, and Vacancies

b. Term

The terms of the office for those members of the Board of Directors shall be approximately one (1) year commencing on adjournment of the meeting at which elected and until adjournment of the next meeting at which a successor has been chosen and qualified. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be limited to no more than two terms (a total of approximately two years.) There is no term limit on other members of the Board of Directors.

Explanation: This specifies a term limit that would allow for a turnover in the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer at least every two years.