



Wyoming
Association of
Municipalities
Building Strong Communities

WAM Region VI Meeting - Minutes
May 3, 2017
Wamsutter Commercial Building
231 McCormick, Wamsutter, WY
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Presiding: Council Member Gary Waldner

Current Board Members: Council Member Gary Waldner, Wamsutter; Mayor Pete Rust, Green River; Council Member Tracy Fowler, Hanna

Current LLC Member: Council Member Tracy Fowler

Current Executive Committee Representative: Mayor Pete Rust

Attendees: Tracy Fowler, Pete Rust, Susan Carnes, Shannon Troxell, Dustin Davis, Gary Waldner, Scott Hannum, Lorell Herold, Joe Grillo, Roberta Patterson, Jim Wells, and Rick Kaysen.

I. **Legislative Updates** – Executive Director Rick Kaysen provided an overview of WAM’s new Website highlighting the Legislative Tracking Database, Training, and Communication pages. Rick also reviewed the 2017 legislative session and interim topics that are relevant to WAM members. He stressed the importance of elected official and staff member engagement to potential legislation and if possible to attend/testify at the interim meetings and legislative sessions committees. Rick explained to the region the process of member engagement from resolutions, to Membership voting, to Board approval and then finally these topics are incorporated into the next session’s legislative agenda. Rick stressed that this year is especially important as the 2018 Budget session will determine future financial options for municipalities.

II. **WAM Member Updates and Actions**

Region elections – Region VI members voted Jim Wells as the City representative to a 2-year term on WAM Board and Executive Committee. They re-elected Tracy Fowler as the town representative.

WAM Member Updates - Rick and Tracy Fowler reviewed the recent WAM Strategic Planning that the Board participated in at Jackson. The Board set 2-year goals with action plans, milestones, and priorities. The general focus of the goals were local government funding, member engagement, and WAM values.

Region VI Updates

Wamsutter – concerned about sustainable funding as revenues are down

Rawlins – reviewed the importance of SLIB grants. Support the evaluation of the lodging tax, vacant and abandoned buildings, abatement issues, impact of Sinclair refinery turn-over, wind development project impact, extra-territorial jurisdiction issue and suggested shared/regionalized services like GIS and 911

Elk Mountain – they are seeking creative ways to address landfill closure and are concerned over revenues and budget cuts.

Green River – they are closing their landfill as of June 2017 and transporting to Rock Springs. They are building a new \$30M waste water facility; struggling with business retention and recently built new business park; are in doing a rate study for utilities; and are in discussions regarding state funding.

Dixon – they are looking at the feasibility of creating a water district and expanding natural gas infrastructure. Concerned over funding sources

Hanna – concerns over budget and revenue; are working with other municipalities on solid waste disposal including construction of a new transfer station – would haul to Laramie.

Regional goals – Use social media to promote municipal issues, remove the food sales exemption tax, improve region communication and involvement and move the region meeting to other cities or towns within Region VI.

III. Upcoming WAM Events – announced the WAM Convention in Gillette, May 31- June 2, 2017. Fall regional meeting was tentatively scheduled at Saratoga.