THANKS FOR WAM’N IT UP IN PINEDALE WITH US!
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WAMConnection
Published by the Wyoming Association of Municipalities

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST
August 13
Best night to view the Perseid Meteor Shower
August 15-17
Joint Water, TBD
August 21
Primary Election
August 27-28
Joint Minerals Meeting, Laramie
August 30-31
Joint Travel Meeting, Evanston

SEPTEMBER
September 5
Joint Air Transportation Meeting, Jackson
September 10
Joint School Facilities
September 18-19
Joint Corporations Meeting, Thermopolis
September 18-19
Joint Appropriations Meeting, Buffalo
September 20-21
Joint Judiciary Meeting, Laramie
September 20-21
Joint Revenue, Buffalo
September 24-25
Blockchain Task Force, Jackson
September 27
WAM Board Meeting, Riverton
September 27-28
Joint Agriculture Meeting, Powell
September 27-28
Joint Education Meeting, Casper

OCTOBER
October 5
Joint Labor Meeting, TBD
October 9
Joint Efficiency Commission Meeting, Cheyenne
October 22-23
Joint Transportation Meeting, Casper
October 24-25
Joint Appropriations Meeting, Thermopolis
October 26
Joint School Facilities Meeting, Casper
October 31
Halloween

Thank you for answering our 2018 WAM Convention Survey. This is what we heard from YOU! More comments on page 13.

“One of the most valuable experiences in my estimation is getting together with other municipal staff and leaders and the ideas that come out over meals and in more casual settings. The classes are well done, but just getting together for a few days is extremely helpful.”
# WAM Sponsors

### Gold Dome Sponsor

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<td>(307) 778-5210</td>
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<td>(307) 352-5202</td>
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<td>Cheyenne</td>
<td>(307) 632-0398</td>
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<td>Cheyenne</td>
<td>(307) 638-4466</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>(303) 405-5010</td>
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### WAM Partner

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<td>Lander</td>
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<td>Provo, UT</td>
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<td>Casper</td>
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307-632-0398 or checchi@wyomuni.org
And just like that we are a full month into summer! The days are longer, but somehow go by faster. I hope that you all have had time to enjoy some sunshine under our wonderful Wyoming skies. I have soaked in quite a few rays through the windshield traveling around to legislative meetings. Here is a brief recap of interim meetings so far.

**Joint Corporations Committee Meeting, May 21-22**

The JCC received comments regarding municipal services and financing that addressed storm water surface drainage systems, community development districts, and optional sales taxes. Representatives from Casper, Riverton and Cheyenne provided testimony on having local authority to create funding for storm water surface drainage systems. Testimony included examples and the need to address enhanced systems, protection of properties and peoples, long term plans, needed capital investment, new growth issues, acquiring needed ROWs, Clean Water Act regulations, the need for stable funding, creation of master plans, and the ability to raise local revenues to meet local needs. WAM provided support and agreement with the municipal representative comments, that a draft bill was created for the 2018 Budget Session and that it is a good basis for future legislation, the importance of public safety and welfare, and that the public will still be served via the public process as ordinances would be addressed.

**Blockchain Task Force Meeting, May 24-25**

The Secretary of State’s Office provided reports on the number of entities registered since February 2018 and anticipates higher numbers after July 1, 2018; are trying to differentiate between domestic and foreign registrants; and have 10 types of coins submitted for notice of intent. The biggest issue at this time is to define interstate transactions or offers made outside Wyoming. The office needs guidance as it has concerns over limited liability company’s filings, how to distinguish and track between parent and series company’s; concerned on registered agents requirements; must review annual report filings requirements. Needs to know legislative parameters and rules.

**Joint Minerals Committee Meeting, May 31- June 1**

WAM’s interest has to do with the lien and assessment process for abating nuisance or dangerous buildings to allow cleanup in cities and towns. Prior to the meeting WAM provided information with respect to a draft bill from 2011 that relates to statute 15-1-103 that addresses the general powers of governing bodies of cities and towns. A key issue for cities and towns is to be able to recover all costs associated with abatement through the lien process. Currently, municipalities are far down the order of recovering expenses for abatement efforts, and there needs to be a clear process for recovering dollars expended—in essence, recovering tax payer dollars. Statutes need to be more descriptive either on a lien procedure or an assessment process on real property to recover expenses.

**Joint Revenue Committee Meeting, June 4-5, 2018**

Reporting of personal property taxes, econometric review of the state fiscal structure, indexing of
certain fees and taxes, local tax options, and statewide stamping of cigarettes. With respect to local tax options, WAM provided the JRC a Status of Wyoming Cities and Towns Report with accompanying talking points. The Report was a continuation of the information presented to the JRC in 2017 with respect to revenue options for municipal and state government. I intended to present the Report in person; however, because of a medical need was unable to attend the JRC meeting. The JRC approved a draft bill for further review on a municipal option tax.

**Joint Appropriations Committee Meeting, June 11-12**

The purpose of the meeting was to receive information on the structure and investment of state funds from the State Treasurer’s Office and the Wyoming Retirement System (WRS); consider other state structures, fees, and performance, and receive an actuarial update from the Wyoming Retirement System; review information on state revenue streams and the overall budget process; receive information from the Office of Homeland Security on its budgeting process, and explore range of state gaming issues.

**Joint Agriculture Committee Meeting, June 13**

Testimony was provided from Joint Agriculture, State & Water Resources Committees (JAC) interim topics, including a comprehensive study of water issues, and consider proposals for legislation. The JAC received congressional updates from Wyoming delegation representatives on various topics including international trade and tariffs, electronic logging devices for transportation, the farm bill, water infrastructure, energy and resources, and Endangered Species Act. A report was also given on the current fires in Wyoming. Overall state forests are healthy, precipitation is satisfactory in some areas, but most areas are dry, and the fire season could be problematic.

**Government Efficiency Commission Meeting, June 19**

The Government Efficiency Commission (GEC) received an update on the Executive Branch efficiency projects and consultant selection. The report included the streamlining of state government, reductions of 30% in funding, better public record access, and continued work on streamlining the contracting process. In addition, the span of control study continues as responses to a request for proposals for Government Savings and Efficiency Project begins June 25 for the four responses received. There are four projects that are being deferred for the next governor to act on and these are pilot based budgeting; a Governor’s Grant Office; an initiatives project; and assess department best practices to utilize elsewhere and establish key performance measures.

Along with keeping up with legislative matters, I’m working on hiring a few new colleagues. We will begin the interview process for both our Legislative Director and our Member Services Manager over the next few weeks. For now, like Theodore Roosevelt said, “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

And I hope that you all do the same. I believe Wyoming communities are the heartbeat of the Cowboy State. People with few resources, but great determination and optimism who accomplish great things.

Don’t miss an opportunity this summer to go to the mountains, fish a trout stream, sit around a campfire, enjoy holding a grandchild in your lap, see a shooting star and appreciate the benefits of a garden. Life is way to short to not taken in the great moments this fine state offers its citizens.
RURAL MAYOR SUMMIT
AUGUST 16-17, LOGAN, UTAH

The Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) has been coordinating with the Utah league of Cities (ULCT) and the Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) in developing the first Rural Mayors Summit on August 16-17 in Logan, Utah. Utah State University has partnered with the ULCT, AIC and WAM for this Summit. The idea is to bring together mayors of rural communities from western Wyoming, northeast Utah and southern Idaho to talk about issues that are unique among small cities and towns. The Summit will address timely topics including economic development, by Dr. Michael Glauber, author of Main Street Entrepreneur, and the opioid epidemic by a panel of USU researchers. We are particularly pleased to announce that our Thursday night Keynote Speaker will be Utah Lt. Governor Spencer Cox. Additional topics may include funding, land use, and intergovernmental interaction and coordination.

Western Wyoming Mayors--this will be an insightful event that you won’t want to miss!!!!

We are very pleased to share that Rocky Mountain Power, providing power and related services to Wyoming and Utah customers, is a sponsor for the Rural Mayor Summit….we are most grateful to Rocky Mountain Power for their sponsorship.
In order to make public meetings and the process of governance run more smoothly, there’s a certain manner in which council members should treat one another, municipal staff, citizens, and others they come into contact with while representing their community.

The way Council members interact with each other will set the tone for every meeting. Thus, the Council should act with respect and courtesy, refraining from rude or derogatory remarks.

All Council members are expected to follow these simple behavioral guidelines:

- Prepare in advance for council meetings.
- Stay focused and act efficiently.
- Fully participate while demonstrating respect, kindness, consideration and courtesy to others.
- Represent the municipality at ceremonial functions.
- Serve as a model of leadership.
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity in every action and statement.

It is important to remember that all members of the Governing Body, including the Mayor and the President of the Council, have equal vote and voice, and that the power of the Council is as a group.

It’s also important to remember that the Council speaks with one voice or not at all. This means that, once a vote is taken and the council has collectively spoken, individual positions must be put aside.

Though a diversity of opinion is welcomed and encouraged, the Council’s power comes from its collective decision-making process.

The Mayor should not dominate the discussion, and should avoid overstating his own preferences, instead encouraging all opinions to be voiced without judgment, and permitting visitors to participate in the discussion when it’s appropriate.

In this way, Council members can “think twice, act once,” carefully deliberating each issue and making one, collective decision.

The importance of the Mayor’s role as the presiding official at meetings cannot be overstated. It is the Mayor’s duty to see that the order of business is followed and that the meeting is conducted efficiently and in a dignified manner.

Meetings should have a written, published agenda. The Mayor announces each agenda item and briefly describes the subject. He/she will...
then invite the appropriate people to report on the item and make recommendations. The topic will then be open for Council questions and comments.

Next, the Mayor calls for a motion on the topic, and then there’s discussion and a vote. And remember, the Mayor also has one vote.

The governing body should establish a policy as to how and when public citizens may participate in a meeting. They may choose to recognize the public throughout the meeting, on any topic, or invite the public to speak only on matters that are on the agenda. In the latter instance, a process should be established for allowing public comments on topics that have not been placed on the agenda.

Public hearings are often a legal, statutory requirement for such things as zoning changes, adoption of the municipal budget, or liquor license approvals. In order to go into a public hearing, the presiding officer closes the regular meeting and opens the public hearing. Typically, the applicant speaks first, followed by any public comments. Time limitations and number of times a speaker may speak should be established by the governing body. At the close of a public hearing, no more public testimony will be accepted.

Council members should not express opinions during the public hearing part of the meeting, except to ask pertinent questions. Council member should refrain from arguing or debating with the public during a public hearing, always showing respect for different points of view. “I think” and “I feel” comments by council members are not appropriate until after the close of the public hearing.

The success of any municipality’s administration is affected by its image, so good public relations should always be a matter of concern. Here are some basic strategies for success:

• Be welcoming to the public in a meeting and practice active listening.
• Good eye contact and positive body language is important.
• Ask for clarification, but avoid debate and argument.
• And, importantly, make no promise on behalf of the Council. Remember that you alone are not the Council, but a part of the whole voice.

• Public relations also extend to interactions with the media.

When talking to a reporter, you have two audiences: the media person in front of you and the public audience. Make sure the reporter understands what you are saying so your ultimate audience – your constituents reading the newspaper or listening to the radio – receive the message correctly.

Fair and balanced media coverage can be a significant community asset, but you need to be careful of what you say and how you say it.

Never go “off the record,” and watch your ad-libs. The best practice is to designate an official spokesman for the city or town.

Overall, the conduct of elected officials comes down to respect:

**Respect for one another as individuals.**

**Respect for the validity of different opinions.**

**Respect for the democratic process.**

**Respect for the community you serve.**
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What we heard from you about this year’s Convention in Pinedale

Keep talking about landfills; ideas on how to diversify economies; something that demonstrates how elected officials need to run a city/town as if it were their own business; having other state agencies there is always helpful (DEQ, WYDOT, etc.) to share grant/funding options and meet the people at that level.

You guys nailed it!! Thanks!!!

Always enjoy the Cracker Barrel Session as I come home thanking the Lord we aren’t the only ones with problems. Everyone has the same problems. I was happy I won two nice prizes from the exhibitors and they were all pleasant and helpful. Thank them all for me and I am thankful for all they do for WAM.

Great questions and structure with the candidates and the quality of classes this year was great!
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“Four decades of tireless community efforts and incredible funding partnerships, the Torrington Community has transformed an old irrigation ditch into 17 blocks of overlaid landscaping enhancements, creating a beautiful chain of mini-parks. Brilliant!”

“Greg has been instrumental in creating numerous programs and partnerships in the Star Valley Ranch Community and has lead a team of volunteers who have constructed, maintained and improved miles of trail.”

“With a love to garden, Jane and her fellow ‘green thumbs’ crew help spruce up Worland’s community parks & City Hall by planting flowers and other plants to accent these anchor areas.

“Our hospital is a true community hero in Douglas. The leadership takes their role seriously as a pillar of the community’s health and wellbeing. They have their fingers in the pies of so many community events. Our city is fortunate to have these local healthcare providers.”