A September Tradition: The City of Lander pulled out all the stops celebrating the 78th Annual Antelope Hunt Sept. 13-16.
Wyoming Delegation at the White House: From left: Loren Grosskopf, Commissioner, Park County, Tim French, Commissioner, Lander County, Sam Enright, Commissioner, Eagle County, Paul Brooks, Mayor, Sundance, and Marian Orr, Mayor, Cheyenne.

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It’s that time of year — summer is officially ended and vacations are over, tree leaves are changing their beautiful colors, and yes snow has arrived in many places in our great state. I trust your summer months provided you with an opportunity to recharge and reconnect with family and friends as we head into a busy fall season!

Before we charge forward into fall, allow me to take a quick glimpse backward and provide some updates as we continue on in 2018.

WAMs Summer Convention, held in beautiful Pinedale, was a great success including a variety of educational and informational workshops for elected officials and key staff leaders; having almost all gubernatorial candidates sharing their views and ideas at the Governor’s Forum; networking at the Museum of the Mountain Man and Cracker Barrel Sessions; receiving pertinent reminders about governance and teamwork; recognizing Governor Matt Mead and welcoming him as an Honorary Member of WAM; and of course the annual sand bagging and lack of mathematical skills (remembering the “actual” number of strokes) golf tournament. The Annual Business Meeting was held which included the approval of WAMs 2018 Resolutions which have become part of the Legislative Agenda for 2019. The Resolutions can be found at WAMs website www wyomuni.org. Thanks to Mayor Matt Murdock and his talented team for a wonderful Summer Convention.

In addition to the Resolutions, WAM has been following over thirty (many with sub components) legislative interim topics from a variety of Joint Committees including Appropriations, Revenue, Corporations, Labor, and Minerals. In addition to the standing committees, WAM has also been following special commissions and councils like Commercial Air Service, Broadband, and Block Chain. All of this interim works has either a potential direct or indirect impact on Wyoming’s cities and towns. Specific topics of interest include funding for local government and direct distribution; a review of revenue stream and the states budgeting process; the state’s fiscal structure and economic diversification; tax reform; local tax options; education funding, water project funding; public records and meetings; clarification of the lien process for municipalities for abandoned and nuisance buildings; commercial air service enhancements; and broadband services throughout Wyoming. The 2018 legislative interim work session has been one of the busiest in recent years and the interim work will continue for the balance of the year leading to the start of Wyoming’s 65th General Session January 8, 2019. The 2019 General Session will be one of intrigue with new legislative leadership and new committee chairpersons, new committee members, and a new administration. One thing that will remain the same are the challenges facing the legislature, what decisions are acted upon, and what those decisions mean to Wyoming cities and towns and of course the citizens and visitors served by municipalities.

Speaking of service, did you ever think about the many services provided by Wyoming cities and towns and in turn what that means considering core values? By one definition core values are reminders about governance and teamwork; recognizing Governor Matt Mead and welcoming him as an Honorary Member of WAM; and of course the annual sand bagging and lack of mathematical skills (remembering the “actual” number of strokes) golf tournament. The Annual Business Meeting was held which included the approval of WAMs 2018 Resolutions which have become part of the Legislative Agenda for 2019. The Resolutions can be found at WAMs website www wyomuni.org. Thanks to Mayor Matt Murdock and his talented team for a wonderful Summer Convention.

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Weather Information for Your Community

Did you know there is a 24-hour weather source serving the needs of your community right here in Wyoming? The National Weather Service (NWS) has five offices serving Wyoming by providing timely forecasts and weather alerts in support of the mission to protect lives and property. The agency is expanding its capabilities to include support for high-impact events, whether the event is weather related or not. These decision support weather services are available to state, county, and local emergency management and other government agencies during high-impact events where weather plays an integral role.

Weather information is at your fingertips anytime. You can get a site specific forecast on the Internet at weather.gov by clicking on your location to get to the homepage of your local forecast office. Your local office page has links to radar and satellite data, hydrologic and climate information, and a map highlighting all of the watches, warnings and outlooks in effect for your area. Traversing Wyoming by car, but still have cell coverage? Just visit mobile.weather.gov and get the same information on your smartphone.

The NWS operates all day, every day, so you can always find a forecaster to assist you as you make routine travel plans or if your community needs vital weather information during a crisis. More information about the specific products and services provided by the NWS can be obtained by contacting your local forecast office.

Riverton – 1-800-211-1448
Cheyenne – 307-772-2468
Rapid City – 605-341-9271
Billings – 406-652-8051
Salt Lake City – 801-524-5133
Region 3: Municipal leaders from across Region 3 came together in the beautiful Yellowstone Center in Powell to talk about the upcoming legislative session with a focus on alternative funding options for cities and towns.

Region 4: A spirited discussion was had between WAM Region 4 Members and Wyoming Senate President Eli Bebout, Senator Cale Case and State Representative Lloyd Larsen about municipal funding options and shortfalls.

Region 2: WAM Region 2 will come together for their meeting on October 20th in Gillette, but they also took the opportunity to join their respective county officials to learn about All-Hazards Planning on September 14th.

Region 1: A large group of state legislators were in attendance and joined in a robust conversation with WAM Members from Region 1 in Laramie on September 5th. Municipal funding source options dominated the discussion.

Region 5: Difficulty in hiring and retaining police officers was a hot topic of conversation at the WAM Region 5 meeting at Snow King Resort in Jackson on September 13th. WAM Executive Director Rick Kaysen gave an update on legislative topics and interim committee action, and State Representative Candidate Michael Yin welcomed questions about his willingness to work with WAM.

Region 6: Rawlins played host to the WAM Region 6 meeting on September 24th. Wind energy generation tax proposals, and the region’s consensus opposition to them were the topic of an extended discussion. Green River Mayor Peter Rust was elected to the WAM Board of Directors, replacing Councilman Jim Wells from Rawlins.

Thanks: to all the WAM Members who took time out of their busy schedules to attend their Fall Regional Meeting. This is your association and your participation is what keeps it vital and relevant. Winter Regional Meetings will be held at Winter Conference.
The cooler weather and brilliant fall colors all around us surely foreshadow the cold and snow to come, but it also reminds us that it’s time to start making plans to attend WAM’s Winter Conference, February 20-22, 2019 in Cheyenne at the Little America Hotel and Resort. Come for three learning and camaraderie with municipal leaders from all over Wyoming in a relaxed environment celebrating the food, music and culture of one of America’s most beloved celebrations.

Keynote presenter Gregg Piburn will speak on “BIG Leadership in Small Packages” to go along with nine engaging break out training topics.

Earlybird registration is open with discounted registration rates at www.wyomuni.org. Hope to see all of you there.

**Thursday, February 21st cont’d**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Financial Management: Municipal Budget, 120 min., Joe Coyne, CBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Public Records, 90 min., Mark Stewart &amp; Amy Esch</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Cyber Security, 90 min., Arlen Fletcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Opening Session: BIG Leadership in Small Packages, Gregg Piburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Lunch and Learn: All Hazards Planning, Guy Cameron, WOHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Human Resources, 120 min., Amanda Esch &amp; Mark Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Community Planning and Economic Development, 120 min., Joe Coyne, CBI</td>
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**Friday, February 22nd**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast Buffet with Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Strategic Planning, 120 min., Joe Coyne, CBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Municipal Lien Process, 90 min., Amy Bach &amp; Mark Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>2020 Census, 90 min., Maria Rivera, U.S. Census Bureau</td>
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**WAM Events**

Winter Conference 2019 Preview & Agenda

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BURBACH AQUATICS
- NEWEST FACILITIES-

WAM Training Video Series
The Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM), in cooperation with the Leadership Training Services Board (LTS), is pleased to introduce a new online video training series for elected officials and staff across Wyoming. Over the years WAM has held training sessions at its Winter Conferences, Summer Conventions and Regional Meetings; however, it has been difficult for many municipality representatives to attend these sessions based on schedules, required out of town travel and ensuring city and town representatives remain at city/town halls to meet the service needs of residents and others. After listening and talking with numerous municipal representatives and discussing what topics would be most pertinent, WAM looked for alternatives to the standard classroom setting. These videos represent an exciting new step in WAM’s continued mission to provide the very best in training and educational opportunities for our member cities and towns.

Legal Framework for Municipal Government
Amy Bach, Attorney for the City of Rawlins, explains Wyoming State Statute as it pertains to formation, structure and classification of incorporated cities and towns in the state. She also explains the common forms of government used by cities and towns, and the responsibilities of different officials under each type.

Basic Responsibilities of the Governing Body
Matt Murdock, Mayor of the Town of Pinedale, covers the four key elements that make up the basic responsibilities of municipal governments. This high-level explanation explains the purpose of city and town government, as well as offering an overview of the services each municipal government should provide.

Wyoming Open Meetings Law
Carter Napier, City Manager for the City of Casper, speaks to the importance of conducting local government business in accordance with Wyoming Open Meetings Law, and the importance of transparency with the public. He also explains in depth exceptions to these rules, such as acceptable use of executive session.

Wyoming Public Records Act
Karen Rimmer, Clerk for the City of Douglas, explains the Wyoming Public Records Act by giving definitions and explanation of all materials to be preserved as public records, as well as which officials within a municipal government should be in charge of these records. She also outlines rules for providing records to the public.

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest
George Siglin, Mayor for the Town of Lingle, covers the many pitfalls of ethics violations and conflicts of interest as they pertain to the administration of municipal government. His informative program outlines the many state statutory provisions that cover elected municipal officials and municipal employees.

Guidelines for the Conduct of Elected Officials
Andi Summerville, Mayor of the City of Laramie, speaks to acceptable conduct for elected officials both during official meetings and when representing the municipality at outside events. She explains the role of Mayors in maintaining decorum and properly managing public meetings and hearings.

Julie Silbernagel, Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Buffalo and Teresa Montgomery, Clerk/Treasurer for the Town of Rolling Hills, team up to tackle the basics of municipal budgeting. This informative program explains the different forms of municipal budgeting structures and special state rules for cities with more than 4000 people or any municipality with a manager. All videos can be viewed on WAM’s Website at www.wyomuni.org.
When I was four-years-old, I wanted to be a garbage man when I grew up. To clarify, this career aspiration had more to do with my fascination at the time with Oscar the Grouch from Sesame Street than it did with any real interest in public sanitation. Honestly though, it was probably the last time I saw my future self in a role working for a municipality.

Fast forward 37 years, and I find myself suddenly working in the service of 99 of them, and I couldn’t be happier. Since seizing the opportunity to become your new Member Services Manager a month ago, I’ve been on a nearly non-stop barnstorming tour of the state while simultaneously getting a greenhorn’s crash course in the issues facing Wyoming’s cities and towns.

It’s been my pleasure getting to meet some of you at the Fall Regional meetings, and I look forward to meeting many more of you coming up at the end of this month at the Fall Workshop in Lander and later at Winter Conference in Cheyenne in February. I’ll apologize now if I forgot/forget to address you by title. Our esteemed Executive Director is doing his best to get me housetrained as quickly as possible, but it’s a work in progress. I joke of course, but it is a new world for me.

In my previous professional lives, I’ve often been one of only a few “heavy lifters” within the organization. Those individuals who can be counted on day in and day out to get the job done and to step up whenever and wherever needed, most of the time without being asked or expecting special recognition in return.

Onboarding with WAM however, one quickly realizes that exceptional individuals are the rule, not the exception. You are all ambitious, dedicated and respected members of your communities. You couldn’t successfully do your job as a municipal official without the first two, and it takes the third to even get hired or elected in the first place. You carry the water for your respective municipalities, sometimes literally, and are passionate about making them “better”. Whether that “better” is defined as championing big ticket community improvements like a rec center or municipal pool, or just keeping the sewage flushing and trash collected depends almost exclusively on the size of your town or city, but the desire you all share to keep moving your communities ahead is universal.

That is what makes WAM so special. It brings this incredibly diverse group of officials together to work toward a common good with a unified voice. It can be a daunting task. Not every cause WAM, as an association, chooses to champion will benefit our member communities in equal measure. Most of you currently face some sort of financial hardship. You’re expected to maintain services with stagnant or even shrinking budgets, and no real relief in sight. Others of you have your heads above water or are even flourishing. Human nature dictates that it’s easy to get apathetic about any fight when you’re not currently in it, but I’ve been impressed with how many leaders from communities that currently “have” are still willing to put in the work and stand in solidarity with those who “have not.” It’s refreshing, though not wholly unexpected given the individuals involved, to see so much work for the common good.

In my short time with WAM, it’s become all too evident that there are no easy or politically popular cure-all solutions. That makes your continued effort to come together to try just that much more admirable. My grandfather used to like to refer to struggling against long odds as “ice skating uphill”, and while it can be resolve-testing and exhausting to work so hard for marginal gains, I would suggest that it certainly beats the alternative of laying at the bottom of the hill in a defeated and demoralized heap.

You’ve earned an ally in me, though. Your willingness to share your invaluable time and energy being active participants in WAM makes it easy for me to wholeheartedly pick up your banner and do all I can to support the cause. Within the confines of my role as Member Services Manager, that means being an effective upstream and downstream conduit of information.

Making sure membership is aware of the intent of leadership is just as critical as communicating to leadership the majority will of membership. At the same time, I’m keenly aware of the value of your time, and will do my best to be sure communications from WAM are engaging, informative, and hopefully even a little entertaining.

To that end, we’ll continue to explore ways to use technology to bring WAM to you, so you can interact with your association where and when it works for you. Our new online video training series is a good first step in that direction, but it is by no means the end of the road.

So, thank you all again for the warm welcome to WAM. I look forward to getting to know you all better as we have opportunities to interact. I enthusiastically invite your input as to how I can help serve you all best.

Proud to be skating right alongside you,

Justin Schilling, WAM Member Services Manager

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