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From: Wyoming Association of Municipalities
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Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:17 AM
To: townhall@saratogawyo.org
Subject: the WORD from WAM April in Review

This sender is trusted.

the WORD from wam

To whom it May concern, here's The Word from WAM



The beginning of May is allegedly about halfway through Spring according to the calendar. However, we Wyomingites know that these months between the dead of Winter and the dog days of Summer vigorously object to being labeled, and are usually our most schizophrenic weather period each year. WAM Executive Director Ashley Harpstreith dubbed it "sprinter" which probably has a much better ring to it than "wring".

What truly does feel like Spring around the WAM Office these days is all the exciting new growth and transition in our professional team. We won't spoil the announcement of our two new hires here, but you'll be able to read all about it by scrolling a little further down through this month's WORD from WAM.

Also hard to believe given that snowflakes are still flying with some regularity, is that we're less than six weeks away from the 2025 WAM Summer Convention here in Cheyenne, June 11-13 at East High School. Registration is open, room blocks are filling up fast, and all the info can be found on the events page over at wyomuni.org or by clicking the links you'll find below. We think it's going to be an awesome event, and we can't wait to see you all soon.

Until then, get out and enjoy everything this Sprinter has to offer!

-WAM Staff

A message from WAM President Carter Napier

One of the hallmark events that takes place at the summer convention, is that of the exchange of leadership of this great organization. Having worked around and with several presidents over the years, I still really did not have an appreciation for the work that goes into leading this outstanding effort as a President of WAM. Having done so now for the little while that I have, I feel inclined to want to give a nod to those that preceded me in the work that they undertook on our behalf.

The time that I had more direct involvement began way back with President Bertoglio, then President Brooks and then of course with President Hall with whom I had the pleasure of being the Vice President. There have been others as well who are no longer members of our esteemed organization, but what I want to say is I am very appreciative for all the past leadership efforts by these great people and others. The work is not insignificant on our behalf, and it is done for a fantastic cause of which we are all related. [Click here to continue reading.](#)



Registration is open now! WAM Summer Convention is June 11-13 in Cheyenne

Legislative Interim Update



Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG) Releases April Update

CREG's April update has changed since the last official report since the January CREG Forecast. Investment income and severance tax revenues are surpassing expectations, while sales and use tax collection is falling short of forecasts in most of the state. Click below to find the full reports.

- [April 2025 Revenue Update \(Pacing Report\)](#)
- [Long-term Fiscal Profile](#)
- [2025 LSO "Pocket Guide" \(the printed versions are obviously pocket-sized\)](#)
- [Updated Interactive Data Visualization graphics](#)



Management Council approves new Select Committee on Gaming

The Management Council met on April 8 in Cheyenne to discuss interim topics. An initial motion changed the tone of the day and the interim as the Council moved to allow the Chairman the ability to set their interim topics but also restricted meeting days from six to four. Chairman can request for additional days through the Council if needed. Final interim topics have been posted on wyoleg.gov and can be found [here](#).

Along with priorities, the Council authorized Mental Health and Vulnerable Adult Task Force, Air Transportation Liaison Committee and the Select Committee on Legislative Facilities Technology and Process. Additionally, they created a new Select Committee Gaming appointing Senator John Kolb, Chairman, Senator Barry Crago, Senator Troy McKeown, Representative Jayme Lien, Chairman, Representative Steve Johnson, and Representative Joe Webb to serve. The Select Committee has yet to schedule meetings but will focus on local control and gaming revenues.



ABOVE: Senators Barry Crago and John Kolb request a Select Committee on Gaming at the Management Council on April 8. As approved it will include 3 members from each chamber and will focus on this massive industry. Initial topics will include local control and taxation. Committee meetings have yet to be set.

UPCOMING INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS & WAM LEGISLATIVE ACTION!

The 68th Wyoming Legislature has kicked off the 2025 interim committee season. You can find all upcoming meetings and information [here](#). If you see a legislative meeting coming to your community, please consider welcoming them to your city or town!

REMINDER! Please meet with your councils to prioritize your interim priorities and bring them to the Summer Region Meeting to vote for your region's priorities. You can view the 68th's interim priorities by committee [here](#). From there your LLC Rep will bring it to set the Interim Legislative Agenda for the WAM board to take final action. View the newly adopted [legislative process here](#), we hope with these changes we can better align with the legislative calendar. In the meantime please contact your LLC Region Rep with immediate needs!

MAY

[Select Water Committee](#), May 7 - 8, Cheyenne

[Joint Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions](#), May 8 - 9, Lander

[Select Committee on Block Chain and Technology](#), May 14 - 15, Jackson

[Joint Judiciary](#), May 19 - 20, Torrington

[Joint Minerals, Business & Economic Development](#), May 21 - 22, Casper

JUNE

[Joint Revenue](#), June 3 - 4, Gillette

[Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources](#), June 5 - 6, Dubois
[Select Committee on Capital Financing & Investments](#), June 12 - 13, Cheyenne
[Joint Labor, Health & Social Services](#), June 23 - 24, Casper
[Joint Appropriations](#), June 23 - 24, Gillette

Upcoming Wyoming Gaming Commission Meetings

The Wyoming Gaming Commission has several meetings scheduled through the end of 2025. WAM will be there to ensure we have a voice in the process as we continue to work toward more local control over local gaming decisions.

If you have a permittee request it is imperative you attend the meetings virtually or in person. Meetings are scheduled for May 16th, July 18th, September 19th, and November 20th & 21st. [Click here](#) to visit the Wyoming Gaming Commission website for more information on meeting times and agendas.

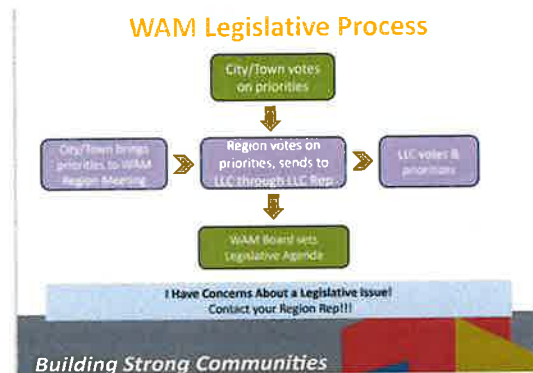


ABOVE: WAM Executive Director Ashley Harpstreith (far right) testifies at the Gaming Commission meeting on March 21st in Casper.

WAM's new legislative process set to better align with legislative calendar, interim topic selection

In an effort to better align your legislative priorities with the legislative calendar, the WAM Board of Directors took action at their April 24th quarterly meeting to modernize and streamline the WAM legislative process.

The new process will emphasize collaboration by membership at the region meetings. The LLC Rep will bring regional concepts to the LLC meeting to prioritize for a proposed WAM Legislative Agenda to be finalized by the WAM Board of Directors.



With this change, here is your **REMINDER!** Municipalities are encouraged to start discussing your interim priorities with your council and bring 3-5 legislative priorities to the Summer Region meetings at Summer Convention on June 12. View the 68th's Interim priorities [here](#) by committee. In the meantime please contact your LLC Region Rep with immediate needs! Please call the WAM office if you have any questions about the time line or action. [Click here](#) to review the new process.

***If you are interested in serving on the LLC, please contact
ashley@wgomuni.org
for more information.***

Open Call to Action and Surveys



CALL TO ACTION! As we've had a chance to visit with many of you over the last month, it has become clear what a pressing concern upcoming deadlines for the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) effort mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are becoming for many of you.

Representative Harriet Hageman is requesting that impacted communities write her office and describe the scope of the issue in your community and the potential hardship created under current deadlines.

[Click here](#) for more information.

DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY MAY 7th!

Infrastructure Survey WAM is working with several legislators this interim to fully illustrate the need for more funding for municipal infrastructure.

The hope is that we will see multiple bills on the subject going into next year's budget session.

So we're doing our best to complete a comprehensive picture of the overall need to get our water and sewer systems back in good repair and ready for the future.

If you haven't already, please take the time to complete this WAM infrastructure survey as soon as possible.

Take the survey by [clicking here](#).

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY MAY 9th!

Building Permitting Survey After the failure of a deregulation bill last session that would have placed binding deadlines on all of our communities, we've offered to work with the bill's sponsor to understand if a compromise could be struck on single family home permitting.

This survey was requested to better understand the length of time it takes to obtain a building permit in cities and towns across Wyoming.

If you haven't already, please take the time to complete this WAM Building Permitting Survey as soon as possible.

Take the survey by [clicking here](#).

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY MAY 9th!

Upcoming WAM Webinars

WAM Gun Free Zones Repeal Webinar

With the passage of House Bill 172, those with a valid concealed carry permit are legally allowed to bring a concealed firearm into any governmental meeting.

Join WAM General Council Tim Stubson and Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCO) Executive Director Allen Thompson as they explain the repeal and provide information on compliance. Q&A to follow the presentation.

[Click here](#) to register.



WAM Statewide Engagement



WAM at the State Trust Lands Forum

Jackson Mayor Arne Jorgenson and WAM President Carter Napier participated in panel discussions at the State Trust Lands Forum in Laramie on April 22 and 23.

The forum was designed to bring together leaders from a diverse array of organizations to discuss and plan, present, and future of state lands.

ABOVE: WAM Board Member and Jackson Mayor Arne Jorgenson presents on the ***New and Emerging Uses: What are the barriers and opportunities to residential and commercial development on state trust lands.***



ABOVE: WAM President and Casper City Manager Carter Napier (far left) takes part in a panel discussion on ***Managing in the mix: Successes and challenges navigating the interface between trust parcels and the lands and communities around them.***



WAM Board of Directors met on April 24th in Casper

The WAM Board of Directors met on Thursday, April 24th in Casper to preview next year's WAM budget, consider changes to the WAM legislative priorities process and modernize WAM bylaws.

New board members will be elected at the Summer Region Meetings. Please email ashley@wyomuni.org if you are interested in serving or would like to learn more.

Join us in welcoming WAM's new Communication and Membership Coordinator Sydney Baker

We're excited to announce that Sydney Baker was selected after an exhaustive search to become WAM's new Communication and Membership Coordinator. Sydney joins WAM after serving as Communications & Administrative Coordinator for the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts.

A 2018 graduate of the University of Wyoming, Sydney brings a fresh perspective and contagious enthusiasm to the role and is very much looking forward to meeting all of you! You can contact Sydney via email sydney@wyomuni.org.



Former WAM President Matt Hall is named new Legislative Director

We're excited to welcome Matt Hall aboard as WAM's next Legislative Director.

After doing excellent work as a contract lobbyist for WAM this session, Matt became the obvious choice to step into the role left vacant after Bob McLaurin's recent retirement.

Matt brings a wealth of knowledge on municipal issues as well as a deep understanding of WAM's ongoing legislative priorities, and will do great work advocating on your behalf. You can contact Matt via email at matt@wyomuni.org.

Bob McLaurin celebrated after serving Wyoming communities for the last 50 years

Former WAM Legislative Director Bob McLaurin was recently recognized for his retirement after five decades of public service by reporter Jazmine Hall in the Jackson Hole News and Guide.

"Bob McLaurin came out West in the late 1970s to climb the Grand Teton and never went home.

He has since left his mark on Jackson as town manager for a total of 18 years, and the state of Wyoming as an advocate for cities and towns across the state for six years. In the last four decades, he said, one thing hasn't changed: The state continues to try to usurp local authority."

[Click here](#) to read the rest of the article.

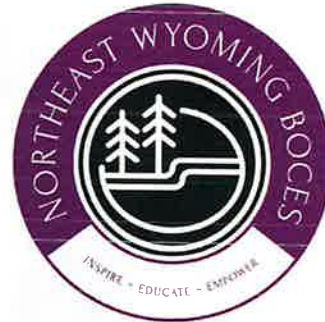
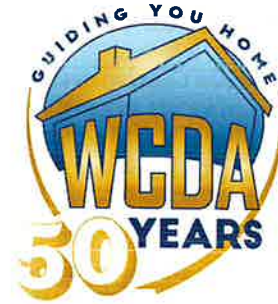


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WHAT'S up WAM?

Important headlines, events and news for WAM!

In the News:

Wyoming Public Media covers the budget cuts local governments are facing [Read more here](#)

Sheridan County Republican Party looks to monitor municipal budgets [Read more here](#)

Push to open Federal lands for housing development is on [Read more here](#)

Future federal cutbacks could slow water improvement upgrades in Wyoming - [Read more here](#)

Training and Educational Opportunities:

The 2025 Rocky Mountain Cybersecurity Symposium is June 16-20 at Casper College [Read more here](#)

Economic Stakes: How Thoroughbred Racing Fuels Rural Economies (free webinar) on May 19th at 11:30 a.m. [Read more here](#)

Grant and other funding opportunities:

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary through the Semi-quincentennial Grant Program in Wyoming - [Read more here](#)

Communications from outside organizations:

National League of Cities Federal Advocacy Newsletter for March [Read more here](#)

President Trump signs Executive Order on sanctuary cities [Read more here](#)

Office of State Lands and Investments April newsletter [Read more here](#)

Unemployment in Wyoming fell to 3.5% in February according to Workforce Services [Read more here](#)

Fact sheet on President Trump's Executive Order on local emergency preparedness [Read More here](#)

Report offers four main ways to address housing shortage in Wyoming [Read more here](#)

HELPFUL RESOURCES & INFORMATION

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality announces the 2025 Solid Waste Training Program Training for solid waste facility operators and managers. [Click here for more information](#)

Wyoming PBS Capitol Outlook: Interviews with Wyoming lawmakers and key public officials Weekly shows are produced while the Legislature is in session from Cheyenne. Click here to watch back: [Capitol Outlook | PBS](#)

LSO Data Visualization

A new way to view the state finances through the State Legislative Office. [Click here for the interactive tool](#)

Gaming Study Released for the Wyoming Gaming Commission

[Click here](#) to view the latest on the Wyoming Gaming Expansion Study as commissioned by the Wyoming State Legislature.

Wyoming 211

We make it easy to connect you to resources for food, job training, rent & utility assistance, and so much more. [Click Here](#) for more information on resources.

Wyoming Grant Assistance Program (WYGAP)

The Wyoming Grant Assistance Program (WYGAP) is a technical assistance program that provides local governments, non-profits, and small businesses with support to identify, pursue, and manage grants that support local priorities. [Click Here](#) for more information on Grant Assistance.

Wyoming State Archives

Preserves selected records from Wyoming's municipalities, including Municipal court records, school, land, and marriage records. [Click Here](#) for more information on Records Retention.

Wyoming Community Foundation

Connecting people who care with causes that matter to build a better Wyoming. [Click Here](#) for more information.

Wyoming Business Council - Placemaking - Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach focused on making your community a better place to live, work, and play by transforming underutilized public spaces into vibrant community places. [Click Here](#) for more information.

Resources for 2024 Wildfires

[Click HERE](#) for more information on resources for those impacted by wildfires this year.

DWS Virtual Training Series

[Click HERE](#) to view Department of Workforce Services virtual training offerings.

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