



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

Re: Coordinated Planning Agreements

WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE CHANGES TO COORDINATED PLANNING AGREEMENTS

WELD COUNTY, CO – Last week, the Weld County Board of Commissioners approved changes to Chapter 19 Coordinated Planning Agreements (CPA's) of the Weld County Code. The changes remove the definition of urban growth areas, replacing it with a three-mile area, making it easier for municipalities to determine how best to provide services.

CPA's are a tool used by local governments to plan for and regulate the development and use of land within their jurisdictions and encourage local governments to cooperate and contract with each other for the purpose of planning and regulating development. In 2013 elected officials and staff from several municipalities contacted the county to talk about revising the existing agreements.

"The current agreements utilized urban growth areas that were either established by the local community or defaulted to one-quarter mile from existing sewer services," said Planning Services Director Tom Parko. "The problem with the urban growth area concept is that the boundary became static. The agreements were outdated and both the county and the municipalities became increasingly frustrated with the current process. The revised CPA's create a more uniform and streamlined process and approach to coordinated development."

"This Board has always tried to work together with all of our municipalities," said Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer. "We are happy to update these agreements to ease and streamline the process."

Other changes to the code include removing the provision that required municipalities to provide services to the development within a certain time frame. The change gives the municipalities discretion to make that call and decide whether or not they can reasonably service the development and the time frame in which they can do so. A change that some community leaders thought was much needed.

Keenesburg Mayor Dan Kip attended the meeting and said, "In my mind, this agreement is fair across the board for the municipalities and cities in the county. Most of all it helps the smaller communities who don't have the ability to track some of that information.

"This gives us the opportunity to talk with developers and deal with the impacts to the community ahead of time instead of seeing something come up and having only a limited amount of time to deal with it."

Todd Hodges, representing Fort Lupton, said, "This has been a great thing to put in motion, especially for smaller communities. It encourages communication and we really appreciate the staff time and the Board's time. We think this will be a great thing moving forward."

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