Ethics & Conservation Districts

Colorado Conservation Leadership Program
April 13, 2008
Examples from Participants

- Not bashing “people” at board meetings
- Fraternization
- Board member selling products to their own district
- Cost share funding to our favorite people
- How to handle and when to abstain from decisions because of personal gain
- Holding people to different standards (favored people)
Colorado Constitution

CRS Title 24-18-101 Code of Ethics
Section 1. Purposes and findings. Statute text

(1) The people of the state of Colorado hereby find and declare that:
   (a) The conduct of public officers, members of the general assembly, local
government officials, and government employees must hold the respect and
confidence of the people;
   (b) They shall carry out their duties for the benefit of the people of the state;
   (c) They shall, therefore, avoid conduct that is in violation of their public trust or
    that creates a justifiable impression among members of the public that such trust
    is being violated;
   (d) Any effort to realize personal financial gain through public office other than
    compensation provided by law is a violation of that trust; and
   (e) To ensure propriety and to preserve public confidence, they must have the
    benefit of specific standards to guide their conduct, and of a penalty mechanism
to enforce those standards.
Section 7. Counties and municipalities. Statute text

Any county or municipality may adopt ordinances or charter provisions with respect to ethics matters that are more stringent than any of the provisions contained in this article. The requirements of this article shall not apply to home rule counties or home rule municipalities that have adopted charters, ordinances, or resolutions that address the matters covered by this article.
Colorado Constitution

Section 6. Penalty. Statute text

Any public officer, member of the general assembly, local government official or government employee who breaches the public trust for private gain and any person or entity inducing such breach shall be liable to the state or local jurisdiction for double the amount of the financial equivalent of any benefits obtained by such actions. The manner of recovery and additional penalties may be provided by law.
Ethics Policy

- Example Code of Ethics
- Example Conflict of Interest Policy
Ideas for Addressing

- Group discussion of ideas for addressing unethical behavior
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