



**New CAEDA Board Members Elected for 2010**

*Casper, Wyoming, December 2, 2009:* The Casper Area Economic Development Alliance (CAEDA) held its Annual Meeting today to review the year's activities and elect three new board members. The meeting was held at the Petroleum Club in Casper with CAEDA investors and community leaders in attendance.

Current CAEDA Board Chairman, Dr. Walter Nolte, President of Casper College, opened the meeting by thanking the investors and board members for their ongoing commitment to the community. Kelsey Campbell of US Senator John Barrasso's office read a letter on behalf of the Senator to the group. "Casper is a thriving community because of the commitment of CAEDA's members," said Barrasso. "Through hard work and constant promotion of Casper, CAEDA members ensure our community's continued growth and success. It is because of your dedication that Natrona County is a great place to live, work and raise a family."

Tom Forslund, Manager of the City of Casper, was the event's featured guest speaker. Forslund discussed the 1 Cent General Purpose tax and the benefits it provides the community. Funds from this tax go to subsidizing water bills, street improvements, police and fire vehicles, and more. With the tax up for renewal next year, the City is actively involving citizens in the discussion of which "1 Cent" services they feel are the most important.

Other highlights of the meeting included the unveiling of CAEDA's 2009 Annual Report by Robert Barnes, President and CEO of CAEDA. Mr. Barnes briefly discussed the unfolding plans of the Casper Business Innovation Center (Incubator), which is now fully funded. He also touched two issues that will be looked at in the next legislative session, tax increment financing and the extension of the manufacturing equipment sales tax exemption.

Following the presentations, Keith Cottam of CAEDA's Nominating Committee led the election process. Bob West, Vice President of Granite Peak Development in Casper was reelected to another term. The two new board members chosen by CAEDA's investors were Lisa Hubbard and Tim Kugler. Lisa is a partner and corporate vice president/treasurer of GSG Architecture. Tim is the Community Bank President of Wells Fargo Bank in Casper. All of the elected candidates are heavily involved in the Casper community. Each will officially begin a two-year term of service with the CAEDA board on January 1, 2010.

The 2009 CAEDA Board of Directors includes: Dr. Walter Nolte, Casper College; Tim Monroe, Business Consultant; Chris Lorenzen, Wyoming Medical Center; Jim Porter, CPA; Bill Sullivan, KCWY-13 (retired); Bob Sutter, Hilltop National Bank; Bob West, Granite Peak Development; Bruce Brown, CPA; Chris Corlis, Wyoming Contractors Association; Jeff Bishop, Eastland Development Company; Ron Pasco, First Interstate Bank; and Keith Cottam, Casper Area Chamber of Commerce. Two additional Board seats are allocated to the City of Casper and Natrona County. This year's representatives were Mayor Kenyne Schlager and County Commissioner Barb Peryam.