

Colorado Rangers Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

Colorado Law Enforcement Shared Reserve (“CLER”)

10:00 AM, Friday, 19 September 2025

CLER Headquarters

330 Park Avenue

Ft. Lupton, CO 80621

Attendance: Board of Governors: Chairman Lambert, Senator Cooke, Chief Fryar and Chief Hasler were in attendance via teleconference. Chief Abramson was in attendance in person at 330 Park Avenue and participating in the teleconference.

Attendance CLER Command and Support Staff: Deputy Chief Robert Pabst, CLER Controller Ranger Norm Townley, CPA, and Emergency Management and Communications Officer Lieutenant Chad Clifford (also Colorado State Representative for District 37), Academy Director Lt. Paula Gurak and Sgt. Royce Powell were attending in person. Administrative Section Captain Aaron Ruffalo and Board Secretary Ranger Carl Luppens attended via video teleconference. No members of the public were present.

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum: At 10:00 Chairman Lambert called the meeting to order. Roll was called by Secretary Luppens; all five of the Governors were in attendance, therefore Chairman Lambert declared a quorum and the meeting began.

Approval of Minutes of 16 May 2025: Chief Hasler moved to accept the minutes of the May 16, 2025, CLER Board of Governors Meeting as submitted and Chief Abramson seconded the motion to approve. Without revision or objection, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Welcome & Meeting Overview: Chairman Lambert invited Chief Abramson to provide his report.

Chief's Report:

Chief Morgan Retirement: Chief Abramson announced that Operations Division Chief Morgan would be retiring and thanked him for his years of valuable service and commitment, first as a Colorado Mounted Ranger for more than 5 years and then in various ascending positions for the last seven years, for a total of nearly 13 years of service. Chairman Lambert stated that everything "had gone pretty well flawless" due Chief Morgan's experience and loyalty on the operations side and expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Board of Governors for his service.

Colorado State Patrol Dispatch Coverage: The Rangers are now integrated with the Colorado State Patrol dispatch system on a 24hour/7day a week basis due, in large part, to State Representative/ Ranger Lieutenant Chad Clifford's efforts with two dedicated Ranger 800 megahertz radio channels state wide. This means that Rangers are monitored and have support when they are in travel status to callouts and training and, if a critical incident occurs where they go "on duty" on short notice, as has happened.

New Partnership: Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office. Originally indicated as just a couple of Rangers for one weekend of heavy "leaf viewing" traffic control over Guanella Pass but evolved into 4 rangers for several long weekends. Ranger service was critical to keep the roadways safe and capable of accommodating emergency vehicle responses.

Academy 11: Started at the end of May with 13 recruits (after having nearly 30 enrolled but multiple last minute drops for various reasons). Graduation will be November 15th. Academy Director Lt. Paula Gurak reported that all remaining cadets had qualified on the POST duty handgun test and passed arrest control. We also have 50 candidates with prior POST law enforcement officer qualifications that we are reviewing and expect to get 10 or so new Rangers from this group, which does not require our Reserve Academy training. We are getting significant flows now of POST certified officers applying to the agency. The Rangers' next academy will target 25-30 qualified cadets which will put the agency at approx. 120+ officers. It is scheduled to begin in August of 2026.

Sunrise Review Committee: The Colorado Rangers passed the POST Sunrise Review Committee unanimously and was referred to the POST Board which also approved the continuation of the Colorado Rangers as a State law enforcement agency unanimously. Senator Cooke recalled having 30 individuals crammed into a Senate hearing room being less than supportive of the formation of the Colorado Rangers Law Enforcement Shared Reserve a decade ago back in 2015. Chairman Lambert acknowledged the "integration" and acceptance into Colorado law enforcement as evidenced by, among other factors, the State Patrol's willingness to provide radio dispatch services. It was noted that Ranger General Counsel Mark Ringer is a full-time POST certified law enforcement officer, and that Rangers serve under his direct control when not serving under the direction of our partner agency's officers.

Red Dot Optic Sights for Duty Pistols: Rangers are now authorized to utilize Miniature Red Dot Reflex Sights ("MRDS" or "Red Dot") on their duty pistols after approved training and qualification. Ranger firearm instructors have been trained and qualified via POST approved Instructor Red Dot training and certification courses to use and instruct officers to use these optical sights.

CU Boulder: The University of Colorado at Boulder is a relatively new partner and the relationship is going very well. Rangers provide law enforcement support at football games and other large campus events.

Denver PD/Denver Broncos: The Denver Police Department continues to be one of the Rangers' closest partners. Denver police officers work Broncos football games in an "off duty" capacity while Rangers work "on duty" which has presented some contract complexities that have been resolved so that CLER can be paid directly by the Denver Broncos Football organization.

Arvada Patrol Update: The Ranger's street patrol functions in Old Towne Arvada has gone exceedingly well. The initial assignment concludes at the end of September but it is highly likely that Arvada will extend, in part because the community at large recognizes the incredible benefit the Rangers have provided and would not want to see it go away. The Rangers, and in particular Captain Voth, were featured very favorably in Arvada Magazine as a result of a town council candidate riding along on an evening shift with a reporter in tow. The reality is that our officer presence and professionalism and our many interventions and some arrests has cleaned up Old Towne Arvada, which had gone from an active community asset to an area filled with crime, drugs and vagrant disorder. This is similar to what Federal intervention and action in major urban high crime areas has achieved.

Lakeside Takeover Event: Lakeside, the smallest municipality in Colorado, got word that the Lakeside Amusement Park was a target for a delinquent "teen takeover" on August 21, 2025 as had happened at certain malls and other places where upwards of 200 teenagers will swarm into and ransack a facility. The Denver Zoo had been threatened and it just closed and locked up. 25 to 30 Rangers, and all Ranger police vehicles, deployed to the Lakeside Amusement Park (along with a Lakeside PD officers and one of two officers from adjoining jurisdictions) produced such a strong visible presence that when the teenagers showed up intending to rush the gates and ransack the park, the show of force deterred them. It became a quiet evening for families in the park. The delinquents were heard in town later that night expressing the realization that "There was no way they could take over the Park". The heavy police presence was a major success and kept the peace.

Operations Review: Deputy Chief Robert Pabst reported that, year to date, Rangers had provided total duty hours of 16,233. Over a decade this volunteer service will amount to well over \$20 million in savings to the taxpayers of Colorado. He explained that there had been a surge in demand for reserve law enforcement services and that many individual Rangers had exceeded their required duty hours significantly and that both the individual Rangers and the agency had "leveled up" in operational capabilities and availability.

Administrative Section & Financial Update: Chairman Lambert invited Ranger Norm Townley, the Ranger's Controller and CPA, to give the financial report. Ranger Townley reported that, as of August 31st, the Rangers had \$216,199 in revenue and \$184,617 in expenses yielding net income of \$31,581. Since the end of August, almost \$16,000 additional receipt came in against \$9,000 in expenses for and additional gain of \$6,980. CLER has approximately \$276,000 in the bank, a very healthy financial cushion.

Captain Aaron Ruffalo explained some of the insurance issues. Workers Comp premiums increased from around \$3,000 to \$4,000. There are indications that the annual liability insurance premium might increase by as much as 48% to \$172,000 but Lt. Clifford and the new legislation may reduce the increase since the Ranger's operating partners now have to take responsibility for Ranger actions, meaning that the liability insurance providers are getting premiums from both the partner agency and CLER for the same risk, which may reduce CLER premiums.

Open Discussion and Public Comments: Chairman Lambert invited additional comments or discussion; there was none. No members of the public were in attendance so there were no public comments or questions.

Schedule Next Meeting: Chairman Lambert then scheduled the next meeting, with unanimous agreement, for Friday December 12 at 10:00 AM in Ft. Lupton with a video conference attendance option for Board of Governors members.

Closing Comments: Chairman Lambert expressed pride in the momentum of the Colorado Rangers and that, with lots of hard work and professional conduct, tremendous community service has been provided at critical times and that an example has been set for other states and countries (Canada is now exploring a similar shared Reserve police model).

Adjournment of Meeting: Chief Hasler moved to adjourn, Chief Fryar seconded the motion, and, without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM MST.