



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS  
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

July 26, 2017

9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Grand River Hospital Conference Room, 501 Airport Rd, Rifle, CO 81650

Pledge of Allegiance

**Call to order and introductions** – Ray Beck, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:03 am; introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes:** Andy Key made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Kimberly Bullen seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**Board of Directors Update:**

- The Mesa County municipal members, Fruita, Grand Junction and Palisade had an email conversation regarding the Mesa County municipal representative to the Board of Directors and it was agreed that Duncan McArthur will serve as the AGNC board member for Mesa County municipalities.

**Financial Report** - Bonnie Petersen presented the financial report noting:

- P & L has a new item: Grant Income. This is due to DOLA sending the full grant allotment for the 2016 mini-grants rather than the actual reimbursements requested. Tiffany notified DOLA know of the discrepancy and, after checking with the state's accounting office, DOLA advised AGNC to keep the funds.
- AR – Contribution Projects are not all paid; We have followed up with Clear Creek County about the EZ invoice; SBDC sponsorship is forthcoming for the ED Summit.
- AGNC did not have a single audit this year as we had not received the required amount of federal funds to trigger that audit. The state indicated that they require a single audit regardless of federal funds received in the administration of the AAoA program. Our research indicates that Mesa County conducted a single audit and the state indicated that the Mesa County audit will be acceptable for this year. Give this set of circumstances, AGNC will anticipate engaging in a single audit regardless of federal funds received.

John Justman made a motion to approve the financials as presented, Mike Foreman seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**DWC Report** – Cheryl McDonald prepared report see attached

- The two-sided sign has been ordered. It is anticipated that the sign will raise visitation to DWC by 15%, possibly more. The sign should be delivered by August 17<sup>th</sup>. Electrical service will need to be installed when the sign arrives. Moffat County is expected to trim

the tree in the area. Thank you, Moffat County local marketing district for providing the sign for the DWC.

- There was a wonderful write up on Rangely's, The Tank, in New York magazine.
- There is a new CTO director, Mateo Henderson. He visited DWC last month and indicated it was one of the nicest welcome centers in the state.
- Mateo also met with Bonnie Petersen and Tiffany Pehl in Grand Junction and advised them that the CTO will be making some changes to the way Welcome Centers are managed and he was encouraged to make sure that any changes considered are communicated to the local areas before any major changes are made.

**Government Relations** - Dianna, Ted, and Richard Orf prepared a report, attached.

- Interim Committee updates.
- HB 1313 has now hit national headlines. This was designed to kick asset forfeiture back to the state, but it's unclear if it should go to local or state districts and if we will adopt the CAF from federal agencies.
- The Governor issued a new Executive Order setting out greenhouse (GHG) emission goals for the state that are reflective of those outlined in the Clean Power Plan which has been placed on hold at the federal level. The order is not a mandate, but provides cover for legislators who may try to put ideas in statute as we have seen over the last two years. The order directs state agencies to work with electrical providers to find ways to reduce GHG emissions with the goals of the order in mind. It is anticipated that we will see increased renewable energy standards proposed by the legislature and as Governor's race unfolds.

### **Legislative Representative Updates:**

Betsy Bair gave an update on Senator Gardner's office:

- David Bernhardt was confirmed as Deputy Secretary of Interior.
- Sennett Gardner had an editorial in The Daily Sentinel reiterating his commitment to bringing the BLM office to the West; Tipton is carrying the bill in the House.
- Zinke was in Colorado for the Western Conservative Summit.
- The healthcare discussion will proceed passing the Senate 51 to 50. We are looking forward to having bi-partisan, strong conversation about the need to get healthcare right.
- CDOT is meeting tonight, looking for comments on two I-70 westbound projects: Floyd Hill and 3<sup>rd</sup> lane through tunnel in Idaho Springs.
- We are working on sanctions against North Korea including full economic embargoes. There is concern about missiles which can now come into mainland United States. The embargoes passed 98-2 in the Senate. This means anybody working with North Korea will have sanctions put on them.
- Jen Lorraine, from our office, has moved to DOE. We are sorry to lose her.

Shannon Wadas gave an update on Senator Bennet's office:

- Bennett voted to confirm Bernhardt.
- We worked with Gardner on industrial hemp bill related to water. The bill was introduced to make it easier for Conservation Corps group to work with federal agencies.

George gave an update on Congressman Tipton's office:

- The House is scheduled to take recess beginning next week, but that may change depending on what happens with the Senate and the healthcare bill. Our office is busiest with the healthcare cause.
- Introduced bill called Every Kids Outdoor Act which will allow all 4<sup>th</sup> graders to visit National Parks for free, along with their families.
- Water Rights Protection Act Bill has passed as part of the Grow Bill through House. This will be a major issue for ski areas, farmers, etc.
- Bill just passed to strengthen sanctions on Russia, Iran, and North Korea. It requires the President to go through Congress for sanctions on these countries.
- Consumer dispute resolution process changes to eliminate arbitrary items, removing restrictions so consumers can settle on their own without an attorney.

### **AGNC Legislative Topics for 2018 Season – Roundtable**

- Off-road vehicles
- Severance Tax
- Special districts need to tighten up their language for exceptions
- Rural Jumpstart to be included for communities affected by executive orders
- DOLA funding not going back into the impacted communities and we still must match them when we do get those funds
- Transportation – concerns about 1242 – we need a list

### **AAoA Report** – Dave Norman gave an update for AAoA.

- The Senior Leadership Conference will be in Grand Junction and will include Delta, Montrose and Region 12. Reviewed agenda. The Commission on Aging meets previous day and will take citizen input.
- We turned in the quarterly visitation report. The formulas provided had an error in them but we were able to get this straightened out and resolved all the issues in the report.
- Mesa County included AAoA in their single audit. This will allow us to comply with the state's single audit requirement for 2016.
- Thank you to Senator Gardner who helped get funding released to the state. The contracts have been signed and are being implemented.

**NW Colorado Council of Governments – Shared Services in AGNC Region** – Jon Stavney, NWCCOG Executive Director, introduced NWCCOG program directors. They are excited about providing services in Region 11 counties and want to be sure everyone knows about the interactions, including elevator inspections, emergency management services, etc. Dues that support regional businesses are about \$200,000 of their \$5 million budget. Most of the budget is pass-through money for services throughout the region.

**Anita Cameron** – Director of Business Lending and the Northwest Loan Fund.

- Loan fund is what banking use to be, providing federal funding primarily for business loans in nine counties; the loan fund can work with loans that banks won't touch anymore including startups.
- Half a million dollars comes from the state each year. Historically, NWCCOG has used that amount and asked for more money to be used for the economic development of communities.
- Average loan is about \$80,000-\$85,000. Rates and terms are prime+2 and 2% origination fee, fixed for life of the loan.
- The Loan Committee is made up of members from each of the nine counties.

- AGNC counties account for 44% of the loan area with 40% of the funds loaned in those counties.

Susan Jugensmeier – Mobility Manager.

- Federal and state transit funds basically through CDOT, work to link existing transportation resources for veteran, seniors with disabilities, and low-income citizens.
- Grant from CDOT resulted in the district being formed. The counties included are the 5 in NWCCOG plus Routt and Garfield.
- The purpose is to get people to medical appointments. The Mountain Ride Transportation Resource Center (MRTRC) is a call center and has a website that can provide information for those counties.
- MRTRC tracked 1,047 one-way trips from Routt County to Denver last year. Working to develop route to take people to Grand Junction. Prior to this project there was no regional linking of transportation.
- CDOT is moving into mobility management to collaborate and use resources more efficiently. MRTRC received a grant to evaluate Moffat and Rio Blanco counties and the feasibility of bringing them into the program.

Nate Walowitz – Regional Broadband Coordinator.

- The NWCCOG broadband project started in 2012 trying to drive broadband in the region. In the beginning the effort included Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt counties. No longer in AGNC region.
- The project is funded through DOLA and member dues.
- Focus has gone from helping individual entities to looking at regional gaps to working on resilient networks.
- NWCCOG would like to expand the effort to include AGNC members, as well. This could leverage more cost savings.

Rachel Lunney – Director, Economic Development District.

- NWCCOG was officially designated as an EDD in 2012.
- The region just completed its 5-year CEDS update which is the cornerstone of the EDD program. Started with local plans already in place within the region and a series of meetings throughout the region. Did a SWOT analysis, which rolled up into regional plan. The CEDS provides a guide for the region for the next 5 years and the structure for requesting funding from EDA in the future
- EDA provides funding for support of the EDDs, this region's funding goes directly to the NWCCOG.
- This program allows help with: direct business assistance to businesses; information to be posted on website; data to member communities including jobs, wages, education indicators report; handle requests for data; forum for collaboration with businesses and education organizations.

**Administrative Update** – Bonnie Petersen provided an update on AGNC activities.

- An SBDC101 meeting will be held on August 18, 2017, in Rifle – this is an important resource for local businesses but our region has not had great access to the services provided here. The meeting will be more informational and anticipates key people to be in attendance to learn about what the SBDC could provide for the region.

- The sponsorship form for the ED Summit is available now; we have sponsorships from the SBDC, \$1,000; DOLA, \$2,000; Moffat County LMD, may help with a sponsorship as well.
- The August AGNC Board Meeting will feature NW Colorado legislators; six of them have agreed to join us to discuss the 2018 legislative session.
- AGNC submitted a letter to Secretary Zinke about sage grouse plans in response to Secretarial Order 3353. AGNC members spoke with CPW about the letter, as well. Some groups advocate using the Congressional Review Act to eliminate the sage grouse plans and have ask AGNC to take that position. AGNC has made it clear that our organization is not advocating the use of the CRA; we believe it makes more sense to fix the plans rather than eliminate them.
- A comment letter supporting the master plan of Terra Energy Partners for leases at base of Roan Plateau was provided by AGNC.
- Similarly, a comment letter supporting the lease modification for Mountain Coal in Delta has been submitted.
- In conjunction with the Mesa County Commissioners, AGNC sent a letter inviting Gary Cohn, the President's Energy Advisor, to come to Western Colorado to meet with our group.
- AGNC, in cooperation with David Ludlam, will be sending a letter of invitation to Secretary Zinke requesting he come to NW Colorado on February 23, 2018 for a Local Government Roundtable on public lands and Keynote the WSCOGA annual banquet.

**New Business:** *Next Meeting is on August 30, 2017 at the Lincoln Park Hospitality Suite, 1340 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501*

**Adjournment** – Meeting Adjourned at 1:28 pm.

**Attendance:**

Ray Beck, Moffat County  
 Duncan McArthur, City of Grand Junction  
 Cheryl McDonald, Colorado Welcome Center  
 Mike Samson, Garfield County  
 Andy Key, Town of Rangely  
 Konnie Billgren, Rangely Area Chamber  
 Tiffany Pehl, AGNC  
 Kealey Campbell, AGNC  
 Dave Norman, AAoA NW CO  
 Karen Harkin, CHFA  
 Susan Jugensmeier, NWCCOG  
 Pattie Snidow, USDA Rural Development  
 Rachel Lunney, NWCCOG  
 Tim Corrigan, Routt County  
 Betsy Bair, Senator Gardner  
 Mike Forman, City of Craig  
 John Justman, Mesa County

Katelin Cook, Rio Blanco County  
 Michelle Balleck, Craig/Moffat EDP  
 Jeff Comstock, Moffat County  
 Richard Orf, Orf & Orf, PC  
 Ted Orf, Orf & Orf, PC  
 Bonnie Petersen, AGNC  
 Dianna Orf, Orf & Orf, PC – Via Call

Art Riddile, Town of New Castle  
George Rossman, Congressmen Scott Tipton  
Shannon Wadas, Senator Bennet  
Kimberly Bullen, City of Rifle  
Jon Stavney, NWCCOG