



**MINUTES**  
**AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING**  
**February 23, 2022**  
**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**ZOOM:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2510562431> **Password:** 2462

**PHONE:** +1 (669) 900-6833 **Meeting ID:** 251 056 2431 **Password:** 2462

Pledge of allegiance

**Call to order** – 10:11 AM Mike Samson, Chairman: Introductions were made, and it was noted that Jeff Comstock will be the alternate for Moffat County and Lisa Piering will be the Rio Blanco municipal representative on the board for the remainder of Keely Ellis’s term.

**Approval of minutes** – Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes; Ken Kreie seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Financial report** – Bonnie Petersen provided a report on year end 2021 financials. The year ended with total checking and savings in the amount of \$437,792.69 and accounts receivable of \$133,589.72. Revenues came in less than budgeted largely due to grant reimbursement cycles, ED Summit income and contribution project administration fee income were higher than budgeted. Expenses for the year were less than budgeted largely due to grant activity. Net Income for the year without any audit adjustments was \$95,129.48. Lisa Piering made a motion to approve the year end report; Grady Hazelton seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

The financial report for the month ending January 31, 2022, was reviewed. Checking and savings cash position at the end of the month is \$746,432.29. Income for the month exceeded budget; expenses were as budgeted. Net income exceeded budget by \$3,000.00. Accounts receivable as of 2/16/2022 totaled \$202,885.72; the majority of the receivables are fourth quarter contribution project administration fees. The Clear Creek Health Center reported all their contributions for the year in the fourth quarter resulting in a large payment of contribution fees. Fees are invoiced, not yet received. Other receivables include a pending reimbursement from EDA, Rio Blanco County dues, and a mini-grant reimbursement from DOLA. There are a couple of outstanding sponsorship payments for the ED Summit, one is on its way. The last large outstanding receivable is for Routt County; the invoice will be modified as Routt County has sent a check in the amount of \$17,000 which was the amount of their membership dues for 2021. Going forward, the state EDC gave approval to doubling the administration fee for Routt County contribution projects to cover EZ administration costs for the county and they have indicated they will provide funding for the newly established Routt County Economic Development Partnership (RCEDP) to pay the match for the EDD planning partnership grant in the amount of \$14,000.00. Lisa Piering asked if the accounts receivable could be presented in a format to reflect the month end rather than through the current month to date. It was noted that the current format has been preferred by the board but if the board preferred the change, it can be made. There were no further comments for or against making a change to accounts receivable reporting so the reporting will remain the same. Ken Kreie made a motion to approve the financial report for January 2022; Grady Hazelton seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**Project and Committee Reports:**

**Area Agency on Aging** – Heather Jones, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of the additional funding AAoA received from last year. Heather was able to restore funding for all but two programs – Hilltop and St.

Mary's. Rio Blanco realized they needed an additional \$20,000 and they were able to get that funding. The AGNC Executive Committee approved the funding allocations in January 2022 as providers were running out of funds and the board did not have a scheduled meeting that month. Ken Kreie made a motion to ratify the approval of the Executive Committee; Chris Nichols seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

The SUA has requested some funding through the state legislature and indicates the AAoA will likely hear about funding in the spring. A request was made in the amount of \$1.1 million to fund five applications. AAoA finally received ARPA funds in the amount of \$956,812.00 in January – funds have not been allocated yet. The plan is to use half for next fiscal year and the remainder in the following year. Still have ability to use any funding source for services – still have to match federal funds – that has not been fixed at federal level as yet. Match 10% administration and caregivers match is 25%. Will receive about \$78,000 in public health funds – reached out to all counties about funding Mesa County responded that they don't need the funds – may have similar response from other health departments. Heather finished onsite evaluations with providers and had five that needed to make corrective action plans – all have done this. SUA did audit on AAoA found two providers out of compliance, but they did not require a correction action plan as that had already been identified through Heather's audit and a plan was already provided for each item. SHIP Medicare assistance with DORA runs April through March annually; Heather is working with Routt County and Region 12 to make the transition for this particular entity happen in April. Heather outlined legislation that is being followed. Heather's full report can be seen at the end of these minutes as Attachment A. In the November AGNC meeting information was requested on veterans; she provided a breakdown for each county. Region has 8,594 veterans aged 65+ - in 2021 AAoA served 334 veterans.

**Legislative Update – no update at this board meeting; the regular legislative call on Thursday morning will serve as the board update.**

**Colorado Department of Transportation Overview** – Shoshana Lew, CDOT Director provided an update on Colorado transportation issues. Accomplishments in 2021 include 117 projects completed, 622 miles of rural road paved, 101 projects put out for bid, fourteen multi-year projects begun, ten 10-year plan projects completed, nineteen 10-year plan projects put out for bid, 7 major projects worked on, fifty projects delivered ahead of schedule, fifty-eight projects delivered under budget. 2021 was a record year going into another record year in terms of construction. About two hundred miles of 622 miles were from the 10-year plan. One challenge CDOT must deal with is the rising prices of commodities. The 10-year plan work done in 2021 was made possible by funding provided in SB267. CDOT is going into the fourth year of the current 10-year plan. Taking care of rural roads is something a lot of effort has gone into of late – 622 miles of rural roads were improved in 2021, 580 miles were improved in 2020 – 201 miles of that is from the 10-year plan. An overview of the NW Colorado Region 3 key projects was provided. 2022 will be a record year; CDOT is projected to spend nearly \$1 billion on construction. A combination of funding is available and helping to get projects getting out the door. In a lot of rural communities, it is important to highlight the role the CDOT team plays in keeping roads in good repair – one key success was to increase the cap on work that can be done in house. The state limit, in some cases, has limited what could be done in rural areas. The limit was increased from \$150k to \$250K which allows for critical work to be done in rural areas like crack sealing. Glenwood Canyon maintenance over the last two years has been difficult with fires and a 500-year flood event. Crews worked day and night to get it open and then have had to fix it in a more substantial way. Road was basically fixed by Christmas after the flood event, but CDOT still has to repair the guard rail which will be done after debris is removed from the river. Originally FEMA was going to remove debris from the river, but it was agreed that it was more efficient to allow federal highways and CDOT to be reimbursed for the work. That provision probably saved a lot and resulted in more rapid response. Contractors working on sediment removal and still keeping traffic flowing fully on holidays and early morning. Getting clean up done before spring is huge focus to avoid potential flooding. Cottonwood Pass may provide a window of opportunity; the severity of the canyon closure has pushed some consensus to what has to happen. Counties want to maintain the road over the pass as a county road. The transportation commission approved some initial funding to address some of the curves in the roadway over the pass. Once the scope of the project has been identified, engineers can do some planning. The issue is already on the federal government radar as a need; Shoshana thinks there will be some grant funding available to address the needs. Trying to use the momentum from communities to keep conversation moving.

CDOT is doing a lot of improvements along I-70 at Vail Pass, repaving between Silverthorne and Frisco, fixing bridge structure at tunnel – should be completed this summer. Repaving through Craig on Hwy 40 may begin in the next few months. Federal infrastructure bill will help with 10-year plan and will increase the annual formula funding by an estimated \$950 million. Chris Nichols asked about Hwy 40 and 13 and what is being done to address impact of the canyon closures there? Shoshana noted that two significant projects on Hwy. 13 are on the 10-year plan; chosen in large part to focus on alternate routes. Federal reimbursement for Glenwood Canyon will see CDOT getting 100% reimbursement for Glenwood Canyon. Can't quite tell emergency programs at the federal level that all routes need to be funded. The question was asked if vehicle miles travelled reductions were a requirement for funding under recently developed rules or SB 260. The bill required consideration of GHG impacts and talked about VMT; the transportation commission did rule the making but it did not regulate that although it did set emissions targets. If DRCOG does not meet thresholds it restricts how federal dollars can be used. Does not put VMT in place – if did not fulfill requirements might have seen legislation. There was debate over whether AQCC or the transportation commission would conduct the rulemaking. The work was moved to TC so people who understood how transportation works were the ones that undertook rulemaking. No burden on local governments – more about the balance of projects CDOT and MPO have to deal with the issue – talking about small amounts of money to get modelling done. Similar to what has to be done for non-attainment in the metro areas. Does not mean capacity projects are not possible – this is not a ban on those projects. The rules were written so shoulder widening does not trigger more stringent targets. Getting funding from grant programs is a team sport, the goal is to get as much into the state as possible. CDOT is in the process of writing grants now – working with Mesa, and Garfield to do mobility hubs. Cottonwood pass is planned to apply for resiliency funds. If AGNC members have projects under consideration – bring any ideas to CDOT. Glenwood has a bridge they are trying to replace and will probably apply for funds for that. Some funding is available that local governments are eligible for that state cannot get. CDOT is building a grant writing staff to help coordinate grant writing. 29 Road interchange in Mesa County - conversations are underway about how to package the project for grants – doing some review and bringing it along in terms of readiness. Airport infrastructure – talking to private partners about some freight opportunities. GJ airport is working to get a cargo ramp to address supply chain issues – question was asked if infrastructure bill would have grant funds available and noted that a request has been submitted to the state for consideration of funding from state ARPA funds. Shoshana noted that the project is a great project, and that the Governor is supportive of it. She also noted that the FAA administration will be in town and asked if GJ is working on the cargo ramp with them?

Kathy Hall – transportation commission Chair noted that the state is getting a lot done under Shoshana's leadership. She indicated that 29 Road seems to be coming together right now and that there is reason to feel positive and upbeat about that. The community does need to improve cargo opportunities through the airport given the issues with the canyon. Air cargo would help the region so much and 29 road would be key to transportation as well. Chair Hall noted that Shoshana has spent a lot of time helping rural areas in the face of tremendous pressure from metro area. She said it is really refreshing to have Shoshana there who understands the importance of rural areas. The CDOT rulemaking was challenging but she thinks it will be workable. The bill was written in such a way that AQCC was going to write rules for transportation, but it was Shoshana's leadership that it was taken up by the transportation commission.

**AGNC Treasurer Election – Chairman Samson informed the board that Keely Ellis has taken a position with OEDIT and while we are happy for her, we are sorry to have her leave us. She was AGNC treasurer so there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee that we need to fill in order to replace Keely. The Chairman opened the floor for nominations to fill the treasurer position. Chris Nichols nominated Cody Davis from Mesa County; Cody accepted the nomination; Ken Kreie seconded the nomination. Chris Nichols made a motion that the nominations cease, and Cody Davis be elected by acclamation; Ken Kreie seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

Federal Delegate Updates – Hilary Henry and Matt Kireker from Senator Bennet's office provided an update. The infrastructure bill provisions were covered by Hilary; it is expected that Colorado will receive at least \$6 billion over the next 5 years. Working on hard-to-get funds on the ground – if members have priority projects for the community – reach out to the Senator's office with those projects. If communities need grant writing assistance, they may be

able to help with that also. The grants allow for administration of grants to be included in the grant request. Major provisions include broadband, and it is expected the state will receive a minimum of \$100 million for broadband infrastructure. Will be determined by maps being developed by FCC – the Senator thinks the state will ultimately get \$400 to \$600 million. The program was designed to put the state in the driver’s seat so that programs meet the needs of people on the ground and requires future proofing service with a requirement of 100 Mbps down and 20 Mbps up. The Colorado broadband office is designing programs for funding; they have \$250 million from ARPA – in May they will get administrative 5% for the bi-partisan infrastructure program. Now is the time to be in touch with the broadband office if members have ideas about how the infrastructure should be built out. There is also funding for affordability and funding for digital equity. Expecting \$688 million in water infrastructure – will provide funding for communities and towns – funding for Colorado River resiliency fund in the upper Colorado. Also funds for forest fire mitigation programs. Matt, funding in infrastructure is for post-fire mitigation – opens up existing funding that would help with prescribed burns thinning, etc. Still looking for a path forward for preventive measures may see in build back better as it is being re-worked. Matthew Kireker noted that postal service concerns have been raised across the Western Slope regarding slow delivery; aging facilities, etc. Residents and businesses in the region are relying on the postal service more and more with online delivery, prescription delivery, etc. Senator Peters is leading a bill called the Postal Service Reform Act that will open up \$45 to \$57 billion over a decade to the postal service. Across the Western Slope many small facilities need infrastructure improvements, and the bill would help address that as well. The bill removes a pre-funding mandate for retiring employees which will open up additional funding.

Janeth Stanclie from Senator Hickenlooper’s office provided an update and noted that this week the Senator joined other senators with poor broadband access in pushing the FCC to build out maps with accurate data. They will be introducing the Network transparency act impacting broadband infrastructure. Both Colorado Senators joined a collaborative to release the maximum H2B visas for agricultural entities in the region. Economic Disaster injury loans to help businesses overcome impact of pandemic requires SBA to provide timely information for businesses to address fraud. Gray wolf reinstatement as Endangered species could cause complications to state management – both Senators asked federal agencies to work with state and local jurisdictions for wolf management. Sage grouse, Senator Hickenlooper knows that BLM released a notice for plan amendments, and he is closely monitoring the process; he will stay in touch with NW counties on the process. Bill Carlson noted that in the past Russia backed down when the U.S. show of force exceeded theirs; Germany has 3,000 US troops – Russia has 150k troops to invade all of the eastern European block. He noted that the U.S. is importing tremendous amounts of oil from Russia and asked why are we supporting Russia? Where do Bennet and Hickenlooper’s office stand on this. Hilary noted that Senator Hickenlooper said to monitor impacts to constituents and report comments to him. Bill shared a constituent experience from El Jebel where an elderly woman who works to bring food to people has to keep her house at 50 degrees during this winter as that is all she can afford for heat. Janeth was asked to share concerns with Senator Hickenlooper that it makes little sense to continue importing oil from Russia thereby supporting his war on Ukraine when those needs can be satisfied safely and responsibly from domestic sources. Hilary from Bennet’s office will share impacts to constituents with Senator Bennet as well.

#### **Administrative Update - Bonnie Petersen**

All updates provided during EDD meeting.

Provided news that Karl left position as ED Coordinator; the job posting for a replacement has been distributed and the position will be filled as quickly as possible.

**New Business** – *Next meeting March 16, 2022, Ralph Stocker Stadium Hospitality Suite, 1340 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501*

**Adjournment** – meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.

**Attendance:**

Mike Samson, Garfield County  
 Cody Davis, Mesa County Commissioner  
 Ken Kreie, Town of Fruita  
 John Bristol, Routt County ED Partnership (RCEDP)  
 Bill Carlson, Town of Palisade  
 Heather Jones, AAoA  
 Margie Joy, CHFA  
 Erin McCuskey, NWCOSBDC Regional Director  
 Carolyn Tucker, CWF  
 Keely Ellis, OEDIT  
 Matthew Kireker, Senator Bennet's Office  
 Tyler Kelly, Rifle Regional EDC  
 Betsy Bair, Community Hospital  
 Celina Kirnberger  
 Johnny McFarland, City of Grand Junction  
 Zoe Wilhelmsen, CDOT  
 Ade A, CDOT  
 Grady Hazelton, Town of New Castle

Carly Thomson, Rio Blanco County  
 Chris Nichols, City of Craig  
 Jeff Comstock, Moffat County  
 Christina Oxley, Colorado Workforce Commission  
 Toni Barrett, AGNC  
 Tiffany Pehl, AGNC  
 Bonnie Petersen, AGNC  
 Ray Beck, Moffat County  
 Shannon Scott, Craig Economic Development  
 Drew Kramer, Tri-State G&T

Janeth Stangle, Senator Hickenlooper's Ofc.
Hilary Henry, Senator Bennet's Ofc.
Jeannie Caldwell, Town of Rangely
Tommy Klein
Kathy Hall, CDOT Commissioner
Shoshana Lew, CDOT Director
Tim Hoover, CDOT

## ATTACHMENT A



### Updates from AAA 02/23/2022:

- SB290- The AAA submitted five applications (Nutrition, Transportation, Infrastructure, Community Services & Evidence-Based Disease Prevention) for funding on 12/16/2021. The total requesting amount for the five applications was \$1.1 million. The State Unit on Aging (SUA) has indicated that AAAs will hear the outcome of the funding by late winter/early spring.
- The AAA did receive our federal carryover in the amount of \$462,085.57. The funds were allocated out to current providers to bring them up to their requesting amounts, which the AGNC board approved in January 2022. If you will recall the AAA had to cut \$500,000 from providers at the start of the fiscal year as we did not receive our ARPA funds as anticipated.
- The AAA did receive our ARPA funds January 2022 in the amount of \$956,812. The amount is a little lower than we were told from April 2021 as the SUA took out Routt County's share. These funds have not been allocated yet. The AAA anticipates using some of the funding for SFY23. The AAA has until September 2024 to spend the funds.
- The AAA was also informed that we will be receiving Public Health ARPA funds. The funds are to be used to increase the number of public health professionals within the aging and disability networks to support the public health of older adults and people with disabilities. The AAA has reached out to public health departments in Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, and Rio Blanco counties to see if there is a need for the funding.
- The AAA finished on-site evaluations in early December. Five providers had to complete corrective action plans: Routt County Council on Aging, Rio Blanco County, NW Options LTC ADRC, Moffat County Housing Authority, and Senior Daybreak of Hilltop.
- The SUA completed their desk evaluation of the AAA the week of January 17, 2022. The SUA found two providers to be out of compliance with Food Safety Training for paid staff. No corrective action plan was required as the AAA noted the compliance issues during on-site evaluations with providers, and providers already submitted corrective action plans to AAA.

- The AAA is transitioning the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) in Routt County to Region 12 AAA April 1, 2022, per the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies request.
- Legislation:
  - HB22-1031 Consumer Right in Repair of Wheelchair
  - HB22-1035 Modernization of the Older Coloradans Act
  - HB22-1119 Visitation Requirement Health Facilities
  - HB22-1209 Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging (SAPGA) Sunsetting
  - SB22-053 Health Facility Visits During Pandemic
  - SB22-072 Grant Incentive to Incentivize Home Use for Renters
  - SB22-079 Dementia Training
  - SB22-093 Expand Senior and Veteran Property Tax Exemptions
  - SB22-111 Infection Prevention Grant to NF
- According to the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics there are 160,863 veterans who are 65+ in the State of Colorado. Below is a breakdown by county:
  - Garfield: 1367
  - Mesa: 5,883
  - Moffat: 377
  - Rio Blanco: 190
  - Routt: 777

The total for the region is 8,594 or 5.3% of the 65+ veteran population in Colorado. In 2020-2021 the AAA served 334 veterans.