



MINUTES
AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING
June 15, 2022
9:00 am to 1:30 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 – Chairman Mike Samson, called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes – Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes; Ginny Love seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Bonnie Petersen reported on the May 2022 financials. The balance sheet as of May 31, 2022, was described with assets described, deferred revenue explained, accounts receivable described and deferred future revenues were described including grants that are pending payments. The Profit and Loss statement as of May 2022 was described. Income was explained including that income was \$43,000, with \$27,000 from an EDA grant, \$10,000 from a Cares Act grant, and the balance was dues; on track with expenses year-to-date; grant expenses are in contra accounts; revenue is ahead of track for the budget; net income of \$4,652; overall, we are bringing in more revenue than budgeted, and less expenses than budgeted. The Check Register report as of 6/9/22 was described. The rent expense for Jeff Tripp was explained and those expenses come out of the Cares Act grant. The Accounts Receivable report as of 6/9/22 was described. The total A/R was explained, including a large amount due for EDA grant draw down; Oak Creek membership still needs paid and Bonnie plans to reach out to them; other amounts due are for contribution project fees. Lisa Piering made a motion to approve the financial report; Chris Nichols seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Project and Committee Reports:

Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of AAA efforts. One of their providers, Judy Martin was nominated for an award. She won the award. Award ceremony will be June 16th in Colorado Springs. Congratulations were made to her. Mike commented that she is well deserving of the award. AAA received a large amount of grant funding from the state and is working on getting contracts out to providers. They are working on getting contract amendments due to Routt County leaving the area. State unit on aging is transitioning to a new database (salesforce). Routt county ombudsman is retiring at the end of this month, Eva Gibbon. She will volunteer to be a backup after she retires. On June 28th they will be interviewing for the new position in Mesa County. If AGNC is interested in being on the panel, please let Heather know. Final list of community conversations was discussed. They have begun work with a national research center to send out the community assessment survey which is done every four years. The survey helps to determine the plan for the next four years. Copies of the fliers were emailed to the board members. A question was asked about how the survey is being publicized. Heather replied that flyers are being sent out, as well as social media and print ads. Heather's written report can be seen at the end of these minutes as Appendix A.

Broadband update – Corey Bryndal – Corey Bryndal with Region 10 provided an overview of broadband expansion efforts. Region 10 was awarded \$4 million by DOLA for broadband along I-70. There are 2 carrier neutral locations in Garfield County. Region 10 will offer extra fiber cabling to move the project along. Locations are Glenwood Springs and Rifle, and the city collaboration has been very good. The EIAF board met a couple weeks ago with local presentations. The committee voted to advance the negotiations with New Castle, Parachute, and Silt. Mesa county has identified Clifton, Orchard Mesa, Redlands, north of Fruita, Loma and Mack and locations in need. They did an RFP and hired a consultant to identify routes before going to bid. They have updated the budgets for the CNLs, which will be prefab buildings, and are working with vendors for accurate costs. Presentations were made to EIAF committee from Collbran and Palisade. Corey met with Grand Junction officials to connect to the building next to city hall which could house a central data center where all the CNLs could home back to. The facility would build in city hall next to the Merrill Lynch building and connect the two buildings and could give Grand Junction additional capacity to keep encouraging broadband in the area. They are looking at additional funding for private companies to come in. There is not space left in the Merrill Lynch building, so this could be a good solution. Dana Hlavac commented that all the applications for broadband will be awarded in the area, with 7 projects total. Many expressed their gratitude to Corey.

Legislative update – Richard Orf provided a legislative update and commented that not much has occurred since the last board meeting. The current focus is on the primary elections. The deadline to veto or sign bills was June 10th and there were only 4 vetoes. There are 600 new laws on the books as result of the 2022 session. They are now moving into interim committees and meetings begin at various times this summer. Initiatives were discussed, including campaign finances, liquor licenses, and investor-owned utilities profits. Signatures for the initiatives are due August 8th. Grant funding bills are a concern in that the funding is not very well organized, and they need capacity building to help write grants at the local level. Richard reported that many people are talking about it and are trying to find a way to address this. Jeff Comstock asked about interim committees on water. Richard said there is a bill proposed in draft stage to create a temporary, limited, non-water right, but was not introduced. They anticipate the concept to come back up for a tourism development, but no one wanted to add water rights. It is existing as a concept at this point and the finer details need to be hammered out.

Audit Presentation – Paul Miller, CPA provided an overview of the 2021 Audit Report. The auditor’s opinion page was discussed and nothing in the financial statements were found to be misleading. Paul encouraged the board to ask questions on any financial statements. He emphasized that the board is the last set of eyes to look at the financial information. The management discussion and analysis section was discussed and is a good place to review prior years and compare. The Balance Sheet was discussed, including the AAoA funds being receivables and payments, and allocating them to the proper accounting year. He noted that there is a correction from DWC to Cares Act Grant. The Statement of Revenue was discussed, including profit of \$87,661. Footnotes were discussed, and how they explain accounting principles and estimates, etc. Notes were discussed. They make explanations to the amounts reported in the financial statements. Budget and actual statement was discussed. Paul asked that the board pay attention to line items over spent and explained that they are not critical if we know why and can adjust for next year budgets. Compliance reports were discussed in relation to the AAoA funds. Page 21 is federal funds including AAoA. He did not find any questionable costs. He commented that we rely on Mesa County to monitor the proper use of the AAoA funds. Lisa Piering asked for a hard copy before moving to approve the audit. They will be sent out and will be approved next month, after Paul has made necessary corrections.

Consideration of Resolution – Defining Legislative Jurisdiction and Authority on Federal Lands – Brandon Siegfried with publiclandjurisdiction.com gave an overview of a resolution regarding federal enclaves and the definition of jurisdiction on federal lands. An example of a federal enclave would be RNP or Mesa Verde. He shared a little about the website and explained that his format is education. He stated there is a lack of education, and that is why he wanted to launch the website. He went over the main page of the website and how to navigate to the different items. He went over the menu bar and the available items there. He stated that 60%+ of our counties

PO BOX 593 GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81502 PHONE 970-665-1095 WWW.AGNC.ORG

are federal lands. He researched a lot about jurisdiction on federal lands. Bonnie asked what the end goal of the resolution is, and he said it is education. Bonnie asked what that would look like. He stated that he wants to identify areas of federal overreach. This starts with resolutions at the county level, and then move to state level. He wants to educate about the rules as they already exist. They have not been successful yet passing any legislation. MoU's are in existence for the counties and federal lands, but he believes they are not well understood. Jeff Comstock commented that the topics in the resolution are listed well, but there is always another side to it and the counties try to work with the federal organizations to trade authorities. Jeff said that it may too complex for a resolution. Brandon said those issues are management issues and are separate from his resolution. Brandon went over the resolution from the top. Mike Samson asked some questions about conflict and how it is resolved, including questions about coordinating law enforcement. Jeff Comstock asked if there is something that has happened that this resolution needs to address. Brandon said no and this is just to clarify and educate. Mike Samson said we will put the resolution on the next agenda so that everyone has time to review the resolution thoroughly. If anyone has more questions, please contact Brandon.

Nuclear Reactor Program Discussion – Senator Bob Rankin – Mike Samson spoke about a discussion he had on June 14th with local leaders about the potential for atomic energy in NW Colorado, and then turned the time over to Sen. Rankin. Sen. Rankin expressed his thanks to AGNC for sponsoring this effort. He stated that we have some very optimistic transition goals in the state regarding decarbonizing. Whether we agree with these goals, he said they exist and are driving a lot of actions at the state level. A substantial amount of money is being spent on renewable energy. The energy office is increasing up to 100 people, focusing on solar and wind, which means more storage and transmission lines. He has argued that they are bypassing natural gas, and a total disregard for small reactor nuclear energy. The environmental lobby is anti-nuclear and is strong in our state. Within that environment, he ran a bill that turned out to be killed in committee for an assessment of nuclear energy. The testimony on the bill started out positive, but the opponents brought up many environmental concerns. After the session, he started thinking about what can be done for western Colorado. He teamed up with Tim Foster to sponsor an initiative to implement small nuclear development. He talked about multiple studies that have been done, but none talk about replacing the energy source, work force, and taxes. He stated that if nuclear is a possibility, we ought to look at it. Sen. Rankin then introduced the document he handed out. An advisory council has been put together, outlined on the document with the addition of Peter Brixius. Bonnie suggested we add a commissioner from Moffat County, and Mike Samson suggested Jeff Comstock. Sen. Rankin stated that AGNC is needed as a governmental entity to act as the agent. They have a visit to Craig scheduled for August 2nd to meet with the community. Along the way they have explored Grant opportunities. They look at this as a two-part initiative – the first part is a feasibility study, with three main objectives – work force, utility companies and expenses, supporting the states goals of transitioning to renewable energy. This is needed to optimize solar and wind resources. Christine King will be attending the meeting on August 2nd. Small reactors are being built in Wyoming and Idaho. Notable efforts throughout the world were discussed. NuScale and TerraPower are the two main companies involved. The idea is to use the current facility at Craig to build one of these small nuclear plants, using the existing infrastructure and work force. One objection from the state was to wait and see what happens in other states. Sen. Rankin thinks we need to do it now because we have one of the most attractive places to make this happen in Craig and the NW area. The document listed several questions that will probably need addressed. He talked about the deadlines for grant applications. He would like to present something that the state can't refuse, but we must be very organized moving forward. A question was asked about what area the reactor would serve. That would be up to the provider, but the answer could be yes. Chris Nichols asked if there are seismic concerns. Sen. Rankin stated that small modules are less susceptible to seismic activity. Bonnie Petersen talked about the safety factor and how the small nuclear reactors use physics for automatic shutdowns when needed. Bonnie also talked about creating a hybrid nuclear and hydrogen plant. Waste management was discussed. Plants store their own nuclear waste, and it is a sensitive issue about what to do with the waste. There are studies out that say the small nuclear sites creates more waste, but that information is being disputed and they do not create any more waste than the large reactors. Jeff Comstock commented that he is very excited that a state legislator is pushing this. He asked how we can build the bridges with the state leadership. Sen. Rankin wants to go back and get more support from the legislators, with extensive studies and support from the PUC. He feels like we have a high probability of getting it done. Rep. Dylan Roberts commented that he thinks there could be bipartisan support, and support from both the House and the Senate. There may be some tension from

the Colorado energy office. Uranium supply was discussed and limited supply due to the Ukrainian war. They are also looking at ways to reprocess the spent nuclear rods. Chris Nichols asked about the economic viability. Sen. Rankin said that studies have been done about this and he can reference those studies for economic modeling. Bonnie Petersen asked if we could do a study to show the gap in the renewable energy planning and how nuclear can bridge that gap. Sen. Rankin talked about storage and transmission of stored energy can possibly solve the problem, based on cost. Bonnie commented on the strain on current land availability. Sen. Rankin asked how AGNC wants to be involved – including handling the money, and community outreach. Sen. Rankin talked about the public meeting on August 2nd, and that it may need to be invite only. Jeff Comstock asked that AGNC have input on the letter of intent for the grant application. Sen. Rankin's chief of staff, Jake, can help answer questions as well. It was determined that AGNC would be the fiscal agent, and the grant applicant. A motion to make AGNC the fiscal agent for the nuclear energy study was made by Chris Nichols, a second to the motion was made by Lisa Piering, and the motion passed unanimously.

House Session Overview – Rep. Dylan Roberts – Rep. Roberts reported on the legislative session and commented that it was defined by significant funding from the rescue plan and how to spend those dollars. Task forces were created using legislator and local officials – housing, behavioral and mental health, work force and economic recovery - large investment into affordable housing and is one of the top concerns. They passed a few bills to help with housing, including housing manufacturing. \$400 million was allocated to mental health including work force and funding for more vets in non-metro areas. Work force and economic recovery was discussed including higher education, and they bought down the unemployment trust fund by \$600 million. The state budget was discussed including education and wildfire funding. He commented that it was a strong year for the budget. They cut property taxes for childcare centers. There was more funding for the Just Transition office in the amount of \$15 million, with \$10 million to workforce and \$5 million to capital projects. Wildfire preparedness and response was addressed. Bill Carlson asked about the bill passed lowering property taxes and how that might affect small towns and their services. The impacts to the fire departments were discussed. Rep. Roberts stated that the bill reduces property taxes to offset the impact to the state, therefore the state will backfill that money. The maximum impact on the fire department is that the state replaces 90% of the loss, up to 100% for rural fire departments. Sen. Rankin said when the state reduces property taxes, they must make up the difference. The assessors will make the calculations and the state will pay the difference. Carolyn Tucker commented that they are grateful for the work that has been done to help with housing and work force issues. Rep. Roberts spoke about a medical work force bill that they passed to help with that workforce. Chris Nichols asked about the affordable housing bill and the AMI it is based on. Rep. Roberts stated that the bill is HB 22-1304 and the AMI for rural areas is up to 140% and resort areas is up to 170%. The goal of the bill was to raise the AMI.

Joyce Rankin – Colorado State Board of Education Representative – Joyce Rankin gave a report on the state board of education. She discussed the need for students to come into the professions that are lacking work force. The need for daycare was discussed, and how to educate a work force for that industry. Daycare is a new department in education, and they are still working on how this will function. Social studies standards were discussed. Bonnie Petersen asked a question about a report about full day kindergarten and if there is any data about which school districts do not offer full day kindergarten. They have not seen anything as far as reports go, but all school districts have full day kindergarten, and they take this as good news. They reported that 30,000 students did not return from the pandemic. Reading at grade level was discussed. Training is being required to bring teachers up to the current requirements. The science of reading is evolving, and they need to update the training, accordingly, including scope and sequence, and success from other states. Carolyn Tucker asked Joyce if they could talk more about the challenges and opportunities in Garfield County. Tinker Duclou talked about how much they are investing in early childhood education at CMC, but the difficulty is getting new students, and the lack of livable wages for the profession.

Chairman Samson Comments – Chairman Samson commented that he appreciates the commissioner from Rio Blanco County, Ginny Love, and her dedication so far. He said he loves AGNC and has previously served on Rifle city council and as a result has worked with AGNC since 1979. He stated that there are all kinds of people that help AGNC, but that we are a unique group with common goals and interests that fight hard. He then presented an

appreciation award to Rep. Dylan Roberts. He commented that as a state representative, he has helped with a lot of bills and that his frustrations have been our frustrations. He helped us with build back better applications, and was diligent in his efforts, even though the applications were rejected. Rep. Roberts stated that he loves western Colorado and looks forward to continuing the work with us. Ray Beck congratulated Rep. Roberts and said thank you for his work on the Just Transition bill and thank you to the Rankins for their work and looks forward to the work on the nuclear study. He said thank you to Mike Samson and Bonnie Petersen and commented on Bonnie's work ethic and leadership.

Federal Delegate Updates

Hilary Henry with Sen. Bennet – Hilary stated that last week Sen. Bennet chaired a hearing on the western water crisis where they discussed the drought impact on farmers, ranchers, forests. There was expert testimony as well. She stated that you can see the subcommittee hearing online. Round tables are planned around the state, trying to connect with veterans to better understand their needs. They are working on the appropriations process.

Janeth Stanclie with Sen. Hickenlooper – Janeth stated that CDS requests have been received. They have received submitted requests for Moffat County and Rio Blanco County, as well as several from Garfield County, including the city of Rifle. The list is public and can be seen on their website. This is the first step in the process. They will keep everyone posted in the process. Veterans' bills were discussed, including extending RECA.

Dana Hlavac – DOLA NW Regional Manager – Dana stated that the NW region unofficially set a record for number of grants awarded this cycle. 11 applications were received and there were 11 awards. They are preparing for the next cycle which opens on August 1st and closes on September 1st. He asked that everyone should start planning now to apply. He stated that there is new funding coming from HB 22-1304, a big housing bill focusing on workforce housing. Parameters for that program are still being finalized. There is also water money coming for wastewater and clean water treatment programs. The disadvantaged communities' definitions have been expanded, and most communities on the western slope should now qualify. Bonnie Petersen asked if the Wolf Creek Reservoir might qualify for some of this money. Dana said HB 22-1304 probably does not apply, but there may be other sources available.

Administrative Update – Bonnie Petersen provided an update on the following topics:

- She is pleased to be working with Sen. Rankin on the Nuclear Study and hopes we can get the momentum to make that happen.
- We continue to work with aerospace companies to bring them to NW Colorado.
- Working with CNCC to get grant funding for their aviation program, including maintenance and pilots. Faculty is needed to keep the program going.
- She attended the Colorado Mining Association conference last week in Grand Junction. There were interesting presentations, including a fossil fuels mining presentation about how to develop rare earth elements out of a uranium mill. They might be a good connection for the nuclear study. CMA asked AGNC and others to present about their organizations, which Bonnie did.
- Last week we learned that our ED summit on August 25th will now conflict with a School of Mines/CMU conference on the future of energy on August 24th and 25th. We are looking at rescheduling into September to focus on housing and agriculture. Our original speakers were going to focus on energy, and she is going to see if they can present at the CMU conference. We would like to combine our September board meeting with the ED summit to accommodate this change, having the board meeting first, then adjourning for the ED summit the rest of the day. Attending board members agreed that this would be a good idea and gave her the go ahead for that change.

New Business – *Next meeting July 20, 2022, CNCC, 2801 W. 9th Street (Library), Craig, CO 81625*

Adjournment – **meeting was adjourned at 1:27 pm.**

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Chris Nichols	Bill Carlson
Dana Hlavac	Jeff Engell
Richard Orf	Christina Oxley
Heather Jones	Carolyn Tucker
Janeth Stancle	Ray Beck
Tinker Duclo	Corey Bryndal
Lisa Piering	Cody Davis
Jeannie Caldwell	Lisa Jones
Ellen Turner	Carly Thomson
Tiffany Pehl	Johnny McFarland
Bob Rankin	Shannon Scott
Jeff Comstock	Margie Joy
Dylan Roberts	Paul Miller
Mike Samson	Hilary Henry
Ginny Love	Peter Brixius
Toni Barrett	Jeff Layman
Bonnie Petersen	Sarah Carlisle
Jeff Tripp	
Joyce Rankin	

APPENDIX A



Updates from AAA 06/15/2022:

- Judy Martin from Garfield County Senior Nutrition Programs was nominated for the Allen Buckingham Senior Leadership Award. This award is given out by the Colorado Commission on Aging to individuals who show exemplary leadership, experience, and wisdom over time. He/she must participate and contribute to activities that promote well-being and quality of life for seniors. AND Judy won!! The award ceremony will be in-person/virtual on June 16th 2022.
- The AAA received SB290 fund on 6/9/2022. The AAA is working on getting contracts out to providers now that the funding has been received.
- The AAA is working on getting SFY23 contract amendments out to providers.
- The State Unit on Aging (SUA) is in the process of transitioning to a new database. The SUA will be using a database built by Salesforce. Many state agencies already use Salesforce: Adult Protection, Medicaid, Food Assistance.
- Eva Gibbon LTC Ombudsman will be retiring at the end of June. She will stay on as a volunteer and/or back-up for Routt, Rio Blanco, and Moffat counties. The AAA thanks Eva for her years of service and advocacy residents in facilities.
- The AAA will be holding interviews on 6/28/2022 for the new Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman. I received 28 applications. I will be interviewing 10 of the applicants. The State Ombudsman and a Mesa County ombudsman will be involved in the interview process.
- Here is the updated Community Conversations schedule:
 - Friday, June 24th 10am-12pm Central Library Grand Junction
 - Friday, June 24th 1:30pm-3:30pm Fruita Community Center
 - Thursday, June 30th 10am-12pm Palisade Library
 - Monday, July 11th 1pm-3pm Rifle Library
 - Tuesday, July 26th 1pm-3pm GWS Library
 - Tuesday, August 23rd 1-3pm Senior Social Center in Craig
 - Monday, August 29th 9:30am-11:30am Radino Senior Center
 - Tuesday, August 30th from 9:30am-11:30am Fairfield in Meeker
- The AAA will also begin working with the National Research Center/Polco to mail out the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA) to the region. The CASOA is another tool the AAA will use in determining the next four year plan for the AAA.