



MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

April 23, 2025

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Grand Valley Recreation Center, 398 Aroyo Drive, Battlement Mesa, CO 81635

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 – Immediate Past Chairman and Treasurer Mike Samson called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes – Lisa Piering made a motion to approve the March 19, 2025, meeting minutes; Stan Harbaugh seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the March 2025 financials. Tiffany presented the profit and loss statement and explained the disbursement of revenue throughout the year. Tiffany said that there will be about \$40K coming in for the 1st quarter contribution project fees. The balance sheet was explained, and she said she did get information for possible investments, but she hasn't had time to work on it yet. She reviewed the accounts receivable, including the \$75K for the ECA-2 grant. The check register was reviewed. Stan Harbaugh asked about the contra accounts and the negative expenses and Tiffany explained it was due to the grant work. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Lisa Piering, seconded by Jeff Comstock, and the motion passed unanimously.

Votes for Approval:

JOLT Letter and Resolution - Tiffany Dickenson presented a resolution and explained that last month Ray Beck asked AGNC to prepare an invitation and resolution to invite Doug Bergum to the 2026 JOLT Energy Conference. She said that the board previously approved the creation of these items, and Ray explained the resolution that was created. He spoke about the strength in collaboration on the letter and having multiple entities to sign the resolution and invitation letters. Tiffany explained the documents that were presented for approval. Jeff Comstock commented on the support from the city of Craig and county of Moffat. Mike Samson commented that having Doug Bergum attend would increase interest in the conference. Jeff Comstock made a motion for approval of a letter and resolution inviting Doug Bergum to the 2026 JOLT Energy Conference, Cody Davis seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

AGNC Officer Elections - Cody Davis opened the nominations for AGNC board officer elections. Mike Samson nominated Cody Davis for chairman, Lisa Piering seconded the nomination, and the board unanimously voted to elect Cody Davis for AGNC Board Chairman. Cody Davis nominated Doug Overton for vice chairman, Mike Samson seconded the nomination, and the board unanimously voted to elect Doug Overton for

AGNC Board Vice Chairman. Mike Samson nominated Grady Hazelton for treasurer, Stan Harbaugh seconded the nomination, and the board unanimously voted to elect Grady Hazelton for AGNC Treasurer.

Project and Committee Reports:

NCEI Update – Matt Solomon reported by zoom and provided an overview of NCEI efforts as outlined in his written report of listed activities. He commented that since 1040 passed he is seeing an increase from the national level for the NCEI efforts. He reported that the federal funding has now been released and should be received in the next week. Mike Samson thanked Matt for his work and asked if he has been in touch with Kirby Winn, Matt said he has not, and Mike said he would get him in touch with him. Mike also said he would like Matt to get in touch with the Rifle Rotary Club for a presentation and he will give Matt's number to them. Matt's report is attached as Appendix A.

Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of AAA efforts as outlined in her written report. Heather spoke about the recent draft budget from the federal level and the severe cuts that will take place. She said they are very concerned about the ramifications. She spoke about the different programs that would be eliminated because of the cuts. She asked if AGNC would be willing to write a letter to our federal delegates to oppose the budget cuts and possible elimination of the Older American Acts programs. Mike Samson commented that he doesn't think it would be very wise for the federal budget to be cut for AAA. He asked where this came from, and Heather said she was not sure and that everyone was quite shocked when they were informed about the cuts. Cody asked what had already been cut, and Heather spoke about the elimination of jobs. She asked that AGNC oppose the budget cuts and ask for a consolidation of services. Callie Scritchfield commented that she has been careful and hesitant to ask the administration to stop specific cuts, but that she agrees with the consolidation. Mike Samson said he agrees 90% with Callie, and he assumes the cuts are coming from DOGE, but he believes there have been unintended consequences and he believes we need to stand up and say that it's not right or a sound decision. Vinnie Tomasulo asked how much funding would be lost in our region for AAA, and if the communities would be asked to pick up the tab. Heather said it would be about a \$150K loss out of the \$2.1M budget for the next year for AAA in our region. Mike spoke about the strain it puts on local communities. Vinnie spoke about the state demographer's presentation and the number of aging citizens that is growing rapidly. Carolyn Tucker commented that is true and there will be an increase in our region of aging adults. Tony Haschke commented on the large number of applications that they receive for assistance from Holy Cross Energy's Roundup Foundation. Ray Beck suggested that our support would help the Veterans, as well. Heather commented that they target their services to low income and at-risk individuals. Paul Allen commented that this could be the kind of feedback the federal administration needs to help them make the best decisions. Perry Will commented that cuts on the back of our seniors are not the best way to make cuts to the federal budget. Alicia Gresley commented on the struggle they see in the Rifle community to fund the senior center and activities, and that the letter should address real experiences in these communities. Mike Samson made a motion for AGNC to send a letter opposing the federal budget cuts to the Older Americans Act, Stan Harbaugh seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Heather's report is attached as Appendix B.

CDLE Workforce Update – Carolyn Tucker gave a PowerPoint presentation by zoom including unemployment rates in the region, which are ticking up. She presented an overview of the March Colorado employment situation. She spoke about other workforce trends, including QB Energy's recent acquisition of Caerus Energy, which may be a positive economic driver for the region. She spoke about the number of open jobs in the state. She also spoke about the CVRWC Western Zone workforce development activities. She spoke about the uncertainty in several areas, including tourism and international travelers. She presented a new and improved platform for the state of Colorado workforce system, replacing a platform that was originally built in 1998. Ray Beck commented on the affordable housing crisis and asked what the general definition of

affordable housing might be. Carolyn commented on how it differs from one community to the next. She said that she will work on a presentation for affordable housing.

Prosono – Andrea Stilles-Pulas presented the finalized AGNC Strategic Plan for 2025-2028. She presented the project objectives and activities. She spoke about the five main questions that the process serves to answer. She spoke about the plan being a 3-year plan. David Thurow presented by zoom and introduced the plan. He spoke about AGNC's perceived value including advocating, supporting and convening. He presented the plan, and the printed copy was passed out to the audience. He spoke about the mission and vision statements, as well as the brand pillars. He spoke about the 3 areas of operation for AGNC. He presented the guiding pillars and the coherent actions. He spoke about the implementation plan, which will be collaborative, data informed and adaptable. David spoke about board engagement and opportunities for additional collaboration. He said that board member engagement and supporting key areas is critical to the success of AGNC's strategy. He spoke about the voting tool that will be introduced in the coming months to focus on what advocacy needs exist within the region. He also spoke about the member portal on the new website that will be introduced in the coming months, as well. Andrea then spoke about the success of AGNC and the need for members to support AGNC. She opened the room for discussion, and Mike Samson commented that he saw AGNC at its lowest point about 16 years ago and that it has come a long way and he is proud of the organization. He said that he would like to see more impact at the state legislator, and that we need to strengthen our connections. He spoke about his concerns with the current state legislature and the need to be constantly engaged in making better decisions at the state level. He said that he believes AGNC needs to seek out like minded organizations to collaborate with in these efforts. Alicia Gresley commented that she appreciates the support of AGNC and would like to see more people at the table for the collaboration piece. Vinnie Tomasulo spoke about the importance of letting people know what AGNC has accomplished to give validity to future collaborations. JJ Fletcher spoke about identifying the opportunities to make a difference and leverage community assets. Stan Harbaugh spoke about the perception of AGNC and the need to better educate everyone about what AGNC does, which may change the perception of AGNC as only advocating for oil and gas. Tiffany Dickenson spoke and said that she is excited for the plan and is looking forward to implementing it and seeing the progress that we can make with it. She said that she is always happy to make a presentation to any community about AGNC. Mistalynn Meyeraan also spoke about the work that has been done to create the plan and that it will not sit on a shelf but will be used in AGNC's daily work.

SYNC - Teri Cavanagh gave a PowerPoint presentation about the marketing work and a new website that has been launched. She spoke about the "Resources to Power the New American Frontier," as a tagline for AGNC. She spoke about the objective of AGNC, and the strategy for implementing it. She presented the tactics that were identified and implemented. She spoke about the brand standards for AGNC. She spoke about the new website and the process for creating and implementing it. She then presented the key pages of the website including maps, enterprise zone, business toolkit, members, and the members portal area. She spoke about the automated registration and contact forms. She spoke about the work that was done with Prosono and how it influenced the website design. She spoke about the process improvement that will constantly take place. Mike Samson commented that Mistalynn Meyeraan has earned her money, and he hopes that we reach out to chambers of commerce. He also said that he would like AGNC to present to the county commissioners.

Roan Creek Bike Works - John Giffin gave a PowerPoint presentation about a proposed bike trail in De Beque. He said that the closest trails are currently in Palisade and Rifle, and they see a need for trails closer. He said they have proposed trails on town property that will be bike optimized. He presented a map showing the proposed location which is just north of De Beque. He said that the site borders BLM land, allowing for future trail connections. He presented the concept and design for the trails. He spoke about the amenities and the management and ongoing maintenance of the trails. He spoke about community involvement and funding. He spoke about the grant application that was submitted by the town of De Beque to AGNC for the first trail that would be a total cost of about \$10K with the grant paying for \$5K and the town matching the other \$5K.

Care' McInnis spoke about the collaboration with the town of De Beque and Roan Creek Bikeworks. John spoke about the work that needs to take place with the BLM to expand the trails.

JOLT - Ray Beck presented scholarship awards to Rifle High School Students Oliver Maness and Jefferson Torres for the JOLT 2025 Energy Summit.

Tri-State - Sarah Carlisle presented an update regarding their electric resource planning process, to be filed with the PUC. She spoke about a new gas plant and battery storage facilities. Jeff Comstock spoke about the settlement that the community will be receiving from Tri-State which will help to make up for some of the property taxes that will be lost, as well as new jobs. She asked for supportive comments and presented the support letter form. She said the deadline for submitting comments is June 10. Cody Davis asked if the new gas plant will be replacing one of the closed coal structures. Sarah said it will use some of the infrastructure, but there will be new construction as well. Ray Beck asked where the battery storage locations will be, and Sarah said that in our region they will be in Moffat County and the west end of Montrose County. JJ Fletcher asked if any of these locations would be implementing more solar panels, and Sarah said these projects do not include solar panels, but they do have an ongoing solar project just south of the Craig power station. Callie Scritchfield asked where the source of natural gas would be, and Sarah said she would look it up and let her know. Callie also asked how many acres the solar farm located south of Craig is, and Jeff Comstock said it is about 900 acres, and Sara said it is 145 megawatts. Mike Samson made a motion for AGNC to write a letter of support, Jeff Comstock seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Colo Dept of Natural Resources - Tim Mauck, Deputy Director spoke about the Northern Colorado Outdoor Initiative. He said that as a former county commissioner for Clear Creek County he was concerned about the impacts of outdoor recreation. He said that it is important for counties to be involved due to the land use issues in the counties. He said they created regional partnership initiatives within the state. He said this regional planning helps provide resources to local communities. Jeff Comstock said that Moffat and Rio Blanco counties are one planning zone. Jeff said that funding was received from the BLM through a grant, but the funding was turned over to Keystone and a planning effort was initiated without a large amount of local involvement with Moffat and Rio Blanco County representation. Jeff said that engagement was happening with people who were not living in the counties. He said they wrote a letter to Tim asking for a pause so that more local involvement could be initiated. Tim said that GOCO will be providing additional funding, and this is an opportunity for more collaboration with local communities. He said that Keystone recognized they don't have the right people at the local level in the conversation. Tim said they need a fiscal agent to administer the funds. Callie Scritchfield commented that local people need to make decisions on how to implement the funds. She emphasized that local engagement is key and asked for a pause until the local people can engage. John Swartout joined online and said that he appreciates Tim being at the meeting and starting this discussion. Alicia Gresley asked what we need to do to be heard as a region with individual needs based on the communities. Jeff Comstock commented that the two counties in Moffat and Rio Blanco may have different priorities than what is being presented. Callie Scritchfield asked if Tim would meet with the 2 counties to discuss their priorities and how to use the funding, and Tim said that he would. Tiffany Dickenson commented that she is not happy with how Keystone has implemented local engagement.

Federal Delegate Update –

Riley Scot with Rep. Hurd's office reported he has been in the district for the past two weeks. She said he has introduced new bills for wetland conservation and NASA. She said he cosponsored the Trade Review Act. She said that he also cosponsored the Fight Fentanyl Act, and the Endangered Species Reform Act. She reported that he cosigned a letter asking that the final budget not include cuts to Medicaid. She spoke about the requests that have been sent out for feedback. She also said there is a podcast called "Hurd is in the House," available on YouTube. She encouraged everyone to visit the website and sign up for the newsletter. Ray Beck asked if Rep.

Hurd could help get Doug Bergum to next year's energy summit, and Riley said she would pass that along to him.

Executive Director Update – Tiffany Dickenson provided a written report which is attached as Appendix C.

Tiffany Dickenson presented an appreciation gift to Lisa Piering, who is retiring, and this is her last meeting with AGNC

Mike Samson presented the Western States and Tribal Nations Energy Initiative, which is a request for financial support. He said they are asking for \$25K from our region. Jeff Comstock said it would be individual counties that would pay into the \$25K to be stakeholders. Mike asked that each county take it to their boards, and that each county would need to contribute about \$6K.

New Business –

Next meeting May 28, 2025, Meeker Fire Station, 240 7th Street, Meeker, CO 81641

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:34pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
William Dearing	Grady Hazelton
Ray Beck	Town of Silt
Callie Scritchfield	Melody Villard – Moffat County
Teri Cavanagh	Jeff Engell – CSU Extension
Lisa Piering	Matt Solomon
Allen Parker	Doug Overton
Jeannie Caldwell	Chris Nichols
Stan Harbaugh	Carolyn Tucker
Alex Morris	George Wear
Dan Birrer	Shannon Scott
Sarah Carlisle	Janeth Stancle – Sen. Hickenlooper
Toni Barrett	Clare Gilbert
Mistalynn Meyeraan	Tom Rugaard – Mayor of Parachute
Tiffany Dickenson	David Thurow – Prosono
Vinnie Tomasulo	Margaret Dioguardi
J.J. Fletcher	Kylie Wetnight – Prosono
Jeff Comstock	Kirstie McPherson – OJT
Cody Davis	John Swartout
Mike Samson	
Perry Will	
Heather Jones	
Riley Scott	
Alicia Gresley	
John Griffin	
Tony Haschke	

APPENDIX A

NCEI – AGNC Monthly meeting update(s)

March:

DC Meetings: Consortia, Dinners

Club 20

SXSW Panel

HB1040 – lots of movement happening quickly

C-LEAP with JOLT/ Ray Beck

ECA: Idaho Falls Forum and INL tour invite for Colorado elected officials

Funding Update: ENXW CEC, ECA Round 2

April:

Hours for year- more than double budgeted! Working hard and making good progress.

Glenwood Springs Rotary presentation

ECA Forum, presenting on panel, tour of lab

Regional, national, and industry meetings about NW Colorado

C-LEAP tracking, JOLT benchmark

KNFO Radio show with Russ Andrews

Wrapping up CBS work sessions; now digitizing and beginning to draft report

Federal funding/ regional hub still frozen, working to stand up with private equity.

GarCo E&E Symposium was amazing- well done.

Upcoming: Wyoming Energy Summit and SW Colorado Tribal Energy Conference

APPENDIX B



AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

Updates from AAA 04/23/2025:

- We completed our interviews for our open Community Outreach Manager/Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman position. We have hired Casey Ashlock to fill this position. Casey has been a Long-Term Care Ombudsman with us for 10 months now. With Casey's promotion, we now need to fill a vacant long-term care ombudsman position. This open position has been posted and closes 4/22/2025.
- The AAA virtually attended the April Aging Caucus on 4/8/2025. Mollie Bradley, Chief Policy Officer, with the Colorado Department of Human Services provided a high-level overview of recent national policy changes that may impact Colorado's work in the aging space. There was also discussion on the state budget and what it means for aging services in Colorado.
- The AAA is concerned about the dissolution of the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the potential ramifications. ACL was the federal agency currently responsible for overseeing the critical programs and services that help older adults and people with disabilities live well at home and in the community. It is crucial that the HHS reorganization does not:
 - Result in gaps in aging services,
 - Reduce resources for agencies and community-based organizations responsible for planning and delivering these services,
 - Ultimately lead to conditions where older Americans experience increased hunger, poor health, reduced safety, or decreased independence, while their family caregivers face greater burdens and stress.
- The AAA has not yet received a draft of our SFY26 budget. However, the State Unit on Aging (SUA) is suggesting AAAs conservatively budget based on 75% of current federal funds due to current unknowns at the federal level. The SUA does know that the \$2 million increase that the AAA's received this current fiscal year was a one-time event and not an ongoing increase as previously thought based on SB24-040.

Legislation:

- HB25-1016: The bill authorizes an occupational therapist to directly recommend or prescribe durable medical equipment to a patient without requesting the prescription from a licensed physician. Governor signed 3/31/2025.
- HB25-1065: The bill allows a person who is 70 years of age or older to choose to temporarily or permanently opt out of jury service. The bill allows a person who is out of the state because they are actively enrolled full-time at an out-of-state institution of higher education or because they are working

for an extended period of time out of the state to choose to temporarily opt out of jury service. House Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Refer Amended to Appropriations: 02/06/2025.

- HB25-1090: Concerning protections against deceptive pricing practices. Sent to the Governor 4/11/2025.

- HB25-1156: Concerning the extension of the two-year reduction in the valuation for assessment of qualified-senior primary residence real property relative to the valuation of assessment for all other residential real property so that it is permanent. House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations: 02/24/2025

- HB25-1162: This bill aims to streamline the reenrollment and eligibility verification process for Colorado's state medical assistance program, particularly for individuals with fixed incomes and those in need of long-term services and supports (LTSS). Senate Second Reading Passed—No Amendments: 4/11/2025.

- SB25-013: The bill extends a refundable income tax credit that is available for the income tax years commencing on January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2024, so that the credit is also available for the income tax years commencing on January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026. Senate Committee on Finance Refer Amended to Appropriations: 01/28/2025.

- SB25-079: The bill establishes regulations for virtual currency kiosks in Colorado. Key provisions include: Customer Disclosures: Operators must provide specific disclosures to customers using virtual currency kiosks; Transaction Receipts: Each customer must receive both printed and electronic receipts detailing their virtual currency transactions; Refund Policy: If a customer's first virtual currency transaction is to a wallet or exchange outside the U.S. and is later determined by law enforcement to be fraudulent, the operator must fully refund the transaction; Transaction Limit: A daily transaction limit of \$1,000 is set for each customer; Definitions: "Virtual currency" is defined as a digital unit used as a medium of exchange or stored value. "Virtual currency kiosk" refers to an electronic terminal facilitating the exchange of virtual currency for other currencies. This legislation aims to enhance consumer protection and regulate virtual currency transactions within the state. Introduced in House and assigned to Finance 3/3/2025.

- SB25-134: The bill proposes significant reforms to Colorado's guardianship and conservatorship laws by enacting the "Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Act," replacing the previous "Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act." Senate Committee on Judiciary Postpone Indefinitely: 4/9/2025.

- SB25-169: No later than January 1, 2026, the bill requires the department of human services to submit an application to the United States department of agriculture food and nutrition service to implement a restaurant meals program that allows eligible supplemental nutrition assistance program recipients to purchase hot or prepared foods at participating restaurants. Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural resources refer Amended to Appropriations 03/05/2025.

APPENDIX C

Executive Director Update

April 2025 Board Meeting

Board Members,

Spring is off to a fast start, and AGNC continues to stay busy on all fronts—advocacy, project support, and relationship-building across the region. Here are some key updates since our last meeting:

Regional Grant Navigator Program

We're pleased to announce that Year 3 funding for the Regional Grant Navigator program has been approved. Even better, it is our understanding that the program will now expand to cover *all* federal funding opportunities—not just IRA and IJA programs. This broader eligibility will allow us to assist more communities with a wider range of projects, and we expect it to significantly increase the program's reach and impact.

Mini-Grant Program

Seven mini-grants have been approved so far for the following communities:

- **New Castle** – Main Street Revitalization: Empty Lot Renovation
- **Meeker** – Economic Development Magazine
- **Rangely** – Dinosaur Sculpture Installation
- **Silt** – New Electrical Services at Veteran's Park
- **Palisade** – Electronic Pole Sign for Veterans Park Memorial
- **Fruita** – Security Camera for Community Center
- **Rifle** – Community Survey

One additional application is pending final approval. That leaves two mini-grants still available, awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. If you know of any eligible projects in your community, now is the time to reach out.

Economic Development Summit

Save-the-dates are going out soon for this year's Economic Development Summit, scheduled for August 26 in Rifle. The theme is *"The Competitive Advantage for Today's Pioneer,"* and we're building an agenda that highlights workforce, entrepreneurship, and innovation in rural Colorado. It promises to be one of our strongest events yet.

Conferences & Recognition

Earlier this month, I attended the Energy and Environment Symposium, while Mistalynn represented AGNC at the NADO/EDA Conference in Denver. We're incredibly proud to share that Mistalynn has been selected as one of just eight Emerging Leaders from a 10-state region for NADO's new Emerging Leaders Pilot Program for the EDA Denver District. This competitive initiative supports rising professionals who are advancing inclusive, forward-thinking economic development strategies. She'll participate in national leadership development sessions and represent rural Colorado in key federal policy conversations.

We also attended the Downtown Colorado Inc. “Get in the Game” Conference, where we had productive conversations with the Towns of Parachute and Silt about priorities and upcoming collaboration opportunities.

City of Grand Junction Presentation

I received a call from Cody Kennedy at the City of Grand Junction, who won his re-election bid and plans to place AGNC on the council’s agenda in May for a formal presentation. This presentation is intended to precede a vote by the Grand Junction City Council to rejoin AGNC as members. I’ll be attending to deliver the presentation and answer any questions, and I’d like to invite Chairman Cody Davis to join me if his schedule allows. This would be a significant step in restoring collaboration with one of the largest municipalities in our region.

Ballot Initiative #82 – Colorado Wildlife & Biodiversity Protection Act

A new statewide initiative—#82—has been filed and warrants close tracking. The Colorado Wildlife & Biodiversity Protection Act proposes establishing an independent Wildlife & Ecosystem Conservation Commission (WECC) with broad authority to manage ecosystem integrity, wildlife protections, and habitat corridors. It would also create a Colorado Wildlife Corridor Network and codify biodiversity protections regardless of changes to other conservation agencies. Our wolf coalition is engaged in tracking and responding to this initiative, and we’ll provide updates and recommendations as it progresses.

Leadership Transitions in Rangely

Please join me in welcoming Allen Parker, the new Town Manager for Rangely. At the same time, we extend a sincere thank you and farewell to Lisa Piering, who is retiring after years of dedicated leadership and regional service. Lisa has been a consistent and valued voice on our board, and she will be deeply missed.