



MINUTES
AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING
May 20, 2026
9:00 am – 1:30pm

Garfield County Administration Building, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 195 W. 14th Street, Rifle, CO 81650

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 Cody Davis called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

Approval of minutes – Mike Samson made a motion to approve the April 22, 2026, meeting minutes; Doug Overton seconded the motion; and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the financial statements for April, 2026. Tiffany presented the profit and loss and noted the enterprise zone contribution project fees income and the final mini grant payment. She presented the balance sheet noting the bank account balances. She presented the accounts receivable and noted the amounts due from Tri State and contribution projects. She reviewed the check register noting large payments to AAA and Jon Miller for his work on the RPI grant. She then reviewed the credit card purchases. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Doug Overton; the motion was seconded by Grady Hazelton; and the motion passed unanimously.

Votes for Approval:

Tiffany Dickenson presented two letters for ratification including a letter regarding CPW appointments. Mike Samson commented that the appointments to the CPW have been terrible and he said that AGNC needs to continue to be engaged in opposition to these appointments. Perry Will commented that he believes AGNC had a huge impact on the legislators. Tiffany then presented a letter of support for HB26-1614 which was written to support SBDC funding and requiring ratification. Tiffany described the reasoning behind the letter of support. She then presented a letter of support for NCIC to EDA for approval. Tiffany spoke about needing a vote for approval because EDA asked for the vote. She said we don't usually require a vote for EDA letters, but it is needed because Routt County is included. A motion to ratify the two letters was made by Doug Overton; the motion was seconded by Mike Samson; and the motion passed unanimously. A motion to approve the EDA letter was made by Grady Hazelton; the motion was seconded by Mike Samson; and the motion passed unanimously.

Amicus Brief – Todd Starr joined via zoom and gave an update on the request for AGNC to join and fund an Amicus Brief regarding a lawsuit being brought to the Supreme Court by Boulder County against Suncor. He spoke about the bigger threat being the environmental impact of the suit. He spoke about the counties joining the brief and contributing to the expense. He noted that amount is about \$75K and AGNC will be responsible for about \$25K. Cody Davis said the brief will be submitted on May 21st. Doug Overton commented that

industry appreciates AGNC's support. Cody Davis commented that it is even more important than just industry and reaches to all aspects of tort litigation. A motion to approve AGNC joining and funding the Amicus Brief was made by Doug Overton; the motion was seconded by Mike Samson; and the motion passed unanimously.

Award Presentations - Cody Davis presented Tiffany Dickenson with a special award for her 10 years of service with AGNC. Mike Samson commented on the growth that he has seen with Tiffany and how proud he is of her. Ray Beck commented that he has seen her grow immensely and is grateful for her leadership. Perry Will commented that Tiffany writes impressively and her letters make a big impact. Cody Davis then presented the legislative champion award to Tiffany, as well. He spoke about the statewide coalitions that she has formed. He said the board unanimously chose her for the award.

Municipal Roundtable

Town of New Castle – Dave Reynolds said they wanted to congratulate Tiffany, as well. He spoke about the bridge replacement project, the roundabout project, a new 130-unit housing project, and a hotel/restaurant on the river. Rochelle Firth spoke about the roundtable meeting they will be hosting regarding the Colorado River. She also spoke about the town of Rico that they will be joining to present about how small towns get things done. They then presented Tiffany with a keychain to the city. Mike Samson asked when the completion date for the bridge will be, and Dave said they are hoping for the end of summer and will have some kind of ribbon cutting ceremony.

City of Rifle – Michael Clancy reported that they are nearing completion on Birch Park. He spoke about the comprehensive plan updates, the updates to land based codes, and the construction of a new bridge on Park Avenue. He said they have closed on the purchase of the Rifle Creek Golf Course, enhancing the water shed. He spoke about bids for repairs to streets and waterlines. Alicia Gresley said they have two candidates for the new police chief. Michael spoke about transportation and that there are now on-demand rides with PATS. He spoke about code updates for traffic improvements. Alicia spoke about the activities that are taking place for the summer. Michael spoke about the meeting they had with the governor and said that he did bring up the loss of severance tax.

City of Craig – Chris Nichols reported that the grand opening of the River Park will take place in June, and that there is a job posted for an assistant city manager/economic developer.

Town of Meeker – Margie Joy reported that appointments were made for a housing board with representation from employers. Tiffany Dickenson asked if Meeker is beginning to look into opportunity zones, and Margie said they would like more information. Tiffany said she will help with that.

Project and Committee Reports

Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones, NW CO AAoA Director joined via zoom and provided an overview of AAA efforts as outlined in her written report. She spoke about the performance measure surveys. She spoke about the emergency preparedness plan listing contacts. She spoke about community conversations that are wrapping up through June. She said they have not had a huge turnout. She spoke about the finalized state fiscal year 2027 budgets. She presented the detailed budget items to the board which is also included in her written report. She spoke about the amounts that were reviewed and recommended by the grant review committee. She spoke about the cuts that were made to the providers. She also explained that there will be no carryover from the previous budget. Perry Will asked if the ADRC program provides the meals program, and Heather noted that it is a separate item, as well as wellness programs. Mike Samson asked about the Valley Meals and More program and asked Heather to explain the program. Heather said that it began to receive funding after the pandemic and explained the requirements for the meals. Mike noted that he understands that CMC does not

work with Valley Meals, and that a private catering company is providing the meals. Heather said that is correct. She then presented the administration budget and explained the categories. She then presented the distribution of funding for services to the counties of Mesa, Garfield, Moffat and Rio Blanco. She explained that the amounts are based on the percentage of older populations in the communities. A motion to approve the proposed AAA annual budget was made by Mike Samson; the motion was seconded by Doug Overton; and the motion passed unanimously. Alicia Gresley commented that she is grateful for AAA recognizing the Senior Center in Rifle. Heather's report is attached as Appendix A.

DOLA – Dana Hlavac joined via zoom and spoke about the last funding cycle. He said the initial recommendations will go to the advisory committee. He spoke about various applications that are being moved forward. He said it was an extremely competitive round with almost \$36M in requests for \$12M available to award. He said another round of funding is doubtful with the outlook on severance funds. He said he will be covering an additional 5 counties and will be stretched thin.

Grants Update – Laura Kay Good presented a PowerPoint presentation including the spreadsheet showing the grants being administered by AGNC. She gave an overview of the RPI grant for the NWCO. She spoke about upcoming grants to watch. She then gave a presentation on an Open Rewards program. She spoke about the towns in Colorado currently participating. She spoke about it being a local rewards program that encourages local economic development by shopping locally. Alicia Gresley commented that similar programs that are run by local Chambers.

United Wolf Coalition – John Swartout reported via Zoom. He spoke about being thankful to the Orfs for all their work on the CPW commission appointments, as well as Tiffany's work. He said the incoming Governor will have up to 5, and maybe even 6, appointments to the commission. He commented there was a huge show of support at the CPW meeting in Grand Junction. He commented that Tiffany is well deserved of her awards. He said there is a request for comment from the USFWS due on June 5th at noon. He said it is very Colorado specific and is very important. He spoke about the compensation numbers being so high because of CPW not following the plan because of interference from the political level. He said there will be a news story coming out soon outlining the numbers. He said they are hopeful that no more wolves will be released until there is a new MOA with the USFWS. He said they have templates available if anyone needs help submitting comments. Tiffany noted that the noon deadline is eastern time, so that is 10am local time. Callie Scritchfield noted the handouts on the tables for the next CPW meeting and encouraged attendance. John said that county commissioners and AGNC showing up to CPW meetings has made a big difference. Tiffany suggested reaching out to the tribes and to New Mexico to submit comments. John said they have had some success with the tribes reaching out to the tribes in Oregon and Washington to block securing wolves from those states. Perry Will commented that they are also important in where the wolves are able to be released. John said a freeze of the MOA would be the best outcome.

JOLT Update – Tiffany Dickenson reported that Ray Beck asked her to announce the JOLT energy summit. She said that the AGNC meeting will take place in June at the Clifton Community Center from 1-5pm and will include a round table with Karen Budd-Fallon, who is also presenting at the JOLT summit. She said that Ray asked her to encourage everyone to spread the word for registrations.

2026 Legislative Wrap-Up – Richard Orf presented a 2026 Legislative Session Wrap Up via PowerPoint. He said that 627 bills were introduced and 449 passed with 180 killed. He spoke about budget constraints, bills killed on substance, reaction to federal administration, uncertainty about new Colorado leadership, and schism within both parties. Dianna Orf joined via zoom and said there was a lot of uncertainty this year. Mike Samson spoke about the possibility of redistricting. Ted Orf commented that there is a supreme court case that disallows it in between censuses. Dianna commented there were well over 400 initiatives filed, though many did not move forward, and that it may be a long ballot this year. Richard spoke about bills that were not introduced including

the green amendment, stream access, clean energy plan, restructuring Pinnacol for workers compensation insurance, and a natural gas workaround bill to head off Initiative 177. Dianna noted that there is an article in the Post Independent addressing the stream access issue. Bonnie Petersen asked if the bill is expected to come back next year, and Dianna said that she believes it will. Richard then spoke about housing and land use bills, noting that they were intended to make housing more affordable by allowing residences built on public parcels and splitting single-family resident lots. Alicia Gresley asked if more housing bills should be expected, and Richard said there will be more effort in the future. Richard spoke about economy bills including data center bills and coal transition community investment. Alicia Gresley commented on the difficulties facing local communities are facing regarding data centers and development. Richard then spoke about environment and natural resources bills and noted that wildlife habitat is the new land use prohibition tool. He spoke about bills that impacted local government authority, including property tax modifications, county commissioner redistricting and county enforcement authority. He then spoke about local government administration bills. He spoke about law enforcement and courts legislation, including scrutiny on municipal courts, enforcing more county level requirements on them. He said there was major legislation targeting the use of AI and camera enforcement out of fear of governmental usage. He spoke about energy bills including focus on adapting to existing environmental demands, nuclear energy and reauthorizing the PUC. He spoke about labor and workforce bills that pushed for more worker protections. He spoke about health services bills and noted that finding financial assistance for rural hospitals will be challenging. Bonnie Petersen asked about the funding from the big, beautiful bill that was allocated for rural health care. Delaney Deskin said that she understands that the governors are given the discretion to use the funds, and she believes that there is a website that has been opened by the governor for interest. Tiffany commented about the misuse of Medicaid funds in the state and how this impacts the funding for rural healthcare. Richard then spoke about budget and taxation bills noting the billion-dollar shortfall in the state's general fund is driving most of the legislation. Bonnie Petersen commented that the state is trying to find ways to negate TABOR because the legislature decides where TABOR surplus goes. Richard noted that the TABOR surplus is only a fraction of the billion-dollar budget shortfall. Callie Scritchfield noted that the increase in FTE's is also impacting the budget. Richard then spoke about things to look forward to including a special session, no interim committees, a huge ballot, continuing budget situation, and the change in state administration. Perry Will noted that since there will be no interim committees that will limit the number of bills next year. He also said that losing Speaker McClusky will not be good for the western slope, either.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm for EDD Meeting

Meeting reconvened at 1:03 pm

Federal Delegates Updates

Sen. Bennett – Delaney Deskin reported on the work being done by Sen. Bennett to help with rural healthcare funding. She said they are hopeful that more water funding can be released, including the Shoshone funding. She said they are working on reworking the federal disaster funding to make it more of an a-political process. She said they also have introduced legislation to block sale of federal lands without congressional approval. Callie Scritchfield asked how this would affect the current sales, and Delaney said it would only affect the large-scale sales and keep the current processes for small land sales in place.

Sen. Hickenlooper – Janeth Stanclie reported that they received word that the Grand Junction airport received a grant. She spoke about requests for a letter of support for the Safe Streets for All program and provided a link for those requests. She reported that they continue to work on USPS issues in the rural communities, especially in the mountains. She said that they are working on legislation to help rural hospitals with cybersecurity. She spoke about the Skills Act and clean water legislation that has also been introduced in collaboration with Sen. Bennett and Rep. Hurd. Mike Samson commented that he appreciated her attendance at the YouthZone dinner.

Executive Director Update – Tiffany Dickenson presented her written report including mini-grants, CPW nominations needed, Regional Grant Navigator program ending, Enterprise Zone, E2C data center planning cohort application, Amicus brief update, and upcoming meetings and events. Bonnie Peterson spoke about Colorado Cooperation and encouraged participation at the meeting in Grand Junction on June 11 & 12. Tiffany’s written report is attached as Appendix B.

New Business –

Next meeting June 17, 2026, 1-5pm, Clifton Community Campus, 3270 D-1/2 Road, Clifton, CO 81520

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:29pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Callie Scritchfield	Chris Nichols
Grady Hazelton	Jeff Comstock
Doug Overton	Heather Jones
Mike Samson	Ray Beck
William Dearing	Margie Joy
Cody Davis	Sasha Nelson
Sarah Carlisle	John Swartout
Eric Rudd	Dana Hlavac
Michael Clancy	Todd Starr
Dave Reynold	Dianna Orf
Perry Will	Janeth Stancle
Delaney Deskin	Ashley Dishman
Richard Orf	Merrit Linke
Ted Orf	
Mistalynn Meyeraan	
Laura Kay Good	
Alicia Gresley	
Bonnie Petersen	
Rochelle Firth	
Tiffany Dickenson	
Toni Barrett	

APPENDIX A



AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

Updates from AAA 5/20/2026:

- The AAA has completed entering provider Performance Measure Surveys (959) out of the 1,991 surveys that went out. Our region had a 48% return rate. I have sent results to each of our contracted providers. I have not received our overall results from the State Unit on Aging (SUA).
- Each year the AAA is required to complete an emergency preparedness plan and submit it to the SUA. This involves reaching out to each county's emergency manager.
- The AAA still has upcoming Community Conversations:
 - Friday, May 29th 1pm-2:30pm Lucy Huntley Senior Center, Colorado Mountain College (1402 Blake Ave., Glenwood Springs, CO 81601).
 - Wednesday, June 3rd 10am-11:30am Fairfield Center-Chuckwagon (200 Main St., Meeker, CO 81641)
 - Monday, June 8th 10am-11:30am Radino Senior Center (403 North White Ave., Rangely, CO 81648)
 - Tuesday, June 16th from 12pm-1:30pm Senior Social Center of Craig (775 Yampa Ave., Craig, CO 81625).
 - Thursday, June 18th from 10am-11:30am Rifle Senior Center (50 Ute Ave., Rifle, CO 81650).
- SUA provided the AAA's with their finalized State Fiscal Year 2027 budgets on 4/23/2026. Our budget amount is \$2,450,627 for services and administration.
- The Regional Council on Aging grant review committee met on Thursday, April 23, 2026, to review the grants for the upcoming fiscal year. We had some difficult discussions, and it was hard to prioritize services when we know all the services are important. The recommended budget for the AAA for SFY27 is attached.

Legislation:

o HB26-1010 Older Adult Support & Representation in the Workforce 55+ The bill increases participation, representation, and support for individuals 55 years old or older in the Colorado workforce and in organizations related to employment and the workforce. House Considered Senate Amendments – Result was to Concur – Repass 5/7/2026.

- o HB26-1018 Long Term Care Services for Nursing Home Residents The bill requires an individual being discharged from a nursing facility to be presumptively eligible for long-term services and supports under Medicaid. House Committee on Appropriations Lay Over Unamended – Amendment(s) Failed 5/14/2026.
- o HB26-1022 Jury Duty Opt-Out for People 72 Years or Older The bill allows a person who is 72 years old or older to choose to temporarily or permanently opt out of jury service. The judge or jury commissioner may require documentation in support of the opt-out. House Committee on Appropriations Lay Over Unamended – Amendment(s) Failed 5/14/2026.
- o HB26-1100 Guardianship for Incapacitated Adults The bill repeals provisions related to the guardianship of an incapacitated person and enacts provisions related to the guardianship of an incapacitated person drafted by the uniform law commission as part of the "Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act". House Considered Senate Amendments - Result was to Concur – Repass 5/12/2026.
- o HB26-1107 Health Care in Regulated Facilities The bill establishes information disclosure requirements for a licensed facility that advertises, markets, promotes, or offers services, including memory care services, for individuals with dementia and dementia-related conditions, including Alzheimer's disease. It previously had said that a CNA could give injections, but that was removed from the bill. Governor signed 5/4/2026.
- o HB26-1110 Vulnerable Adult Financial Exploitation Banking The bill creates the "Adults' Security and Safeguards from Exploitation in Transactions Act" or the "ASSET Act". The bill requires or authorizes a qualified individual at a bank or credit union (financial institution) to take certain steps when the individual reasonably suspects that a vulnerable adult (eligible adult) is the victim of financial exploitation. Senate Second Reading Special Order - Passed with Amendments - Committee. 4/21/2026.
- o SB26-007 Medical Marijuana Use in Health Facilities The bill permits a health facility to allow patients who are terminally ill and who are registered in the state's medical marijuana program to use medical marijuana within the health facility, subject to certain parameters. Governor signed 3/30/26.

APPENDIX B

Executive Director's Monthly Update

Board Meeting – May 2026

DOLA mini-grants – funding not awarded

- AGNC's application for \$50,000 in DOLA EIAF funding to support 10 regional mini-grant projects was not selected for funding.
- Staff will look for other funding opportunities to support the program.

CPW – Nominations Needed

- Two CPW Commission appointees, John Emerick and Chris Sichko, withdrew following rejection in the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and prior to full Senate confirmation, adding to continued uncertainty around wildlife and predator management policy. Frances Silva Blayney was confirmed unanimously.
- AGNC would like to submit nominations for the open CPW seats. Two seats are currently open and additional seats are expected to open in July. If the Governor does not appoint AGNC's nominees, their applications remain on file for future consideration through the Governor's Boards and Commissions process.
- Interested nominees must ALSO apply through the Governor's Boards and Commissions process at <https://www.colorado.gov/governorboards>. CPW is listed in the dropdown as "Parks and Wildlife".

Regional Grant Navigator program ending

- The state-funded Regional Grant Navigator program is no longer being funded by the state, and AGNC's Year 3 funding ends on May 31, 2026. As a result, AGNC will no longer be able to fund this role under the current structure.
- This will be Laura Kay Good's last meeting with the board, and AGNC would like to thank Laura Kay for her hard work and the positive difference she has made for the region over the last year.

Enterprise Zone

- AGNC is working with OEDIT and the Economic Development Commission to expand the enterprise zone boundaries in Clear Creek County to include the full county, based on qualifying distress indicators.
- The EDC will vote on this at their meeting on May 21, 2026.

E2C data center planning cohort application

- Applied for the "Navigating Local Data Center Development" peer-learning cohort under DOE's Energy to Communities (E2C) program.
- This cohort is expected to provide structured sessions with DOE/National Lab experts and peer communities on how to evaluate and negotiate data center projects, including understanding grid and energy implications, realistic water and infrastructure needs, local revenue and job impacts, and contract or agreement structures that protect host communities. Participation would give AGNC and its members

better tools and examples to vet proposals and avoid deals that could amplify risk for already transitioning coal communities.

- Cohort members will be announced in June with participation beginning in July.

Amicus brief update

- The amicus brief AGNC and several member counties are participating in, related to *Suncor v. Boulder*, is on track for submission on May 21, 2026.
- The brief is expected to go to the printer on May 20, during the board meeting.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- **Federal Register comment deadline – wolf 10(j) / reintroduction** – June 5, 2026 – Comments MUST be submitted no later than 12 p.m. (NOON) EDT/ 10 a.m. MDT to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Colorado Cooperation Conference** – June 11–12, 2026 – Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO (Executive Director on Economic Development panel June 11)
- **JOLT Conference** – June 18–19, 2026 – Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO; reception on June 17 immediately following the AGNC board meeting
- **Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting** – July 16–17, 2026 – Sky Ute Casino and Resort, Ignacio, CO
- **OZ 2.0 Designation Input Form deadline** – June 30, 2026 – Input form for recommending eligible census tracts for OZ 2.0 status: choosecolorado.com/oz