



MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

February 19, 2025

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

***Garfield County Admin Bldg, 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 9:04am. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes – Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the November 20, 2024, meeting minutes; Stan Harbaugh seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the November and December 2024, and the January 2025 financials. She presented the profit and loss from Nov and Dec for 2024. She noted that there was an overage of about \$70K for expenses, which included the overage for NCEI for \$27K, \$10K over in mini grants, \$20K for marketing which can be attributed to the payment to Nathan Perry for the newsletters, as well as the payroll taxes for the RGN stipend over by about \$4K. However, she noted that when AAA is included there is no overage for expenses. She then presented the balance sheets for November and December. She then reviewed the January 2025 profit and loss statements, including member dues, enterprise zone income, with a net income for the month. The balance sheet was presented for January with total liabilities and equity. Mike Samson said there is another entity he will share with Tiffany for investments that AGNC may be able to use. The accounts receivable was reviewed, and the check register was presented with all payments from November 15, 2024 to February 18, 2025. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Mike Samson, seconded by Doug Overton, and the motion passed unanimously

Project and Committee Reports:

Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of AAA efforts as outlined in her written report. Heather said they are very focused on not having the funding for AAA cut. She said they expect cuts from the state and federal funding. Heather’s report is attached as Appendix A.

DOLA Update – Dana Hlavac reported that there is a lot of money being redirected from the state. He said they will be lucky to get \$50M per year. He said there is a bill to take money from the Energy Impact Funds to build adaptive playgrounds. He said they will continue to do what they can to help communities take advantage of as much funding as possible. He said there will be a board training course for municipalities with newly elected officials. JJ Fletcher asked what the fiscal note on the bill for the playgrounds would be, and Dana said it is about \$4 million.

CDLE Workforce Update – Carolyn Tucker gave a PowerPoint presentation. She spoke about the western zone of the Colorado rural workforce consortium. She presented the unemployment rates in the AGNC region. She said there has been a slight increase in unemployment, but that it remains in the healthy range. She said there are still demographic trends that are affecting the workforce, and that it will remain for some time. She spoke about actions to consider with the trends which include succession planning, upskilling current employees, supervisory training, leadership training, and wage analysis. She spoke about the importance of training current employees. She spoke about workforce development activities including sector partnerships, upskilling, career technical education, and federal employee layoff assistance. She spoke about the workforce center core business services. She spoke about the workforce centers in the AGNC region and gave her contact information. She said she will share the slides with AGNC to send out to everyone. Matt Solomon spoke about the new state bill for job opportunities in the nuclear industry. Carolyn said they are also watching the new quantum industries for job opportunities.

NCEI Update – Matt Solomon spoke about the 4 grants they are currently managing. He spoke about the ECA grants, community outreach, stakeholder mapping, integrated energy solutions, and a regional HUB for the energy communities. He spoke about funding for ECA 2, which is on hold even though we have submitted an invoice for it. He spoke about all the press that they have gotten in the last 2 months. He spoke about the ratio of good press to bad press. He said they have only had one bad article that he believes was sensationalized propaganda. He said he has been working hard to address the misinformation from that article. He reported that he has several presentations and is participating in several panels in the coming weeks. He said they are working on a tour of the state with several DOE officials. He spoke about the flyers he provided for support of state legislation. He presented the fact sheet he put together with Teri Cavanagh to support HB25-1040. He spoke about the bipartisan nature of the bill and that he believes energy conversations should be bipartisan. Mike Samson encouraged other communities to have Matt present at their meetings and said he did a great presentation to Garfield County. Chris Nichols said he would like to see the document presented to the media, as well. William Dearing asked about the nuclear plant being built in Wyoming. Matt said Wyoming has done an excellent job planning and building a training center ahead of the plant opening. Tiffany Dickenson asked if we could get a presentation from Wyoming and Matt said he can ask them about it. Ray Beck complimented Matt on his work, as well. Ray also said that when he reaches out to Sen. Lukens or Sen. Roberts they always are available to speak with him, and he appreciates their support. Ray also spoke about the gun legislation that he believes needs to be opposed.

Colorado River District – Amy Moyer and Melissa Wills presented and spoke about the dual mission to protect west slope water users and to safeguard for Colorado all waters of the Colorado river to which the state is entitled. Amy presented a map of the district. She said they are governed by a 15-member board of directors and funded by property tax. She said they are based in Glenwood Springs. She spoke about the work they do including legal, technical, policy work, education and outreach, and the community funding partnership program. She said they allocate \$4.2M in the community funding partnership program. She said that voters approved the funding for the Colorado river district with 72% in support. Melissa Wills spoke about the community funding partnership program and how it is a catalyst to leverage federal funding. She said there are five categories for projects. She said they have funded almost \$28M and leveraged over \$96M in funding. She said they have 3 tracts which are general grants, emergency grants and accelerator grants. She spoke about project stages and the critical gap for design funding. She said the accelerator grant program helps with this gap. She said that they have found that for every dollar in the program they have seen a return of 64 federal dollars. She spoke about AGNC region grants that have been awarded. She spoke about the growing smart water program, with applications opening on February 28th, and a workshop in Montrose on April 28th. She said it is very easy to apply for their grants and those interested can sign up at their website. Amy spoke about letters of support that are provided by the counties and are required as part of their applications. Mike Samson commented that Garfield County has a water forum that meets twice a year, and he encouraged other counties to

do the same. Ray Beck commented that Colorado does not use all the water allocated to the state with lower basin states requiring more use of the water, and he encouraged everyone to stay engaged in the process.

Executive Director Update – Tiffany Dickenson

spoke about the funding freeze by the federal government. She said we will keep an eye on the funding issues and encourage everyone to reach out if they need assistance. She said she is hoping to hear more by March 15th. She said they are scheduling a wolves meeting and asked what times might work best. She said that she would send out a doodle poll to find the best time. She said it will be hybrid in person and zoom. Mike Samson asked for letters of support for the nominee for BLM. A motion was made approve AGNC writing a letter of support for the BLM Nominee by Mike Samson, seconded by Lisa Piering, and the motion passed unanimously. Tiffany reported that March 5th is the EDCC regional meeting in Craig. She said that the May AGNC board meeting is the same date as the Club 20 fly into DC. She asked if we should move the AGNC meeting. Mike Samson said May 21 is also the WIR meeting and he encouraged all commissioners to attend that as well. It was decided that the meeting will be rescheduled for May 28th. She spoke about the enterprise zone redesignation letter of intent and asked for a vote to approve the letter. A motion to approve writing a letter of intent for the Enterprise Zone redesignation was made by Chris Nichols, seconded by Mike Samson, and the motion was approved unanimously. Tiffany reported that she is almost done with an economic impact report for the Rifle Correctional Facility. She gave a brief update on the work that is being done with Prosono for strategic planning and said that they plan to present at the April board meeting. She said that the website vendor has been selected, and we are proceeding with the redesign. Cody Davis asked if it will be ADA compliant, and Mistalynn Meyeraan said that it will.

Ray Beck spoke about JOLT and the support by AGNC. He said they would like to see more involvement by young people and will waive energy summit registration for one high school student and chaperone from each county. Mike said GarCo will sponsor an additional student from Garfield, as well.

Perry Will spoke and said that Garfield County has opted out of the concealed carry bill SB24-131. He encouraged others to do the same.

Wolf Creek Reservoir – Alden (Al) Vanden Brink, Manager of the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District presented on the proposed Wolf Creek Reservoir, a.k.a. the White River Regional Water Supply Project. He reported on the loss of storage at Kenney Reservoir. He said the Taylor draw dam provided electricity. He said it was originally built due to ice dams. He said they have storage and direct use rights. He said the beneficial uses include flood control, municipal usage, and storage. He said they need to replace the storage loss at Kenney. He said the primary need is drought resiliency. He said they looked at dredging Kenney, but it was cost prohibitive. The wolf creek project is estimated at \$400M. He said they are working on bringing the cost down. He presented on the summary of work completed and presented a table. He said they have received \$10-11M in permit funding. He spoke about the construction jobs to build a dam, and the post construction economic benefits including local revenue from spending, sales tax and job creation. He said he would like more communication with the congressional representatives. Doug Overton asked how long the construction would take. Alden said he estimated 2 years. Jeff Comstock asked about the lead agency and Al said the Army Corps is required to work with BLM as the lead agency, and it will slow the process down by about 18 months. Al said he would like to stick with the original goal of 2028. He said that the environmental groups have slowed the process. Mistalynn Meyeraan asked what their funding needs currently are. Al said they need funding for NEPA and construction. He said it is going to take federal and state help. Matt Solomon asked what the federal delegates can do to help with the process. He said they need to understand the benefits. JJ Fletcher asked if completion would then result in a state park, and Al said there is no discussion at this time for a state park. He said BLM has expressed interest in a campground.

Federal Delegate Update –

Hilary Henry with Sen Bennet’s office reported that Sen. Bennet was able to pass nine bills in the last congress, including legislation to stop the spread of invasive species, and reduce salinity in local rivers. She said they had some funding wins in the region including transportation for Mesa County and funding for drought resiliency, including \$40M for Shoshone water rights. She said they will be reintroducing several bills as well as the reconciliation process, budget, and passing the farm bill. She said there is a huge flurry of changes from the Trump administration including the federal funding freeze. She said they would like to hear from anyone experiencing funding issues. She said they are also paying close attention to federal employees being terminated. She said they have been concerned about how these terminations have been conducted. She said that Sen. Bennet sent a letter asking for forest service employees to be reinstated for wildfire prevention and protection. She encouraged everyone to reach out to their office.

Alicia Gresley with CRVEDP spoke about the work to keep the Rifle Correctional Facility open. She was grateful for AGNC’s support. She said their grant that CRVEDP was awarded is now on hold due to the funding freeze. She said she is still hopeful that it will go through. She spoke about a manufacturing facility proposed for western Garfield County. She introduced David Lopez, founder of Rocky Mountain Quantum. He said he is interested in bringing a manufacturing facility to the region for semiconductor chips. Matt Solomon asked about the energy needed to supply the facility. David said energy and water are the biggest gaps they are looking to fill.

New Business –

Next meeting March 19, 2025, Garfield County Administration Building, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 195 W. 14th Street, Rifle, CO 81650

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
William Dearing	George Wear
Heather Jones	Kami Collins
Mike Samson	C Gilbert (CMG)
Perry Will	Jeff Engell – CSU Extension
Chris Nichols	Shannon Scott
Lisa Piering	Drew Kramer, Tri-State G&T
Callie Scritchfield	Jackie Joyner
Doug Overton	Carolyn Tucker – CDLE
Stan Harbaugh	John Briston – RCEDP
David Lopez	Bill Carlson
Grady Hazelton	Hilary Henry
Ray Beck	Teri Cavanagh
Lori Malsbury	
Cody Davis	
Alicia Gresley	
JJ Fletcher	
Tinker Duclou	
Amy Moyer	
Melissa Wills	
Alden Vanden Brink	
Jennifer O’Hearon	
Toni Barrett	
Tiffany Dickenson	
Mistalynn Meyeraan	
Jeff Comstock	
Lindy Browning	

APPENDIX A



Updates from AAA 02/19/2025:

- All of the AAA monitoring visits with providers wrapped up in December 2024. Four providers had compliance issues: Colorado Adult Protective Services (CAPS) check, not entering required documentation into the State's database, food safety training for staff/volunteers, food temps and menus not meeting at least a third of the current daily recommended dietary allowances. The AAA has received plans of correction from those agencies, and I will continue to monitor those agencies for compliance.
- I had the opportunity to attend the first Aging Caucus of the legislation session in Denver on Thursday, January 16, 2025. At the Aging Caucus, Laura Strother, the interim State Unit on Aging Program Director gave a presentation on the Senate Bill from 2024-040 on the Adequacy of State Funding for Senior Services Appropriation. The State is required to submit a report to the joint budget committee each year.
- The State Unit on Aging (SUA) virtual monitoring visit of our AAA is on hold as the monitoring specialist for the SUA has taken another job.
- Laura Strother has been hired as the Director of the SUA. She has been the interim director since May 2024.
- The AAA held a Request for Proposals (RFP) conference for SFY26 on Friday, February 14, 2025. The RFP will be open until Friday, March 7, 2025.
- This month our contracted providers will be sending out performance measure surveys to participants of services. The surveys are due back to the AAA by March 28, 2025. All data from the surveys must be completed for the SUA by May 2025.
- The AAA presented at the Veterans Aging and Survivor Benefits Symposium & Resource Tour that was held on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at the Western Region One Source in Grand Junction.

Legislation:

- The Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024 has not been passed. It passed in the Senate and was included in the House's original bipartisan end-of-year package in December 2024. However, the bill was dropped at the last minute from the Continuing Resolution (CR) and did not pass. The CR funding for the OAA programs remains in place until March 14, 2025.

- The national association of Area Agencies on Aging (USAgging) has confirmed that the Older Americans Act funding streams are on a list of federal programs potentially affected by the federal funding freeze. The SUA under the Colorado Department of Human Services has instructed the Area Agencies on Aging across the state to continue business as usual. Since we are more than half way through our fiscal year most of the AAA contracted providers are operating on federal funds and local cash as their state funds have already been utilized.
- **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.
- **HB25-1022:** For the purpose of determining workers who are qualified to work in an assisted living residence, current law includes in its definition of "qualified medication administration personnel" an individual who has passed a competency evaluation administered by an approved training entity on or after July 1, 2017. The bill adds to this definition an individual who has passed a competency evaluation administered by the department of public health and environment before July 1, 2017.
- **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.
- **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.