



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS  
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

**MINUTES**

**AGNC EDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**November 16, 2022**

**Garfield County Administration Building, 195 W. 14<sup>th</sup> 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**

Call to order 10:02am

**Approval of Minutes** – Cody Davis made a motion to approve the May 2022 minutes. Chris Nichols seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Manufacturer’s Edge – Jessica Cowden** joined the meeting via Zoom. She is the Director of Marketing and Communications with Manufacturer’s Edge and has been with them for 9 years. They believe in “Colorado roots with national impact.” She reviewed their mission to support manufacturers in industries, and non-industries as well. They have a national network to serve across the country with 51 centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. They help with operations, people, data and technology, and success planning. The steps include assess, plan, align, deploy, and follow up. They are measured on ten difference metrics from the federal government, measured by an impartial third-party survey system, and they must maintain a high ranking to retain federal funding. They recently launched a new initiative called the Colorado Manufacturing Network, by Sustainment. Sustainment helps to connect and mobilize the entire manufacturing ecosystem. They are working to map and create a database for all the manufacturers to help local utilization. This will allow manufacturers to showcase their business, identify new opportunities, expand their local network, and access support resources. The platform is free to the community. The platform can be useful for economic development coordinators as well. There is also a messaging component, similar to LinkedIn. Jessica asked everyone to spread the word and give them feedback about the platform so that it can grow and change to the needs of the communities. Mike Samson asked how many manufacturers are using the service in the NW region. Jessica said she can send him information on the 4 counties and that Beth Dickson is the representative for our region. He also asked how they market their services. Jessica said they are trying to improve, but federal funding does restrict some of their advertising. Most of the communication is on LinkedIn, monthly newsletters, webinars, and word of mouth. Cody Davis asked about their involvement with the CHIPS legislation. She spoke about how the supply chain issues have put a spotlight on their work. She said they could receive additional funding from the CHIPS act, which could greatly help their efforts to increase redundancy in the supply chain.

**Report on EDD Activities** – **Jeff Tripp** gave EDD Updates including the Nucler Outreach Grant that was submitted. We are still waiting to hear back about the grant, hopefully by the end of the year if not sooner. Jeff has been doing a lot of outreaches to agencies within the region, including

USDA, to beef up financing options. He has been working with OEDIT to navigate the criteria to get the funding available to local entities. He is still working with Moffat County to craft an RFP to attract business to replace some of the job loss there. They are being creative to craft an incentive package for such businesses. Housing continues to be a big issue and Jeff has worked with CHFA, Enterprise Community Partners, and Impact Development Fund Strategies. He has been working with a developer with a project in Parachute to develop housing using the Parachute Inn. He is exploring collaboration with for-profit and non-profit developers in housing and other areas. He talked about energy initiatives as we transition away from coal. We distributed 20 remote work flex jobs coupons to the Craig chamber of commerce to distribute to candidates with recent job loss. He would like to see a remote job work fair, hosted by FlexJobs. He is looking at outreach to educate workers about remote work opportunities. He talked about marketing strategies for the EDD, including site selection magazines, mailers, etc. He talked about the capacity issues for upcoming grants, and that we are optimistic about the future. Tiffany Pehl reported that AGNC will act as the fiscal agent for Senator Rankin's nuclear feasibility project. Sen. Rankin has started fundraising and we have received a donation from Con Edison for \$20K for the project. A doodle poll has been started to schedule a CEDS committee meeting to strategize for the upcoming EDD year. Routt County Climate Change committee has contacted AGNC to join their climate change board. She said that this shows that Jeff is being impactful. We will be using some of the CARES funding to market in the Site Selection magazine. We have also contacted the city of Craig to see if there is anything we can help them with in marketing. Richard Orf asked about press releases for the Nuclear Feasibility Study, especially the donation from ConEd. Tiffany reported that she will talk with Sen. Rankin about this. Richard asked if Xcel has any alternative energy plans for the Hayden plant that is closing. Jeff said that he hasn't heard anything specific from Xcel or Tri-State. Chris said he has heard that there was an alternative of molten salt, but that Tri-State has stated that they will not support Nuclear. Chris said ConEd is working on a solar project in the Craig area, as well. Margie Joy stated that funding is an issue because no one developer can do it all, so they are looking to partnerships. She also said that a predevelopment planning program is available from CHFA, and she can report more in a future meeting about it. Tiffany said we could have her speak in February. Richard asked if construction is slowing down. Margie said it may be that there are regional based slowdowns across the state. She also said that funding acquisitions are actively being worked on. Margie said that in the region she covers there is talk and willingness to put effort towards housing. She said that each community is working in different ways to address its needs.

**New Business:** *Next meeting will be February 22, 2023, at Garfield County Administration Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room, 195 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Rifle, CO 81650.*

Meeting adjourned – 10:51am

**Attendance:**

<b>IN PERSON</b>	<b>VIA ZOOM</b>
Heather Jones	Dianna Orf (Ted Orf)
Grady Hazelton	Ray Beck
Ginny Love	Shannon Scott
Bill Carlson	Wendell A Koontz
Richard Orf	Carolyn Tucker – NWCO Business Services
Chris Nichols	Christina Oxley – CDLE
Cody Davis	Corey Bryndal
Hilary Henry	Drew Kramer
Rylee Lopez	Jessica Cowden
Brian Condie	Headwaters Housing Partners
Margie Joy	Robert McElroy
Mike Samson	Janeth Stanclie (Sen. Hickenlooper)
Tiffany Pehl	
Toni Barrett	
Robert McElroy	
Adam Roy	
Jeff Tripp	