



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC EDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 21, 2024

Garfield County Administration Building, 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

Call to order 10:15am

Approval of Minutes – Bill Carlson made a motion to approve the November 15, 2023 minutes, Lisa Piering seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

NCEI Update – **Matt Solomon** presented on the grant opportunities they have applied for, including the OJT grant which was denied because it was “premature” according to Wade Buchanan. He reported that the EnergyWerx grant was approved for \$100K for surveys and educational outreach. He said the DOE is hungry to help coal communities and get out funding. He said they are making exemptions to the requirements for coal communities which is good for us. He said we have also applied for a LEAP grant and are awaiting word on that. He said he is participating in a monthly meeting with stakeholders. He is also meeting with groups in other states, as well. He said they are going to create a white paper for the results in our communities. The Community LEAP grant is a year of technical research from the national laboratories, and he has applied with the idea of what an energy hub looks like in the city of Craig and Moffat County. He talked about several energy spokes off the hub of a wheel centered in Moffat County. He said they had a meeting with DOE regarding the application and changes that could be made to move the application along in the process. He said that JOLT is a community partner and is in support of the grant application, as well. He said he hopes to have the first energy survey out to the communities in April, with outreach and additional surveys to follow. Cody Kennedy said he is interested in the energy hub and what other types of energy would be included. Matt said they listed many different energy sources. Cody Kennedy talked about threats to the energy grids in the country and he said he is interested in pushing the security aspect of this when exploring new opportunities. Jeff Comstock asked if the LEAP grant just uses modeling or if there is a recruitment aspect. Matt said it would just be modeling. Matt talked about Pueblo and their push to replace Coal with Nuclear and why they have come to that conclusion. He spoke about the politics of the issue and that he would like to see the partisan politics removed from it. Matt said that Pueblo has offered to help NCEI if necessary, as well.

EDD Update – **Mistalynn Meyeraan** presented her update including recent collaborations and meetings including: CRVEDP working together for a BBP opportunity for Garfield County;

NWCDC monthly meetings; Yampa Valley Sustainability Council; Club 20 rural voices; and the State of the Union – Western Slope. She reported on CEDS, our strategic plan for the EDD. She said that the CEDS will be revised in 2026 and we will start the process in 2025. She reported on Regional Funding Updates including the Western Colorado Recompete Pilot Grant which we did not receive, the EnergyWerx grant was awarded to us, Communities LEAP application is in progress, CEDS implementation grant is still pending and we have not received a response from the state, we have been awarded \$50K mini grants for 2024 from DOLA, and the EDA Partnership Planning grant was submitted for the next 3 years. She presented the scope of work for the PP grant which begins in 2025. She said that we are planning to put a lot of emphasis into promoting the enterprise zone program to our communities. She also stated that her work will include IJJA and IRA grants navigation in the future. Mistalynn’s report is attached as Appendix A

Next EDD meeting May 15, 2024 in Rifle.

Meeting adjourned – 10:46am

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Heather Jones	Mistalynn Meyeraan
William Dearing	Tiffany Dickenson
Gloria Leshner	Ray Beck
Lisa Piering	Merrit Linke
Alicia Gresley	Jeff Engell
Amie Tucker	Betsy Bair
Brian Condie	Chris Nichols
Cody Kennedy	Ty Gates
Grady Hazelton	Carolyn Tucker
Raven Finegan	Christina Oxley
Bill Carlson	Melonie Matarozzo
Sarah Carlisle	Drew Kramer
Dana Hlavac	Kris’s iPad
Kirby Wynn	Kirby Wynn
Cody Davis	Bill Ray
Peter Brixius	970-683-8637
Matthew Stahlecker	
Tony Bohrer	
Jeff Comstock	
Matt Solomon	
Mike Samson	
Toni Barrett	

Appendix A

Economic Development District Update – February 21, 2024

Recent Collaborations and Meetings:

- **CRVEDP**: working alongside several stakeholders for a BBP opportunity for Garfield County – Tiffany and I are excited to be on the planning committee – scheduled to be in Glenwood in March for a 3-day strategic planning meeting to assist.
- **NWCDC** monthly meetings.
- **Yampa Valley Sustainability Council** - working to support its sustainability plan.
- **Club 20 Rural Voices** and Legislative meetings in Denver – January 31/February 1.
- **State of the Union – Western Slope** - Tiffany attended the Governor’s visit to Grand Junction and was invited to attend a roundtable with local leaders to discuss circular economies.

CEDS:

Our guide for the EDD – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

CEDS – Economic Development Districts are multi-jurisdictional entities, commonly composed of multiple counties. They help lead the locally-based, regionally driven economic development planning process that leverages the involvement of the public, private, and non-profit sectors to establish a strategic blueprint for regional collaboration. The strategic blueprint, known as a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. A CEDS is the result of a “regionally-owned” planning process designed to guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of a region. It provides a coordinating mechanism for individuals, organizations, local governments, and private industry to engage in a meaningful conversation and debate about the economic direction of their region (www.eda.gov/edd/). *Note* CEDS will be updated in 2025/2026.

The CEDS for Northwest Colorado identified the following economic development priorities: CEDS committee – schedule next meeting in March

- **Workforce Development**: The region aims to improve the skills and knowledge of its workforce to meet the changing needs of the economy.
- **Business Retention and Expansion**: The region seeks to support the growth of existing businesses by providing resources and assistance to help them succeed.
- **Entrepreneurship**: The region aims to foster an environment that supports entrepreneurship and the creation of new businesses.
- **Infrastructure Development**: The region seeks to improve its infrastructure to support economic growth, including transportation, energy, and Broadband.

Regional Funding Updates:

- \$359,000 Western Colorado Recompete Pilot Grant Application – There was an overwhelming response to the NOFO, the largest number of applications for any national competition in EDA history; 565 applications and only 22 were selected for the strategy-focused grant. Unfortunately, our grant was not selected. There is a tremendous framework in this grant that we intend to leverage with future funding opportunities.
- \$100,000 EnergyWerx – Received!
- Up to \$50,000 Communities LEAP – interviewed yesterday, looks promising.
- \$40,000 CEDS Implementation Grant – still pending.
- \$50,000 Tier I: DOLA “Mini-Grant Application” – pending.
- \$70,000 annually for 3 years – total \$210,000 EDA Partnership Planning Grant – pending as of Friday, February 16.
- Shift in IIJA and IRA management.