



MINUTES
AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

February 22, 2023

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

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

Pledge of allegiance

Call to order –Chairman Mike Samson, called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes – Bill Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes; Cody Davis seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Updated Bylaws and Articles of Association – Tiffany Dickenson presented the reasons behind the updates, including the FAML I opt out, which brought to our attention that Routt County needed to be removed from the documents. Mike Samson asked that we add that Routt County membership for the EDD board be appointed on the same schedule as the AGNC board of every other April. Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the Updated Bylaws and Articles of Association as amended; Cody Nichols seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – December 2022 financials were presented by Tiffany Dickenson. Profit and Loss was discussed including income received for 2022 and the positive balance above the budget. Tiffany talked about the mini-grant submissions, and that we only received 6 applications. Mike Samson commented that he would like to see the small municipalities apply for these and encouraged Tiffany to reach out to them. The balance sheets were discussed including assets and deferred revenue. Accounts Receivable was discussed, including the amount billed to Routt County Economic Development District. Check registers were discussed including the monthly expenses paid out, including large amounts to AAA. Chris commented on the amounts due from Routt County EDP, Cody commented that he might be able to reach out to them, Melody said she could help as well. Tiffany spoke about her conversations with OEDIT regarding this as well. A motion to approve the 2022 financial report was made by Bill Carlson, seconded by Cody Davis, and the motion passed unanimously. January 2023 reports were presented including the profit and loss, including the large amount received for contribution project fees and the large amount we receive from the projects in Routt County. The balance sheet was discussed. The accounts receivable report was discussed, including the amount billed out for the grants navigator position. The check register through 2/14/23 was discussed. A motion to approve the January 2023 financial report was made by Bill Carlson, seconded by Cody Davis, 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. The interviews for the ombudsman long term care position were completed and they offered the position to Jesse Bond, and he started on January 17. He will be covering Rio Blanco, Moffat and some of Mesa County. Heather reported they wrapped up provider monitoring visits, and three corrective action plans were needed for food safety, including recommended dietary intake amounts and food temperatures. She reported that additional funds have been received and will help with Hilltop ADRC, as well as the Senior Social Center in Craig. Heather visited with CMU

PO BOX 593 GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81502 PHONE 970-665-1095 WWW.AGNC.ORG

Physician Assistant students regarding community resources for older adults. She hopes to continue these conversations with the CMU students. AAA held a RFP conference on Feb 3rd. She has been busy working on the four-year plan and hopes to present it at our next AGNC meeting. They received the additional carryover funds, and the spreadsheets have been provided to the AGNC board for approval. Heather reviewed the spreadsheets, including some revisions to the ombudsman funding positions. Mike Samson asked about the GRHD program, and Heather said it was for meals on wheels. A motion to approve the updated AAA budget was made by Chris Nichols, seconded by Cody Davis, and was unanimously approved. Mike commented that Heather is doing a great job and passed on a compliment he received about her. Heather's written report can be seen at the end of these minutes as Appendix A.

Broadband update – Corey Bryndal presented an update on broadband. He said that Region 10 is working with communities in the western half of the state. The fiber map was presented including the loop from Denver to Fruita to Durango to Walsenburg, and back to Denver. He focused on the northwest corner of the map with the communities from Glenwood Springs to Fruita. He talked about the federal funding that is coming for the last mile networks. He talked about the projects in Garfield County in Glenwood, Rifle, New Castle, Silt and Parachute. The Glenwood and Rifle projects are complete, the New Castle, Silt and Parachute projects are not complete. The Mesa County projects include Collbran, Palisade, Clifton, Grand Junction and Fruita. These projects are also not complete yet. Region 10 received an expansion grant. There are over \$19M in projects, and region 10 has been working with CDOT to access the fiber along the highways, but they are not having good outcomes with negotiations with CDOT to access these fibers. Mike Samson asked what the hold ups are, and Corey said it has to do with designated connection points, which he said is a policy choice and not a technical issue. He said they are putting a lot of pressure on CDOT to change these policy choices. Mike commented on the cost issues of building to these connection points. Corey also said they are reducing the reliability of the connections by holding to these policies. He said the offramps are the most reliable points to connect, but CDOT is denying these connections. Anna Stout asked if there is some advocacy we should be doing. Corey said they want them to communicate with their transportation representatives and members. He also said they need to communicate with DOLA and the attorney general. He also said the governor needs to hear about this, too. He also said we need to communicate with CCI and CML. The ask is for CDOT to allow connections at highway exits, and to complete the backbone fiber lease with region 10, and that time is of the essence as grant deadlines loom. He emphasized that we need to stay positive, and that we are all stronger together. Toni Barrett offered to send out any materials that Corey has to our members. Cody Davis mentioned that they have tried to be polite up to this point, but they may need to not be so polite moving forward to put the pressure on the governor. Nicole Maxwell from the town of Palisade asked to participate in the conversation with Cody and Anna and would like to see the Town of Palisade be part of the effort. Anna suggested a work session for the stake holders in Mesa County. Mike asked if Dana Hlavac with DOLA could be an integral part, and asked for his perspective. Dana said they work very closely with Corey and they have pushed it up the DOLA chain and it has reached the governors desk. He said that DOLA is applying pressure within the state government to get things moving. Corey commented that DOLA is pushing as hard as they can, and we need others to push as well. Bill Carlson commented that he attended a workshop recently with the governor, and he didn't bring up broadband. Mike said that if Corey has any other avenues for us to pursue we should do that, and that this very important. Dana suggested contacting our senators and federal representatives to put pressure from the top down, as well. Mike called on our federal delegates at the meeting for this help. Corey asked for a letter from AGNC to the transportation commissioners, and he would be glad to work with us to prepare that. A motion to direct AGNC staff to work with Corey to prepare and send a letter was made by Cody Davis, seconded by Bill Carlson, and passed unanimously. Corey also commented that the work on i-70 is important for the communities to the south of i-70 as well.

Legislative update – Tiffany Dickenson commented that we will receive the update on our weekly legislative call with the Orfs, and that we need as many members on the leg calls as possible, so please be sure to join the calls.

The AGNC Board Meeting recessed for the EDD Meeting at 10:10am.

The AGNC Board Meeting reconvened at 11:14am.

Update on GEMM Phase II Rule & Natural Soda – Kirk Daehling from Natural Soda presented with some background about Natural Soda being purchased by Huber Engineered Materials in December of 2021. Natural soda is located in Rio Blanco County and is the 2nd largest producer of baking soda in North America. Product is used for food and baking, personal care and pharmaceutical, animal nutrition and agriculture, pool and water treatment, and industrial markets. The plant has been there since 1990, increasing production from 60,000 tons per year to a potential of up to 300,000 tons per year. Huber is a private family-owned company founded in 1883, professionally managed. There are approximately 100 years of assets in the Natural Soda plant, and Huber would like to be the long-term owner of those assets. Natural Soda uses an efficient and environmentally conscious solution mining process to recover pure, naturally occurring sodium bicarbonate for the largest known nahcolite deposit in the United States, with an estimated 100 year reserve. They also have a warehouse and transload facility in Rifle, in Garfield County. They have 77 employees, and another 20 contractors. They have a strong benefits package and profit-sharing program. He stated that Natural Soda has fewer carbon emissions than alternative technology. Natural Soda has invested \$51M in capital/efficiency upgrades since 2011 while reducing carbon emissions by 24% on an intensity basis. Kirk talked about the smart growth plan they have in place to continue to grow production volume, and that would increase co2 emissions by 12%. He then talked about the new GEMM Phase 2 Rule. He shared the information from the CDPHE website regarding the rule: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/gemm-phase-2-rule>. In 2021 a law was passed requiring a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 against the 2015 baseline. Natural Soda is concerned with the rule and the impacts it will have to their growth plans and impacts to the local economy, as well as being able to provide enough product for demand. Natural Soda would like to propose an intensity-based metric (per unit of production). They also believe an accommodation should be made in keeping within the original intent of the environmental justice focus – exempting companies which operate in a Just Transition zone. They also believe that the rule should allow for exceptions or accommodations for scenarios in which a 20% reduction or corresponding site level reduction targets cannot be achieved due to technical or economic constraints. They believe the rule should allow for exemptions when total emissions will be negatively impacted (in CO or in the total US). The preliminary draft of GEMM2 rule was released in early February to stakeholders. There is a public listening session set for February 28. The draft rule is scheduled for release in May and implementation would be in September. Kirk encouraged everyone to go to the website, for public listening sessions and to learn more. Tiffany Dickenson asked what is required from AGNC moving forward. Kirk said that they are part of a larger industry working group working with CDPHE, communicating the impacts and concerns that they have. He encouraged everyone to participate in the public comment meetings. Mike Samson suggested coordinating with Rio Blanco County to send a letter to the appropriate people to support Natural Soda. Kirk talked about their area being designated as a disproportionately impacted community, as well. He said they will continue to work the issue and there may be a way through this, but he asked that people stay informed and involved. Ray Beck commented about the fact that Rio Blanco is in the Tier 1 of the Just Transition, and will be most impacted. He encouraged Natural Soda and Rio Blanco County to reach out to the office of Just Transition. He also talked about the tax losses that will be felt if Natural Soda is restricted in production or forced to close because of the new rule. Cindy Dozier asked for Kirk to reach out to Club 20 to get this message out, and asked for a representative to attend their winter policy meetings next week. Tiffany commented that they have had conversations with the Orfs so that they are aware of the issue, as well.

Federal Delegate Update –

Representative Boebert’s Office – McKenna Farley reported on the speakers race for the house. She reported that Rep. Boebert was able to negotiate some rule changes as part of this process, including changes to the bill title and that each bill must be single subject, and must have 72 hours before a vote. Rep. Boebert passed three amendments with bipartisan support. These included amendments for oil and gas leasing and policies. Another amendment allowed a 15% increase in responsible oil and gas development on federal lands. Rep. Boebert is on the oversight committee, and well as the natural resources committee. She will continue to work on policies that work for rural Colorado. She also introduced the American Energy Act, extending the length of drill permits with the BLM from 2 years to 4 years. She also plans to reintroduce comprehensive forestry legislation and to introduce the Western Water Security Act. She has met with Gov. Polis to explore water storage on the western slope. She continues to

fight against earmarks in legislation, and changes were made during the negotiations making each earmark to go up for debate and individual votes. Rep. Boebert has also reintroduced the act to delist the grey wolves from the endangered species list.

Senator Bennet's Office - Hilary Henry reported that they are tracking the broadband issue and they understand how important this is for the last mile. She spoke about \$400-700M in funding available to Colorado for broadband. She encouraged everyone to look into that. Mike Samson reiterated the need for the senators help with these issues with CDOT. She reported that the congressionally directed spending process is currently open, and if you didn't receive an email reach out to her. Tiffany Dickenson asked about matching funds and whether they will be required, so that the communities are aware of that before they apply. Hilary said there is often matching funds required, and she encourages everyone to bring those questions to her office. She stated that there are webinars available with Sen. Hickenlooper. She spoke about the grant navigator position being a direct result of federal dollars. She said that it is farm bill season and they have developed some priorities for the bill based on listening sessions. They are introducing markers to the bill to help shape the final bill.

Senator Hickenlooper's Office – reported on the CDS process: She provided the following information:

You can access our CDS request form on our website – <https://www.hickenlooper.senate.gov/cdsr/>. The deadline for submissions to our office is 11:59pm on March 10, 2023. If you have additional questions we invite you to attend one of our two virtual information sessions co-hosted by Senator Hickenlooper and Senator Bennet's offices:

Friday, February 24 – 11:00am – 12:00pm MT

Tuesday, February 28 – 5:30pm – 6:30pm MT

Janeth addressed Tiffany's concerns about matching funds and said they are working on being more informative about these. She spoke about support of section 10 by Sen. Hickenlooper, giving flexibility to landowners to manage grey wolves. Mike Samson commented about how important the 10J rule is and encouraged her to share that with Sen. Hickenlooper. Janeth said they are working on several water programs. She spoke about cyber policies and support of community colleges. Drew Kramer said they sent comments to Sen. Hickenlooper regarding a hearing. Janeth said they haven't seen those comments yet, but they know they have come in and will review them.

Administrative Update – Tiffany Dickenson reported that most of her comments were previously addressed in the meeting. She also reported that the state of Colorado will be offering us some additional funding for the alternative energy feasibility study, so that is exciting news. She encouraged everyone to use our new grants navigator position and stay in contact with us.

Cody Davis brought up that the western stated tribal nations group needs a new representative from AGNC and asked that members be thinking about this. Mike Samson suggested we could put it on the agenda for our next meeting.

New Business – *Next meeting March 15, 2023, CNCC Weiss Conference Room, 500 Kennedy Drive, Rangely, CO 81648*

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Bill Carlson	Jeff Comstock
Nicole Maxwell	Mike Samson
	Toni Barrett - AGNC
	Doug Overton Rio Blanco County
	19706180193 - Grady Hazelton
	Ray Beck
	Tiffany Dickenson - AGNC
	Jeff Engell - Director SBDC GJ
	Cindy Dozier# Club 20 Executive Committee# RMRI
	Karla Distel
	Margie Joy CHFA-Colorado
	Shannon Scott
	Raven Finegan- Rep. Boebert
	Bobbie Daniel
	Tinker Duclo
	Jeff Tripp
	McKenna Farley (Rep. Boebert)
	Janeth Stancl (Sen. Hickenlooper)
	Chris Nichols
	Hilary Henry Sen Bennet (Hilary)
	Evan Zislis# CRVEDP (Evan Zislis)
	Heather Jones
	Cody Davis# Mesa County Commissioner
	Melonie Matarozzo
	Sarah Carlisle-Tri-State
	Crystal Mariscal - Town of New Castle
	Anna Stout# Mayor# Grand Junction
	Christina Oxley
	Corey Bryndal
	Melody Villard - Moffat
	Dana Hlavac - DOLA
	Tony Haschke PE
	Ingrid Wussow# City of Glenwood Springs
	Drew Kramer
	Keely Ellis - OEDIT
	Jerilynn Francis# CHFA
	19707560327 - Keely Ellis
	Kirk Daehling
	Carolyn Tucker - CDLE
	Hilary Henry - Sen. Bennet
	19703906689 - Hilary Henry

APPENDIX A



Updates from AAA 02/22/2023:

- Interviews for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman position were held on 12/14/2022. The AAA hired Jesse Bond who was already working for Mesa County DHS in their Child Welfare Division. Jesse started with the AAA on 1/17/2023. He has completed his initial ombudsman training and certification was requested last week to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.
- The AAA wrapped up the 16 provider monitoring visits in December. Three nutrition providers had to write corrective action plans to the AAA. Compliance issues were around lack of food safety training, meals not meeting the recommended dietary intake amounts, and food temperatures.
- The AAA received the funds for our second round of the SB21-290 funds. \$75,000 was going to Hilltop ADRC to help with more expensive services in vouchers: Hearing Aids, home modifications, dental work, and transportation. \$4,038 was for the Senior Social Center in Craig to start a CircleTalk program.
- In December 2022, the AAA had an opportunity to provide education about community resources for older adults to a cohort of Colorado Mesa University Physician Assistant students.
- The AAA held a Request for Proposal (RFP) proposer's conference February 3, 2023. The RFP application will be open until March 3rd at 5pm.
- Every four years the AAA is required to write a four-year plan. I have been busy working on the plan and will present it at the next AGNC meeting.
- The AAA did receive our federal carryover funds and the spreadsheet has been provided to AGNC for review.

Legislative:

- **SB23-031:** The bill creates the Colorado multidisciplinary health-care provider access training program (Through Colorado Anschutz Medical) to improve the health care of medically complex, costly, compromised, and vulnerable older Coloradans.
- **SB23-040:** The bill would require staffing agencies to perform Colorado Adult Protection Services (CAPS) check when providing employees who will work with at-risk adults.
- **SB23-058:** The bill prohibits employers from inquiring about a prospective employee's age, date of birth, and dates of attendance at or date of graduation from an educational institution on an employment application.
- **SB23-064:** Under existing law, the office of public guardianship is authorized to serve indigent and incapacitated adults in need of guardianship in 3 judicial districts and is scheduled to repeal on June 30, 2024. The bill extends the office indefinitely and requires the office to operate in every judicial district in the state by December 31, 2027.