



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

May 24, 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 Cody Davis called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Introductions were made.

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

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the April 2023 financials. She presented the Profit and Loss including Contribution Project fees. We are currently over our projected income. The Balance Sheet was presented including the AGNC savings account balance, which is over \$700K in AGNC funds. AGNC is going to discuss this balance with Bill Carlson to see if we can move some funds into higher interest-earning accounts. Accounts Receivable was discussed including the billing of \$7K for Routt County. Central City Opera was discussed as being overdue. They have been contacted and have said they will pay electronically. Tiffany reported on the check register, and pointed out that all the expenses are standard. A motion to approve the April 2023 financial report was made by Lisa Piering, seconded by Bill Carlson, 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. She presented that this month is older Americans month and the theme is “aging unbound.” She has been visiting senior centers to celebrate the month. They currently have requests for proposals (RFP) out to help expand the public health workforce. The funds are meant to add new FTE positions. Heather met with Cody Davis regarding homeless older adults housing, and looking at whether Mesa County could look into a housing community. Heather went to the Annual Caregiver Summit and Resource Fair hosted by the VA. AAA has completed all performance measure surveys for 2023 from providers. She should be able to present the results and actions at the next board meeting. Heather gave some legislative updates including SB23-031, SB23-058 and SB23-064. These updates can be found in her attached report. Heather reported the 2024 fiscal year budget has been sent out to the board. She reviewed the budget recommendations. She reported that there is approximately \$2.5M to work with and they must now go back to stricter budgeting requirements that were lifted during the pandemic. She explained that the requests amounts are what the providers are requesting, and the recommended amounts are what they are going to provide. She spoke about which providers are not receiving funding, and new funding as well. Mesa County RSVP was not funded and did not meet the requirements of the RFP. She talked about the challenge of funding all the different programs, while not cutting services. Bill Carlson asked about the Food Bank of the Rockies and how Meals on Wheels uses them as a vendor. Bill talked about his work with Food Bank of the Rockies and the work they do to provide food to the community. He said that there is a tremendous need. Heather commented that they are separate from Meals on Wheels, but they do lease a portion of their kitchen to Food Bank of the Rockies, as well. She then spoke about the administrative budget and the associated expenses. She talked about the distribution of the funds

per county, as seen on the 3rd page of the budget presentation. Doug Overton asked why Rio Blanco and Moffat county breakdowns are combined. Heather explained that many of her resources for those counties come from joint offices. The local administration matches were discussed and will be used to bill out for next year. A motion was made to approve the AAA 2024 fiscal year budget by Bill Carlson, seconded by Grady Hazelton, and the motion passed unanimously. Heather's written report can be seen at the end of these minutes as Appendix A.

DOLA Update – Dana Hlavac reported that we are in the 1st energy impact cycle of the year. Projects included one in Collbran. Tier 2 requests are over by about \$15M. He reported that there are several strong projects from our region. He spoke about broadband projects and funding for those projects from DOLA, with July being the last cycle for those projects. After that, they can request funding from the broadband office. He said there is a lot of housing funding coming up and that strong communities will be out next month. The energy office also has some coming out next month, as well.

CDLE Workforce – Carolyn Tucker presented an update on workforce in the AGNC counties. She spoke about unemployment rates and that they are trending quite low, close to before COVID in 2019. She talked about unemployment versus job postings, and that the job postings far outweigh the unemployment. She presented job postings by occupation, and the needs for each county, with the highest needs in healthcare. She said that they are working with some local hospitals to implement some grant monies to improve skills in under skilled personnel at these hospitals. Anna Stout asked how this improves the workforce in healthcare. Carolyn talked about that it is easier to fill entry level positions, so it is good to get them in the door and then offer training to move up. Carolyn presented the difference between establishment and employment changes. This shows that new businesses are increasing, but the challenge then is to staff them. She then spoke about COVID recovery in regard to employment, which shows that employment has recovered and is growing slightly higher than pre-COVID. The only county that doesn't have an increase is Moffat County, which is most likely due to the shutdowns of the power plants. She presented program updates, including the expiration of the 80 hours of PHEL leave on June 8. She talked about the new FAMILI and enrollment for that program; the IDEA grant is now open; WBL grants are available; and a new Employer Hiring Toolkit is available at www.nwcoworkforce.cdle.co. Anna Stout asked for a copy of the presentation. Cody Davis asked if the COVID recovery slide was for actively employed, and Carolyn said that it was. Betsy Bair commented that Community Hospital is sharing providers with other entities, but they are focused on recruiting outside personnel, and asked if there is funding available for relocation funding. Carolyn said she will investigate that. Betsy said that Colorado has 7 rural hospitals that are at risk of closing. Carolyn said she will be in touch with Betsy to talk more about how they can help them. Mike Samson asked Betsy if any of the hospitals at risk of closing in AGNC territory. Betsy said she isn't sure, but she thinks that one or two may be in the area, but she needs to confirm that. Betsy shared the report here: [646 hospitals at risk of closure, ranked by state \(beckershospitalreview.com\)](https://beckershospitalreview.com) Carolyn's presentation can be found here: https://agnc.org/wp-content/uploads/Colo-Workforce-Presentation-AGNC_5.24.23.pdf

Broadband update – Corey Bryndal was not on the meeting. However, Cody reported that they are all actively working to bring broadband into their communities. Bill Carlson reported that they are making progress in Palisade, as well. Mike Samson said that Garfield County is having a work session in June to focus on broadband.

The AGNC Board Meeting recessed for the EDD Meeting at 10:05am.

The AGNC Board Meeting reconvened at 11:30am.

Legislative update – Richard, Dianna and Ted Orf presented and talked about their roles as lobbyists for AGNC. Richard reported that there were 683 bills and resolutions introduced, and that 486 passed legislative process, and 131 were killed. He said that 123 were evaluated by AGNC, and we took 99 positions – 29% support, 35% oppose, 40% monitor, and 5% amend. Ted Orf commented that 79% of all bills and resolutions were passed, most of which were introduced by democrats. Jeff Comstock asked why there was a resistance to opposing bills. The Orfs said that they think it's mostly because it might damage relationships for future bills. Richard talked about session themes including turning over major authority to state agencies, major policies and amendments, lack of outreach to

stakeholders, and debate rules suspended. Mike Samson talked about the loss of local control through these bills. Ted Orf talked about how the budget makes an impact on passing major bills during the last 2 weeks of the session. Richard said that these themes were the same as 2019 and 2021. Richard said the legislative priorities were affordable housing, social and criminal justice reform, environmental bills, abortion access, gun control and tax credits. He reported that AGNC issues included the Wolf Reintroduction bills, including wolf compensation fund, and license plate money going to landowners; Economic Development issues including advanced energy solutions in rural Colorado, creation of the rural opportunity office, extending agricultural workforce development program, and eligibility for agricultural future loan programs; Land Use / Housing issues including regulating local housing growth restrictions, land use, reduction of property taxes and voter approved revenue change; Energy and Environment issues including carbon management (reconfigures COGCC), tax policy that advances decarbonization, energy and carbon management regulation in CO, greenhouse gas reductions, and wild horses (Perry Will spoke about this bill and said that it will help with horse management); Wildfire and Water issues including establishment of a wildfire resiliency code board, water quality control fee setting by rule, and Colorado river drought task force; Governance issues including public employees' workplace protection; Firearms Legislation which were all opposed by AGNC; and Criminal and Social Justice issues. Richard talked about looking ahead into 2023/2024 including property tax issues, ozone, water, wildfire, and transportation. He stated that the 2024 session will see many bills reintroduced that did not pass this session. Thank-you gifts were presented to the Orfs by Mike Samson and Cody Davis. Mike stated that the Orfs have worked for AGNC since about 2012. Mike commented on what a really great job the Orfs have done for AGNC. Perry Will also commented about the wonderful job the Orfs do for Western Colorado. The Orfs' presentation can be found here: <https://agnc.org/wp-content/uploads/Orfs-2023-Session-Review.pdf> .

Federal Delegate Update –

Representative Boebert's Office – McKenna Farley reported on the Trust the Science Act and that it has passed the committee on natural resources. She spoke about the debt ceiling bill to raise the debt ceiling and place restrictions on government spending. She said that this will not cut SS, Medicare, veterans affairs, or department of defense, as is being reported in the news. She said that these will be funded through the appropriations process. She said the debt ceiling bill has passed the house and is in the senate, and negotiations are ongoing. She reported that they had a hearing with the Postmaster General and are working on accountability and staffing issues with the postal service. These issues are also affecting veterans receiving their medications through the postal service. Mike Samson asked if they have any news on the 10j rule and if it will be done by December 15th. McKenna said they are working with Rep. Tiffany's office and their chief of staff is also working on this issue. McKenna also reported that the Farm Bill form is now available and will be sent out with a deadline of June 6th.

Senator Bennet's Office - Hilary Henry reported that Sen. Bennet continues to work on the Farm Bill and that they are focused on healthy forests and watersheds and ensuring that the programs are working for Colorado. She encouraged everyone to email her with any input and questions regarding the bill. She said they are thinking about fire season and being prepared, and that there will be funding for wildfire mitigation and to increase pay and benefits for wildland fire fighters. Hilary reported that Sen. Bennet recently reintroduced a bill for mental health in rural communities. Bill Carlson commented that he is thankful for Hilary joining the Palisade community for a fishing activity and the opening of the clinic.

Administrative Update – Tiffany Dickenson reported that she attended the housing summit in Craig, will be attending the Energy Summit in Craig on June 1st and 2nd and she encouraged everyone to register and attend. She gave an update on the OREC grant that was submitted for the CRVEDP, and that we did not receive the grant. She also reported that we did not receive the action grant to revamp the website. She said there is another CEDS Implementation grant through OEDIT that we can apply for to revamp the website. She reported that July 24 – 26th is the CSBR road trip to Criag and Hayden. The July meeting will be the regional IJA summit in Rifle and is specific to our region. She encouraged everyone to let us know of their projects so that we can search for grants. She reported on Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects and encouraged applying for these projects, which enables donors to these projects to receive substantial state income tax credits of up to 25%. She asked if the board would

like to have PPP present at one of our meetings, and the board agreed that it would be a good idea. She also reported that the AGNC ED Summit is set for August 16 in Rifle.

Mike Samson commented on the American Lands Council and asked if Tiffany could contact them to present at our June meeting. He said it's a great organization and they would like us to join them. He said one of their missions is to get federal lands back into state and local control. He said he is hesitant to do this in our state with the current administration. He asked if there are any objections to a presentation from them. Jeff Comstock said that he is familiar with the group and the idea of local control, but he said there is a question of constitutionality about it. Jeff said he would like to see it be an informational presentation only.

Tiffany reported that the local state legislators will be presenting at our June meeting. She said that we typically recognize a legislator at this meeting and suggested that we recognize Sen. Roberts and Rep. Lukens. They have both worked hard for our region of the state and have reached across the isle to work for us. Tony Bohrer commented that Sen. Roberts has pulled more votes from one side to another, and if we only do one it should be Sen. Roberts. Mike suggested to recognize both.

New Business – *Next meeting June 21, 2023, Garfield County Administration Building, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 195 W. 14th Street, Rifle, CO 81650*

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Lisa Piering	Sarah Carlisle-Tri-State
Jeannie Caldwell	Carolyn Tucker - CDLE
Dana Hlavac	Betsy Bair
Heather Jones	Ray Beck -CLUB 20
Grady Hazelton	Jeff Engell - Director SBDC GJ
Bill Carlson	Melonie Matarozzo
Ron Winteron	Anna Stout
Cody Davis	Nathan Perry
McKenna Farley	Drew Kramer
Mike Samson	Dana Hlavac - DOLA
Perry Will	Nancy Fishering
Doug Overton	Hilary Henry - Sen. Bennet
Tony Bohrer	1-970-390-6689
Jeff Comstock	
Richard Orf	
Ted Orf	
Dianna Orf	
Tiffany Dickenson	
Mistalynn Meyeraan	
Toni Barrett	

APPENDIX A



Updates from AAA 05/24/2023:

- This month is Older Americans Month. The theme for this year is “Aging Unbound.” The Administration for Community Living recognizes that there are diverse aging experiences and that communities should work on combating aging stereotypes. They want older adults to remain engaged, independent, and included. I am traveling around the region talking to older adults at nutrition sites and senior centers.
- The AAA has a Request for Proposals (RFP) on some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Health (PH) funding (\$102,193) to expand the Public Health Workforce within the Aging Network. The funds will need to be spent by 09/30/2024. The funds should be used to recruit, hire, and train public health workers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future health challenges. The RFP opened May 12, 2023 and closes June 2, 2023. There was a virtual proposer’s conference on May 12th.
- The AAA participated in youth and older adult housing discussion on May 15, 2023 in Mesa County.
- The AAA participated in the Annual Caregiver Summit and Resource Fair on May 16, 2023 hosted by the Veterans Administration.
- The AAA has finished entering the Performance Measure Surveys for 2023 from providers. I have emailed the individual results out to each provider. At this time, I am not anticipating any providers having to write corrective action plans.

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 (sent to the Governor for signature 5/5/23).
- **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 (sent to the Governor for signature 5/10/23).
- **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 (sent to the Governor for signature 5/15/23).

SFY24 Budget~ See attachment.

Provider	Requested 2023	Received 2023	Received Federal Carryover 2023	Requesting in 2024	Recommend 2024
A Little Help				\$7,500.00	2000
Alpine Legal Services	\$46,103	\$46,103	\$5,000	\$57,986.13	46,103.00
Alpine Legal Services-Ombudsman	\$28,383	\$28,383		\$30,391.00	30,391.00
Colorado Legal Services	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$10,000	\$62,000	62,000
Colorado Legal Services-Ombudsman	\$142,000	\$142,000		\$90,815	90,815
High Country Volunteers	\$45,000	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$45,000	40,000
Garfield County-Well & Wise	\$50,000	\$50,000		\$58,511	50,000
Garfield County-Nutrition	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$8,080	\$256,000	190,000
Garfield County-ADRC	\$175,000	\$159,000	\$8,000	\$204,357.00	150,000.00
Grand River Hospital District	\$80,000	\$70,000	\$10,000	\$70,000	70,000
Senior Daybreak of Hilltop	\$49,996	\$49,996		49,996	45,000
ADRC-Mesa County	\$496,219	\$400,000		\$475,712.00	390,000
Mesa County RSVP				\$17,858.00	
Moffat County Transportation	\$42,054	\$42,054	\$12,000	\$45,000	42,054
Northwest Colorado Health	\$93,288	\$93,288	\$5,000	\$148,992	93,288
Rio Blanco Nutrition	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$10,000	\$108,000	90,000
Senior Citizens Action Group	\$128,000	\$121,000	\$10,020	\$125,000	121,000
Meals on Wheels-St. Mary's	\$955,836	\$800,000.00	\$71,521	\$1,233,449.00	767,788
St. Mary's Community Connections	\$57,549	\$45,000	\$3,000	\$45,000.00	40,000
Mesa Senior Transit	\$60,412	\$60,412		\$60,455.00	60,455
Valley Meals and More	\$124,000	\$70,000	\$20,000	\$157,000	90,000
	2915840	2559236	Sub-Total	\$3,349,022.52	2,470,894.15
			LTC Ombudsman Salary & Benefits	\$71,864	71,864
			TOTAL	\$3,420,886.52	2,542,758.15

Estimated Funding for 2023-2024

B	\$ 261,893.00
C-1	\$ 209,886.00
C-2	\$ 382,514.00
D	\$ 19,202.00
E	\$ 116,236.00
EAP	\$ 2,102.00
NHOmb	\$ 15,898.00
American Rescue B	\$ 155,353.26
American Rescue C-1	\$ 91,805.60
American Rescue C-2	\$ 96,409.21
American Rescue D	\$ 15,856.56
American Rescue E	\$ 41,702.31
American Rescue Omb	\$ 8,572.21
SHIP	\$7,836
SFSS	\$ 1,067,633.00
Homestead	\$ 43,063.00
E-St.Match	\$ 6,796.00
Sub-total	\$ 2,542,758.15

State Fiscal Year 2023-24

Area Agency on Aging			
2023-24 PLAN			
Expenses	Administration	Coordination	Total
Personnel			
Director, Accountant & Regional Omb	177,792.56		177,793
Travel	15,926.00		15,926
Other	76,860.00		76,860
Total	270,578.56	-	270,579
Revenue			
FED/State OAA	135,375.42		135,375
SFSS	90,078.00		90,078
Local Cash			
Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado	16,800.00		16,800
MCDHS	28,325.14		28,325.14

Community forums for four year plan 2023-2027
 Conferences: Law Day, Caregivers and Legislation Forum

Distributuion from area Agency on Aging Funds in Region XI - SFY 2023-24

	Services \$ by County - 2023-24	% of OAA Services \$
Mesa	\$ 1,527,922.15	60.1%
Garfield	\$ 668,494.00	26.3%
Moffat, Rio Blanco	\$ 346,342.00	13.6%
	\$ 2,542,758.15	100.0%

Moffat Rio
\$228,069.97 \$118,272.03

	AAA Local Admin - LC \$ By County - 2023-24	% of OAA Service \$
Mesa	11,937.73	71.1%
Garfield	3,563.35	21.2%
Moffat, Rio Blanco	1,298.93	7.7%
	16,800.00	100.0%

Moffat Rio
\$855.36 \$443.57

Region XI - 60 Populations

	# Persons 60+	% of Reg. 60+ Pop
Mesa	43,572	71.06%
Garfield	13,006	21.21%
Moffat	3,122	5.09%
Rio Blanco	1,619	2.64%
	61,319	100.0%

Total
Population
Moffat/Rio
4,741
Moffat 66% Rio 34%

Based on Dept. of Local Affairs - state Demographer 2021 Estimate