



**MINUTES**  
**AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING**  
**October 22, 2025**  
**9:00 am to 1:30 pm**  
***Garfield County Administration Building,***  
***2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room, 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

Pledge of allegiance

**Call to order** – Chairman Cody Davis called the meeting to order at 9:02am. Introductions were made.

**Approval of minutes** – Doug Overton made a motion to approve the September 17, 2025, meeting minutes; Mike Samson seconded the motion; Cody Davis abstained because he was not present at the September meeting; and the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial report** – Tiffany Dickenson presented the September financial statements. The September profit and loss statement was reviewed including the new RPI Grant income and expenses. She noted the large payment to NCEI. She presented the balance sheet including the new CSLIP investment account and she noted that it is now earning about 4% interest. She presented the accounts receivable including outstanding amounts from OEDIT and RCEDP and contribution project admin fees. She reviewed the check register. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Mike Samson; the motion was seconded by Stan Harbaugh; and the motion passed unanimously.

**Votes for Approval:**

Tiffany presented the 2026 proposed budget for review. The board asked for time to review it before approving it at the next board meeting in November. She presented the revised budget for 2025 based on projected income and expenses for the rest of the year. She noted items that are projected to have an increase or decrease to the budget. She then presented the proposed budget numbers for 2026. She noted that the mini grant number has decreased, and this is due to doubts in funding. She also noted the ED Summit expenses and noted that it was due to the payment to Mark Perna for his presentations to AGNC and BIC, and that BIC has reimbursed their portion of the amount. Mike Samson asked what the reserves are, and she explained the amount from the balance sheet.

Tiffany presented a promotion for Mistalynn Meyeraan to Deputy Director. She noted that it does not include a salary increase, but the title will reflect her role in the organization and the added duties that she has taken on. She stated that the bylaws require a vote for approval. Doug Overton asked if there is a job description for the position and Tiffany stated that she will be working on putting one together. A motion to approve the promotion of Mistalynn Meyeraan to Deputy Director effective immediately was made by Mike Samson; the motion was seconded by Grady Hazelton; 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. She noted that she attended the Veterans Symposium. She said that she has started her road trip to perform audits. She noted that the ombudsman for Garfield County has resigned through Alpine Legal Services. She said that they will post the position as an internal position with Mesa County DHS and hope to have someone hired by the beginning of the year. Mike Samson asked if that would affect services for Garfield County and Heather said it would not, and that the new ombudsman would still serve Garfield County even if they are employed by Mesa County. She said that even though the federal government is shut down they are continuing business as usual, and they should continue to receive payments. She presented the revised budget which includes carryover funds. She explained the distribution of the carryover funds. She explained the breakdown of the funds for each county. A motion to approve the revised budget was made by Doug Overton; the motion was seconded by Lisa Piering; and the motion passed unanimously. Heather's report is attached as Appendix A.

**Workforce Update – Carolyn Tucker** reported they have rebranded from Colorado Workforce to Workforce Colorado Rural Alliance. She presented the unemployment rates for the region, including a few other counties for comparison. She noted that the September data is delayed due to the government shutdown. Mike Samson asked about Delta's number and Carolyn explained the year-over-year differences. Cody Davis asked how the numbers are calculated, and Carolyn explained the formulas that are used and noted that Pitkin and San Miguel import more than 60% of their workforce. She also spoke about reasons for people leaving these areas due to the cost of living in Colorado. She spoke about the challenges of tracking unemployment rates. She spoke about male workers between the age of 18-40 who are not participating in the workforce or higher education. She explained that the jobs are recorded in the county where they are located, but unemployment is recorded in the county of residence for the unemployed worker. Mike Samson spoke about the trickle-down effect of workers leaving the county of residence for jobs, which leaves jobs in the county open that workers from further away will take. He also commented on the jobs that may be lost to AI. Carolyn spoke about the mixed trends in GDP, business filings, job growth, and business outlooks. She spoke about the local impacts including job hugging, federal employee cuts, budget shortfalls, and skills deficits. She spoke about local activities including hiring events, federal employee guidance, job seeker webinars, and apprenticeship development. She spoke about potential strategies including increasing internal training, succession planning, cultivating incoming workforce, and connecting with the workforce system. She presented suggestions for employers and the workforce centers in the central mountains. Tiffany Dickenson said that she would like Carolyn to help AGNC with the CEDS work coming up in 2026.

**Northwest Colorado RPI – Jon Miller** joined via zoom. Tiffany Dickenson introduced him to the board. Jon spoke about correcting the balance of engagement with Moffat and Rio Blanco counties and the work they are doing to achieve this. He spoke about building trust with the communities and bridging from the original NCOC/Keystone engagement to the current organization of NWCO. He spoke about the disparity in grant funding to Routt County versus Moffat and Rio Blanco. He spoke about Grant 1 and 2 and the presentation that was made for Grant 2. He said they are looking towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> round as well and that it will be the larger implementation dollars. He spoke about the community engagement that he has participated in during the past month. He said they have developed some surveys and hope to implement them, as well. He presented the Facebook page for NWCO and said that they are using it to market the surveys. John Swartout commented that he is thankful for AGNC stepping up to ensure that Moffat and Rio Blanco counties are engaged in this effort. Mike Samson commented that the municipalities need to stay engaged and the importance of belonging to AGNC.

**NCEI Update – Matt Solomon** spoke about the CLEAP grant being 4 months behind and that they have put a hard deadline on them for all the reports. He commented that the state is using old data for their reports instead

of pulling current data. He said that is why it is important to get the current data out. He spoke about the Colorado Energy Compact. He spoke about the change in wordage from renewable to net zero and the impacts of this. He spoke about ECA and the work being done on the EOI. He reported that he will be at the National Renewable Conference to speak. He spoke about the presentations they are working on obtaining for the JOLT conference in June 2026. He said he is also working on a presentation for the Garfield County Energy and Environment Symposium. He spoke about DIA and the increase in usage and the impacts on increased electricity needs. He said they will need 400MW of electricity and the opportunity to utilize Craig's transmission lines to meet this need. Stan Harbaugh asked if there was any interest in Northwest Colorado for interim storage sites. Matt said there have been several discussions.

**Legislative Update – Dianna Orf** asked for some background from Jon Miller regarding the NWCO initiative. Jon spoke about the initial \$50M made available by the Governor to be used across the state. Dianna then presented her written report via zoom. She spoke about potential legislation for 2026 including acceleration of deadlines to achieve zero carbon emissions. She spoke about a sunset review of the PUC and what changes might be made to the commission. Richard Orf spoke about stream access and land use issues that will be forthcoming during the legislative session. Dianna spoke about air toxins and the priority contaminants that are found in the oil and gas industry. Dianna spoke about the state budget which must be submitted by the Governor by November 1<sup>st</sup>. She said that the JBC consideration of the budget will commence on November 12<sup>th</sup> and will be meeting on a daily basis. John Swartout commented that there is a current request for 15 more range riders from CPW/DNR and that should come up with the budget discussions. Dianna said there has been tremendous discussion within the committees regarding the wolf reintroductions. Perry Will said that he would like to discuss the stream access issues with Richard sometime. The Orfs' report is attached as Appendix B.

**Wolf Coalition Update - John Swartout** spoke and said thank you to AGNC for making this coalition possible. He said it has brought together many groups and brought coherence to the groups. He said that they have been putting relentless pressure on the system to bring light to the tremendous cost this has been to producers and landowners. He said that the USFW has sent a letter to the state stating they cannot source wolves from anywhere outside the lower 48 states. He said that Senator Pelton is working to get a copy of the letter. He said he would like to see the letter and the reasons behind the letter. He said the state and the Governor are very unhappy about the letter and that he has heard rumors of retribution from the Governor and the state to take the 10J rule away and petitions to take away compensation for depredations. He said he has heard the Governor has hired outside legal counsel, as well. He said he would like to see the letter to know exactly what this might mean for the state. He also spoke about the process required to withdraw the 10J rule and the amount of time that might take, as well. He said the next CPW commission meeting will be in Sterling and he sees strong support from the eastern plains for the pause of wolf reintroductions. He spoke about the Governor treating everyone as an adversary rather than a partner, and that he sees a need for more conservation rather than regulation. Mike Samson commented that the landowners are being pitted against CPW instead of strengthening a possible partnership. He asked if there are many problems with 25 wolves, how is the state going to handle 250. John spoke about the current wolf management plan and that there is currently no cap listed. Perry Will asked where wolves might come from in the lower 48 states. John said that the tribal communities have asked that wolves not come from the tribal nation in Oregon that was previously used. John also spoke about the soaring costs of compensation. Tiffany Dickenson presented the Non-Native Species Ordinance from Montrose County. She spoke about emergency declarations from the Counties that might give some traction to the federal government for DOI to work directly with the counties.

### **Municipalities Roundtable –**

Town of Rangely – Lisa Piering said they are experiencing a lot of water treatment issues because of the wildfires.

Town of Parachute – Tom Rugaard reported that the old motel in town was demolished, and work has begun to build an apartment complex. He said they voted in an URA and are working on a downtown development plan. He said they are also working on trails planning. He spoke about the LiftUp vacant building, and new restaurants replacing some restaurants that have closed including Wendy's and Subway.

Town of Palisade – Stan Harbaugh spoke about the increases in the budget and the shortfall in sales taxes. He said the biggest issue they are facing is the sewer project. He said that bids have come in well over budget, and the lowest was 40% over budget. He said they also are delayed because of the government shutdown and will now have to go out for new bids and look for more funding to cover the costs. He said they are continuing work on the River Bend Park. He said he also believes the round-about project is on hold due to funding issues with CDOT.

Town of New Castle – Grady Hazelton reported on 2 FMLD grants received for the wastewater treatment facility. He said they are working on the landscaping for the round-about and an upcoming bridge replacement on the west side of town.

City of Craig – Chris Nichols reported on the soft opening of the river park. He said they just closed on the purchase of land for an industrial park, funded by OJT. He said it backs up to rail that they are hopeful will enhance development of the industrial park. He said the NWCDC innovation center will be their first tenant of the park. He spoke about increases in transportation to Routt County. He said a 96-unit apartment complex will break ground in the spring. He said they are working on pickle-ball courts and a sports complex for the City of Craig. He said they will be using Tri-State settlement funds to create an economic development authority.

Rio Blanco County – Doug Overton reported that the power lines from Meeker to Piceance Creek burned in the fires and they need support from the federal government. He said it will cost about \$30M to rebuild the lines.

### **Federal Delegate Updates –**

Sen Bennet - Delaney Deskin joined via zoom. She reported that they are working actively to urge the president to issue the major disaster declaration for Rio Blanco County. She reported on grants given for wildfire mitigation projects. She reported on the Fix Our Forests Act and the work to move it forward. Hilary Henry said that she has spoken to Callie Scritchfield and would like to speak with Lisa Piering regarding the wildfire issues they are facing. She said they are working to amend the Fix Our Forests Act to include much needed funding.

Sen. Hickenlooper – Janeth Stancle reported that she has also had a conversation with Rio Blanco County commissioner Scritchfield. She stated that Sen. Hickenlooper's focus is to protect the access to healthcare for Coloradans. She said that he recently introduced a dyslexia bill and voted to pass military spending.

Rep. Hurd – Riley Scott reported that the Senate is still working to reopen the government. She reported that Rep. Hurd has offered to extend the ACA tax credits for one year to reopen the government. She said the Rep. Hurd went to Meeker and met with some local leaders there. She said he is working to get more money to Rio Blanco County to help with the wildfire effects. She said he did a tour with Rep. Kennedy from Utah to several locations in Western Colorado and Eastern Utah. She said he has introduced new legislation that would create a geothermal ombudsman for permitting on public lands.

**Executive Director Update – Tiffany Dickenson** presented her written report and stated that in the interest of time she would not present verbally and encouraged everyone to read her report. Tiffany's report is attached as

Appendix C. She also presented the proposed 2026 meeting schedule and asked everyone to review it for conflicts and report back at the next meeting.

**New Business –**

*Next meeting November 19, 2025, Garfield County Administration Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room, 195 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Rifle, CO 81650*

**Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.**

**Attendance:**

<b>IN PERSON</b>	<b>VIA ZOOM</b>
John Swartout	Dianna Orf
Lisa Piering	Ray Beck
Mike Samson	Richard Orf
Heather Jones	Teri Cavanagh
Doug Overton	Sarah Stoeber
Grady Hazelton	Chris Nichols
Matt Solomon	Shannon Scott
Carolyn Tucker	Delaney Deskin
William Dearing	Tony Bohrer
Perry Will	Margie Joy
Craig Fuller	Sarah Carlisle
Stan Harbaugh	Lindy Browning
Cody Davis	Janeth Stancle
Tom Rugaard	Riley Scott
Tiffany Dickenson	Jeff Comstock
Mistalynn Meyeraan	Jon Miller
Laura Kay Good	Hilary Henry
Toni Barrett	

APPENDIX A



**Updates from AAA 10/22/2025:**

- The AAA had a booth at the Veterans Symposium that occurred on Monday, September 22, 2025, at the Mesa County Workforce Center.
- The AAA has completed eight of the seventeen monitoring visits with contracted providers. The AAA hopes to have the monitoring visits wrapped up by the end of November.
- Our Garfield County Long-Term Care Ombudsman has resigned effective at the end of this month. This position is currently contracted with Alpine Legal Services, but the AAA had planned to transition this position 7/1/2026 into the AAA. As such, Alpine Legal Services will not post for this position and instead the AAA will post for the position. We hope to have someone hired by the beginning of the year.
- Even though the federal government is shut down, the AAA will continue business as usual. The State Unit on Aging has confirmed that staff managing the federal Payment Management Services (PMS) are considered essential workers, and the State will be able to draw down the Older Americans Act funds. Thus, AAAs will continue to receive payment from the State. Even if the shutdown exceeds 30 days the State Unit on Aging does not anticipate any impacts to the AAAs at this time.
- The AAA received notice of our SFY25 Carryover funds. The AAA has worked with contracted providers the past couple of weeks on how best to distribute these funds. The recommended budget with carryover funds is attached.

## APPENDIX B



### Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC)

#### Government Affairs Report

October 21, 2025

## Potential Legislation for 2026

**Energy Planning.** Throughout the summer, staff from the Governor's Office and the Colorado Energy Office engaged with stakeholders to discuss potential legislation concerning acceleration of deadlines to achieve zero carbon emissions. That bill failed to be introduced in 2025, and the question is will we see it in 2026, either as a stand along bill or as part of the PUB Sunset bill? The Sunset review, which precedes the reauthorization legislation was issued on October 15, <https://coprrr.colorado.gov/sites/coprrr/files/documents/2025SunsetPublicUtilitiesCommission.pdf> with the Energy portion is contained on pages 81-91. There was no mention of accelerating any deadlines; however, there were a number of specific recommendations for legislation set forth below:

- amend section 40-2-124(1)(c)(I), C.R.S., regarding the requirement for eligible energy resources to comprise up to 30 percent of sales by 2020 and create an additional target by, beginning in 2027, allowing utilities with approved CEPs that demonstrate compliance with the reduction target of the CEP to opt out of the RES requirements;
- amend section 40-2-124(1)(g)(I)(A), C.R.S., to eliminate the complex counterfactual calculations regarding renewables by specifying that the retail rate impact should be based on the cost of the retail distributed programs offered by the utility, as determined by the Commission, and repealing language referring to noneligible energy sources;
- amend section 40-2-124(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., to repeal the requirement that distributed generation be at least three percent of retail sales.
- amend sections 40-2-124(4), C.R.S., as it pertains to municipal utilities and section 40-2-124(5.5), C.R.S., as it pertains to electric cooperatives to specify that the reporting requirements apply to such utilities only if they are not in compliance with the CEP.;
- direct the PUC to commission a study to identify barriers to joint procurement by electric utilities of advanced technology generation resources, wind generation, solar generation, conventional or innovative storage, and transmission.
- explicitly authorize the Commission to require utilities to administer specific customer-facing programs through one or more third parties, if deemed prudent and in the best interest of ratepayers. This authorization should grant the Commission the ability to require a competitive bidding process, whether that process is managed by the PUC or another party, to procure the services of a third-party implementer.
- clarify that all municipal utilities, rural electrical cooperative associations and independent power project developers may appeal local land use decisions to the Commission for any type of energy resource facility built or acquired by these entities to serve their customers.
- authorize the Commission to direct investor-owned utilities to use securitization as an alternative means of financing and recovering costs as compared to traditional methods when securitization is shown to lower ratepayer costs.
- direct the Commission to standardize implementation and access to the utilities' PIPPs and to study the PIPP concept more generally to determine whether funding access and equity can be improved.

Because the PUC oversees the activities of many varied entities including water, energy, transportation, and telecommunications the Sunset report recommended that in future years each system be separately evaluated for

reauthorization. Specifically addressing the regulation of energy utilities, the report discussed the many and frequent changes made by the legislature and recommended that the next energy review be deferred until 2037, essentially allowing the legislature to make all changes it desires rather than wrapping changes into a sunset review bill.

These recommendations will be included in a draft bill presented to the legislature, with the likelihood of more **amendments** added throughout consideration of the bill.

In response to the Governor's proposal for accelerating the Clean Energy Plans, multiple groups sprang up to provide a more thoughtful approach, taking into account feasibility, cost, and impacts. One approach "the Colorado Energy Compact" is championed by Action Colorado, a regional economic development organization. The Compact's supporters include elected officials, businesses and unions from the Pueblo area.

The Sensible Energy platform appears backed by the oil/gas industry with Colorado outreach conducted by Julia de Tar of Adamantine Energy (oil/gas company) and Mike King, former head of DNR. The Sensible Energy group has conducted outreach through the business and local government communities and is planning a discussion and release of its platform on October 22.

**Stream Access.** We are watching for a potential bill to clarify and provide additional stream access rights for recreational users on private property (kayaking, fishing, etc.). A coalition of recreational interests has pushed for the ability to not only recreate in the waters running through private property, but to access the streambeds and banks. Despite multiple discussion forums, no legislator has yet stepped forward to sponsor such a bill, although several have expressed interest. It is likely that a bill changing 150 years of practice in Colorado would be fraught with issues of private investment, property rights, and liability. Although the deadline has passed for the Water and Ag Resources committee to recommend a bill for 2026, there may be interest from an individual legislator when the committee meets again on October 29.

**Air Toxics.** In 2022, the legislature enacted HB 22-1244 directing the Air Quality Control Commission to develop a program for identifying, monitoring, and controlling the emission of toxic air contaminants from a variety of industries. The first priority air toxics identified are commonly found in oil/gas operations and refining. On January 17, 2025, the commission adopted the new rule identifying five priority air toxics (formaldehyde, benzene, chromium compounds, ethylene oxide, hydrogen sulfide). Recently, the Air Pollution Control Division distributed a **regulatory concept** for an

**Air Toxics control strategies** rulemaking to be scheduled for April 2026. Covered activities include:

- Gas-fired stationary spark ignition engines
- Gas-fired stationary combustion turbines
- Storage, transfer and disposal of volatile organic compounds and petroleum liquids, and petroleum processing and refining.

Public meetings will be held on Oct. 22 6-8 pm and Nov. 8 10am -12. A copy of the presentation and the recordings will be posted on the priority air toxics web page. <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/air-toxics/priority-toxic-air-contaminants>

**Budget.** The Governor must submit his proposed budget for the next fiscal year by November 1. The JBC will commence consideration of that budget on November 12 when the Governor appears to discuss his priorities for the Executive Branch agencies. From that point forward, the JBC will conduct a series of briefings and hearings to consider the requests in light of available resources. Briefings are presentations by JBC staff assigned to the relevant agencies, followed by hearings where department/division personnel appear and respond to questions from JBC members.  
[https://leg.colorado.gov/jbc\\_schedule](https://leg.colorado.gov/jbc_schedule)

## APPENDIX C

### Executive Director's Update – October 2025

- **Enterprise Zone Redesignation** – The Enterprise Zone Redesignation was approved by the Economic Development Commission on October 16. They will update the EZ map on the OEDIT website as soon as possible. Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties remain wholly within the EZ. Under SB24-190, those 3 counties are now Enhanced Rural Enterprise Zones for 10 years. There were some boundary changes in Garfield – this will primarily impact the eastern side of the county.
  - Grand, Gilpin, and Jackson Counties are 100% in the zone.
  - Clear Creek County will need to request an amendment at the beginning of the year to have the entire county included again.
- **NWCO Outdoor RPI** – The facilitators conducted their Listening Session in Meeker on September 24. The second one is scheduled for 6pm – 8pm on October 23 in Craig. The third one is scheduled for 6pm – 8 pm on October 29 in Rangely.

Also, they have started a Facebook page for the project: <https://www.facebook.com/nwco.outdoors/> Jon Miller, the NWCO coordinator in Moffat County, and Mistalynn presented to the GOCO/CPW committee in Denver regarding the RPI grant on September 24. NWCO will be providing periodic updates to the board to keep AGNC aware of the group's activities.

- **Unified Wolf Coalition** – USFWS have sent correspondence to CPW stating Colorado must obtain their wolves from the lower 48. This will upend CPW's plans to obtain wolves from Canada or Alaska. The correspondence has been confirmed, but we have yet to see the letter. Reporters did begin calling AGNC on 10/20 regarding the topic.

We are also looking further into whether or not the counties should make an emergency declaration regarding the wolves, which may allow DOI to work better with the counties, whether or not the state chooses to help.

- **The next CPW meeting is November 13 and 14 in Sterling, CO.**
- **IRS Early Withdrawal Penalty Waiver** – We continue to gather signatures on the sign-on letter supporting a waiver of early withdrawal penalties for displaced coal workers. So far, 59 individuals and organizations have signed on. We would particularly appreciate support from our members regarding this issue. The letter will remain open through the end of October. Please sign on and share widely:  
<https://form.jotform.com/252044050339145>

We participated in the EDAC meeting in Craig on October 20 where this issue was presented to Representative Lukens and Senator Roberts in the hopes of gaining their support on the measure. It did sound as if the representatives will submit a letter of support, for which we provided a template.

### Notices

- **Office of Just Transition Advisory Committee** – The Office of Just Transition is seeking applicants for its Advisory Committee. Applications must be received by October 31. They need representation from coal transition communities. For details: [JTAC Application Cover Memo Accessible 2025 - Google Docs](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PRydOm6JBV-B_JrPRLO0g3tgiobrOfHJMDKQpzXH0dk/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.rv28nqhobxue) - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PRydOm6JBV-B\\_JrPRLO0g3tgiobrOfHJMDKQpzXH0dk/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.rv28nqhobxue](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PRydOm6JBV-B_JrPRLO0g3tgiobrOfHJMDKQpzXH0dk/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.rv28nqhobxue)

- **CRVEDP** – The Colorado River Valley Economic Development Partnership, covering New Castle to Parachute, is going to be unveiling it's Economic Development Strategy on October 29, 2025. All AGNC members and partners are invited to attend either in-person or on Zoom. If you're interested in attending, please contact Alicia Gresley at [Alicia@livingonmtntime.com](mailto:Alicia@livingonmtntime.com).
- **AGNC Office Closed October 31** – Tiffany, Laura Kay, and Mistalynn will be attending the annual EDCC Drive, Lead, Succeed conference beginning October 26 through October 29. Because the conference begins on Sunday and Toni does not work on Friday, the AGNC office will be closed the following Friday, October 31.
- **Board Meeting Schedule** – We are attaching a proposed board meeting schedule for 2026. Please review and let us know if there are any conflicts that we need to adjust for. We will vote on this at the November meeting.
- **Topics for Meetings** – Please let us know if there are any topics you would like to hear about! This is your organization, and we want to ensure that we are providing you with presentations that are informative and of interest to you!