



MINUTES
AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING
March 19, 2025
9:00 am to 1:30 pm
Garfield County Admin Bldg, 2nd Floor Meeting Room,
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 – Immediate Past Chairman and Treasurer Mike Samson called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes – Doug Overton made a motion to approve the February 19, 2025, meeting minutes; Stan Harbaugh seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the February 2025 financials. She presented the profit and loss statement and said there was not much to note. She explained the negative amount for county dues which was because Mesa County pays their dues quarterly. Mike Samson asked if any other municipalities have dropped their membership and Tiffany said only Grand Junction has recently dropped out. Mike said he would like to see GJ rejoin and encouraged everyone to reach out to them. Tiffany spoke about the funding for the grants navigator specialist and that there will be a 3rd year of funding that AGNC will apply for. She reported on the progress of the website and strategic planning which will be wrapping up shortly. She reported on the balance sheet including the AAA bank balance. She presented the accounts receivable including the amounts due from ECA for grants, some of which are still under a federal funding freeze. She presented the check register and said there was nothing noteworthy. Mike spoke about investing some of the fund balance and said that he would give some recommendations to Tiffany. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Grady Hazelton, seconded by Doug Overton, and the motion passed unanimously

Votes for Approval:

Tiffany Dickenson presented a memo from the City of Craig asking for a letter from AGNC to the IRS asking for penalties to be waived for coal workers' use of pension funds. Tony Bohrer made a motion for AGNC to write a letter to the IRS and take on the initiative to petition for the change in IRS penalties for coal workers use of their pension funds, Chris Nichols seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Tiffany Dickenson presented a letter to Congressman Hurd and a Ballot Initiative Letter to Patrick Davis regarding the wolf reintroductions. Tiffany said the board would need to ratify the vote that was previously taken by email for the letters. She also asked whether the board would like formal votes each time a letter is presented from the coalition since there is a county commissioner from each county on the coalition. Perry Will commented that the letter to Patrick Davis was a very good letter. Mike Samson said that he also thought it was

a good letter and he is hopeful it will make a difference. JJ Fletcher commented that several commissioners met with Rep. Hurd and told him that the coalition had been formed and would have the letter for him. Tony Bohrer commented that he wished the coalition existed 3 years ago. Tony asked why his name was not on the letter and Tiffany explained that she only wanted names on the letter that she had explicit permission from, and that Tony was out of town at the time. Mike commented that he is proud of the work AGNC has done to bring the stakeholders together for the coalition. Tiffany commented that she does not want AGNC to be the voice of the coalition, but that AGNC could bring the parties together. Mike said that he disagrees and would like AGNC stand up and take the lead because AGNC has a lot of clout, and he has seen AGNC work hard to earn this reputation. JJ commented that this impacts the region in AGNC more than any other area in Colorado, and he believes it is impactful to have one voice. Alicia Gresley asked if the ag industries have had any input and that she thinks that they would appreciate the impact that AGNC has in bringing them together. Mike said that he thinks the wool producers, ranchers, and ag industry do like to see AGNC take the lead in these political decisions. A motion to ratify the vote for approval of the letters to Rep. Hurd and Mr. Davis was made by Grady Hazelton, Tony Bohrer seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Tiffany Dickenson presented the DOLA REDI grant that AGNC applied for on behalf of a business in Craig. Shannon Scott spoke about the company and stated that is a startup company named High Altitude Geothermal, LLC. The company is owned by a coal worker who is looking to transition after the coal mines close. She stated that the grant would help them purchase additional equipment. Mistalynn Meyeraan said it is a \$125K grant with one-to-one match. Tiffany said she is excited that this will establish a geothermal driller on the western slope when most other drillers are on the eastern slope. Doug Overton commented that this is a small part of the geothermal industry and would bring in more jobs to support the industry. Stan Harbaugh asked if AGNC normally requests grants for businesses. Mistalynn said that AGNC is required to be the lead applicant because it is through DOLA and AGNC would just be the administrator of the grant. DOLA said this is similar to a program they ran with the town of Gunnison. A motion to ratify the email vote to approve AGNC applying for the DOLA REDIT grant for High Altitude Geothermal, LLC was made by Tony Bohrer, Stan Harbaugh seconded the motion, 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. Heather spoke about the Valley Senior Center in Parachute. Mike Samson said that they are working on it as Garfield County Commissioners and do not want to see them lose this facility. Mike asked if Heather was familiar with Valley Meals in Garfield County. Mike said that Mary Kinnon came to the commissioners and said they are struggling with funding. He asked if Heather knew what the federal funding status would be for these types of programs. Heather said that this current fiscal year budget includes 75% from federal funding. She said if the Older American Act gets reauthorized they could potentially see an increase, but they are unsure. She said that she would expect decreased or flat funding moving forward. Mike asked if there is a safety net, and Heather said there is no safety net for those federal dollars and they have encouraged their providers to find alternative funding. She said grants are becoming more difficult to find to support older adult programs. Mike said that Valley Meals is planning to ask municipalities to contribute more to these programs, and he asked if this is normal and how other places are taking care of this funding shortage. Heather said there are some other states that request funding from insurance providers and public/private partnerships for clients that are above the income threshold for Medicaid. She said they are trying to find ways to stay sustainable and create additional revenue for the different AAA's. JJ Fletcher said that in Mesa County he saw a program to provide meals to children through a backpack program. Mike said they were told by CMC they could provide meals at \$14/each and the correctional facility provides meals at \$6/each, and he does not understand the discrepancy. Tinker Duclo said that it may be because of the correctional facilities ability to access bulk commodities that CMC cannot access. Heather's report is attached as Appendix A.

NCEI Update – Matt Solomon presented by zoom and said that HB1040 is now on the Governor’s desk, and it was a bipartisan effort. He said that he is seeing more groups interested in bringing the nuclear industry into the state. He spoke about the DC Consortium meetings. He spoke about the Club20 presentation and the South by Southwest Panel he participated in. He spoke about the freezing of the federal funds and the opportunity to collect private funds. He spoke about the C-LEAP work being done and the upcoming ECA Forum in Idaho Falls.

CDLE Workforce Update – Carolyn Tucker gave a PowerPoint presentation by zoom. She said that she is now the industry engagement lead for the western slope. She presented the unemployment rates as of January 2025 which she said are ticking up slightly for the region. She spoke about the long-term demographic trends affecting the workforce, including the aging population. She spoke about the activities they have done including upskilling current employees, career technical education, and federal employee layoff assistance. She said that 600+ federal employees have filed for unemployment statewide. She presented a list of job fairs going on through May 2025. She presented a couple of articles of interest and the links can be found on her slides which will be shared with AGNC. She presented current and future workforce trends and said that there is a lot of uncertainty right now. She spoke about the role of artificial intelligence and its effect on the workforce. JJ Fletcher commented that Morgan Mining is relocating to Mesa County, bringing hundreds of jobs. He also said that West Springs hospital closed, losing 200 jobs. He said this is a crisis for all the counties for mental health services. Carolyn said that it is a mixed bag, and some industries are doing better than others, which is very challenging.

DOLA Update – Dana Hlavac reported that awards letters went out for the current cycle including funding for Rangely, Glenwood, Parachute and other local communities. He said the current cycle is down from \$45M to \$15M, and the prognosis beyond this cycle is unknown, and that he does not anticipate any cycles moving into 2026. He said the state has raided severance funds and he is encouraging counties and municipalities to become self-sufficient and not dependent on severance funds. He said the state revolving funds are all in the red and they have started a prioritization formula and restricting applications. He said we are the 2nd lowest state in severance taxes and spoke about the impact of ad valorem tax credits. Alicia Gresly asked what self-sufficiency means for small municipalities. Dana said that it means utilities are bringing in enough revenue from users to self-fund the infrastructure. Jim Mann said that is nearly impossible with all the unfunded mandates they are given. Alicia asked if there was a way for us to come together as a group to help with this. Ray Beck commented that the state has passed legislation to shut down oil and gas and that this is the trickle-down effect of that legislation. Mike Samson commented that the state legislature is economically destroying the Western Slope with many different legislative positions. Doug Overton commented on the necessity for America to be energy independent. Dana commented that many have direct distribution in their budgets from severance taxes and he cautioned them to be careful about that practice moving forward.

A Special Place – Carrie Shahbahrani presented and introduced herself. She said that she moved from Indiana to Colorado in 2018. She said she is a medical prescriber with a master’s certificate in palliative care. She worked as the onsite prescriber for the Mesa County Detention Center. She said she started a private practice called LifeSpan serving about 4K patients statewide, but predominantly on the western slope. She said they have several offices across the western slope. She said her choice of patients is focused on severe mental illnesses. She said that after working in jail settings for so long she sees a gap in services. She said that competency is a constitutionally protected right and some individuals are found to be incompetent. She said that in these cases the patient must be evaluated prior to proceeding with the charges against them. She said that A Special Place provides housing for patients that have been deemed incompetent but need restorative services so that they do not reoffend. She spoke about mental health and the need to recognize it as a medical diagnosis. She said that other states such as Florida have worked to put programs in place to help people with mental health issues stay out of the courts and jails and receive restorative services. She said that she started a

non-profit to house these individuals. She said they have no permanent funding and have received multiple grants from various funding agencies. She gave an example of an individual they have housed with an overt case of Alzheimer's and cancer. She says that when an individual is incarcerated, all Medicaid is turned off. She said they must have an address to begin receiving services again. She said they can house 46 individuals above the age of 18 in a male house and a female house. She said that when they get a referral they work with many county and state agencies to house individuals with services to rehabilitate them. She said they provide work and volunteer opportunities for these individuals. Cody Kennedy said that he owns the three houses that are being rented to A Special Place for these services in Grand Junction. He said that he thinks it provides a piece to the system that is broken or missing for these individuals. He said that he is very supportive of the work being done in these homes. Alica Gresley spoke about Mind Springs closing its detox center in Garfield County and asked if Carrie has any advice to close this gap. Carrie spoke about the competitive nature of grant awards. She said they have now become the catchall for extreme cases due to the closing of Mind Springs Hospital in Grand Junction, as well. Matt Solomon commented on voluntary intervention for inmates in the jails and asked what the solution is for inmates who do not want the intervention. Carrie said that it is definitely a problem and the Sheriffs cannot administer medication without consent. She said eventually they can be placed on court ordered medications, but once they are released the cycle begins again and they usually reoffend. Carrie said that in a perfect world mental health needs to be recognized as a medical condition that must be addressed. Mistalynn Meyeraan asked how they work with DHS to find interventions for children with mental health impacted parents. She said that the same housing issues exist for children that they are addressing with adults, but they currently don't have the capacity to provide these services. Mistalynn asked how many employees they have, and Carrie said they have about 70 employed by LifeSpan, but they do most of the work for the non-profit, A Special Place. Jeff Engell spoke about a recent news article that highlighted the conflicts of housing these individuals. He asked if there was anything that could be done at the state level to tighten up some of the definitions of these homes. She said they are not a group home because services are not provided there. Cody Kennedy said that this will be on the City Council Agenda and that he believes it is a politically motivated attack by those involved in the city council race. Carrie said that she would like to encourage collaboration for mental health issues in our communities. Tiffany Dickenson said she would like to hear about any funding opportunities that we could share with Carrie and encouraged anyone with ideas to let her know.

JOLT - Ray Beck spoke about advocating for energy impacted communities. He spoke about the upcoming Energy Summit in Rifle at the GRHD conference center on June 26 and 27. He said the Wyoming Governor has confirmed that he will be speaking at the summit. He said the 2026 summit will be June 25 and 26 at CMU in Grand Junction. He spoke about the vast amount of work that county commissioners do. He said they would like to invite Doug Burgum to be the keynote speaker at the 2026 conference and he asked for the counties and municipalities in our region to sign on to this invitation letter. He suggested that this could be a good opportunity for Mr, Burgum to meet with local officials, as well. Ray said he will give Tiffany a letter to circulate for everyone to use as a template if they would like. Mike Samson asked that it be placed on the April agenda. JJ Fletcher suggested that Morgan Mining could be a great sponsor for the 2026 summit.

Executive Director Update – Tiffany Dickenson said that she did not have a lot to report. She spoke about Michael Clancy and his participation with AGNC and praised him for his engagement. She encouraged all members to engage with AGNC for any needs.

Margie Joy with CHFA reported that Direct Effect grant applications open in April. She encouraged everyone to refer any ideas to her for grant applicants. She said that in 2024 CHFA invested over \$2B in home ownership funding, \$484M in affordable rental housing, \$85M in tax credits, and \$75M in not for profits. She said they also have funding for technical assistance.

Mike Samson asked if anyone else would like to report on their activities. Sarah Carlisle said she would have more information at the next meeting. Tinker Duclo reported on the programs that CMC has been expanding on for trades including welding and construction.

Federal Delegate Update –

Riley Scot with Rep. Hurd's office reported that they have opened their office in GJ near the airport. She said that Betsy Bair is the district director at that office. She said they also have offices in Durango and Pueblo. She said that she covers 10 counties in our region. She said that Rep. Hurd is on several committees and subcommittees. She said he has introduced his first bill to permanently bring back the BLM headquarters to Grand Junction. She said he has also introduced a public lands bill addressing multiple use of public lands. She said he has cosponsored the bill to delist wolves from the endangered species list. She said that he has presented a bill to support federal workers that may be rehired requesting that they are done rehired at the same level they were at when fired. She spoke about a bill to make the chief of the Forest Service a presidential appointment. She said they just sent a letter to the Secretary of the Interior to secure the Shoshone water rights. Jeff Comstock asked if there was a list of RMPs that are being rescinded and Riley said she could provide him with a list. Mike Samson commented that he would like to see more commissioners go to WIR and NACO. He said he would like to see a dinner hosted one night with the local congressman and the counties in DC during one of these trips.

Jim Mann spoke about the need for the Silt elected officials to attend the AGNC meetings but that they all have day jobs. He said that they recommended a one-hour portion of the meeting be dedicated to them so that they could attend. Tiffany suggested a possible zoom meeting for a roundtable of the local communities.

Alicia Gresley spoke about the bridge repair on the Colorado River bridge. She said the delay has been due to agreements with CDOT over the bridge joints and who will pay for those repairs. She spoke

New Business –

Next meeting April 23, 2025, Grand Valley Recreation Center, 398 Aroyo Drive, Battlement Mesa, CO 81635

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 12:58pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Mike Samson	Lisa Piering
Dana Hlavac	Matt Solomon
Stan Harbaugh	Chris Nichols
William Dearing	Jeff Engell – CSU Extension
Ray Beck	Shannon Scott
Tony Bohrer	Heather Jones – Region 11 AAA
Perry Will	Carolyn Tucker – CDLE
Doug Overton	Clare Gilbert – CMG
Margie Joy	Jennifer O’Hearon – Rio Blanco County Commissioner
Riley Scott	Sasha Nelson – ERC
Sarah Carlisle	Janeth Stancle – Sen. Hickenlooper
Jim Mann	John Bristol – RCEDP
Cody Kennedy	
Carrie Shahbahrami	
JJ Fletcher	
Tinker Duclo	
Tiffany Dickenson	
Mistalynn Meyeraan	
Toni Barrett	
Alicia Gresley	

APPENDIX A



AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

Updates from AAA 03/19/2025:

- Our Community Outreach Manager/Regional LTC Ombudsman is retiring. His last day is April 2, 2025. The job posting closed 3/12/2025, and we received 32 applications. We hope to do interviews at the end of March or beginning of April.
- The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) visited with the AAA on March 10, 2025. I was able to meet the new Director of the Office of Adult, Aging and Disability Services, Erin Wester. Mindy Gates, the Deputy Director of the Office of Adult, Aging and Disability Services was also present for the visit.
- The AAA has been doing some training with the White River Roundup (Rio Blanco County) as they have a new nutrition program manager.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) hired a public health consultant to do interviews on a social connection project. Our AAA was the only one selected of the AAAs to participate in these interviews. The AAA discussed how our contracted services help with social connection for older adults.
- There is a concern about older adults in Parachute/Battlement Mesa losing the Valley Senior Center. The local housing authority can no longer afford to maintain the aging building.

Legislation:

- HB25-1016: The bill authorizes an occupational therapist to directly recommend or prescribe durable medical equipment to a patient without requesting the prescription from a licensed physician. Senate Third Reading Passed – no Amendments 3/12/2025.
- HB25-1022: For the purpose of determining workers who are qualified to work in an assisted living residence, current law includes in its definition of "qualified medication administration personnel" an individual who has passed a competency evaluation administered by an approved training entity on or after July 1, 2017. The bill adds to this definition an individual who has passed a competency evaluation administered by the department of public health and environment before July 1, 2017. Governor signed 2/27/2025.
- HB25-1030: Concerning the requirement that certain building codes have accessibility standards that are at least as stringent as international building codes. Governor signed 3/11/2025.
- HB25-1065: The bill allows a person who is 70 years of age or older to choose to temporarily or permanently opt out of jury service. The bill allows a person who is out of the state because they are actively enrolled full-time at an out-of-state institution of higher education or because they are working

for an extended period of time out of the state to choose to temporarily opt out of jury service. House Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Refer Amended to Appropriations: 02/06/2025.

- HB25-1090: Concerning protections against deceptive pricing practices. Senate Committee on Judiciary Lay Over Unamended- Failed 3/12/2025

- HB25-1156: Concerning the extension of the two-year reduction in the valuation for assessment of qualified-senior primary residence real property relative to the valuation of assessment for all other residential real property so that it is permanent. House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations:02/24/2025

- HB25-1162: This bill aims to streamline the reenrollment and eligibility verification process for Colorado state medical assistance program, particularly for individuals with fixed incomes and those in need of long-term services and supports (LTSS). Introduced in Senate and Assigned to Health and Human Services 2/28/2025.

- HB25-1199: The bill creates and option for taxpayers to pay property taxes in four equal installments for property tax years starting on or after January 1, 2025. House Committee on Finance Postpone Indefinitely 3/10/2025.

- SB25-013: The bill extends a refundable income tax credit that is available for the income tax years commencing on January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2024, so that the credit is also available for the income tax years commencing on January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026. Senate Committee on Finance Refer Amended to Appropriations:01/28/2025.

- SB25-079: The bill establishes regulations for virtual currency kiosks in Colorado. Key provisions include: Customer Disclosures: Operators must provide specific disclosures to customers using virtual currency kiosks; Transaction Receipts: Each customer must receive both printed and electronic receipts detailing their virtual currency transactions; Refund Policy: If a customer's first virtual currency transaction is to a wallet or exchange outside the U.S. and is later determined by law enforcement to be fraudulent, the operator must fully refund the transaction; Transaction Limit: A daily transaction limit of \$1,000 is set for each customer; Definitions: "Virtual currency" is defined as a digital unit used as a medium of exchange or stored value. "Virtual currency kiosk" refers to an electronic terminal facilitating the exchange of virtual currency for other currencies. This legislation aims to enhance consumer protection and regulate virtual currency transactions within the state. Introduced in House and assigned to Finance 3/3/2025.

- SB25-134: The bill proposes significant reforms to Colorado's guardianship and conservatorship laws by enacting the "Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Act," replacing the previous "Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act." Introduced to Senate and assigned to Judiciary 2/5/2025.

- SB25-169: No later than January 1, 2026, the bill requires the department of human services to submit an application to the United States department of agriculture food and nutrition services to implement restaurant meals program that allows eligible supplemental nutrition assistance program recipients to purchase hot or prepared foods at participating restaurants. Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural resources refer Amended to Appropriations 03/05/2025.