



MINUTES
AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING
March 25, 2026
9:00 am to 1:30 pm
Garfield County Administration Building,
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 – Chairman Cody Davis called the meeting to order at 9:03am. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes – Perry Will made a motion to approve the February 18, 2026, meeting minutes; Doug Overton seconded the motion; and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the February financial statements. She presented the profit and loss and noted the negative balance in the marketing account which reflects the refund of an overpayment to a vendor. She then presented the balance sheet and noted the retained earnings balance. She then presented the accounts receivable report including an outstanding balance from the state for the RGN program, and an amount still due from RCEDP for member dues. She then presented the check register. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Doug Overton; the motion was seconded by Perry Will; and the motion passed unanimously.

Votes for Approval:

Tiffany Dickenson presented a letter to the CPW Commission that was written to protest the recent decisions made by the commission at the April CPW meeting. She said that the letter was approved by the executive committee via email and needs to be ratified by the board. Perry Will commented that this is an example of the governor's interference with the CPW through his appointments. He said that it is very disheartening to see this happening to our CPW and to our state. He said that there is hope that a new governor will remedy some of this and he appreciated the letter. Doug Overton commented that unless we write letters like this, people are not going to be aware of these issues. Tiffany Dickenson said that the letter had already been sent to the CPW. She asked if the board would like her to send it to the press and the board agreed that this would be appropriate. Karen Roberts commented that it is important to the wildlife center, as well. Cody Davis said that Mesa County is drafting a letter of no confidence. A motion to ratify the approval of the letter was made by Perry Will; the motion was seconded by Doug Overton; and the motion passed unanimously.

Tinker Duclou with Colorado Mountain College (CMC) presented a letter of support that she would like AGNC to sign onto for the application of Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS). Tinker spoke about the programs at CMC including associate and bachelor's degrees. She said they are working to establish CMC as a hub for skilled trades in the Rifle location. She said they will be requesting \$3M in CDS for the capital project and is

asking for a signature from AGNC for the letter of support. Tiffany commented that it aligns with all the work that the AGNC EDD does and is a prime example of the ideas presented at the last Economic Development Summit. A motion to approve AGNC signing onto the letter was made by Perry Will; the motion was seconded by Jeff Comstock; and the motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Roundtable:

New Castle – Rochelle Firth reported that AGNC nominated the town for an award from Downtown Colorado, Inc. She said they are having changes to the town council including two long-term members. She said that Grady Hazelton will be the new mayor sworn in next month. She said they just updated their emergency drought plan and will be sending out education to the public. She said they just completed the US 6 bridge slide to make a detour for the construction of the new bridge. She said they are working on the wastewater treatment plant and shop with funding from FMLD. She said they are breaking ground on a new townhome project with R2 Development.

Rifle – Karen Roberts spoke about the completion of the water transmission line with the connection happening in the next week. She said that it is under budget and timeline due to the dry weather. She spoke about the Birch Park project. She said they are currently working on updating the zoning code to be in compliance with the state. She said they are working on a transportation project with PAT for on-demand transportation. She spoke about the Park Street bridge which will allow the continuation of Park Avenue to Hwy 6.

Meeker – Margie Joy reported that they have a lot of turnovers, but they are hopeful that this year will be more consistent. She said the town clerk is retiring in June and they will be searching for a new clerk. She said they have realigned their park department and will be taking over management of the park department.

Craig – Chris Nichols reported on a new townhome development that was completed but due to AMI restrictions and interest rates, they have had a hard time selling the units. He said they have an offer to buy 18 units from one of the largest employers to use as workforce housing. He said they have been trying to work with local legislators to find a solution. He reported that NCIC is completing construction on their new center and industrial park. He reported that a new city manager has been hired.

Project and Committee Reports:

Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones reported on the meals on wheels program in Mesa County and the transition to a new provider to Volunteers of America Colorado, which will allow them to apply for more grants. She reported on the closure of an assisted living facility in Mesa County. She reported on additional funding from SUA for legal services. She reported on the SHIPS additional funds that were also received. She said they have been watching the funding at the state level and anticipate flat funding and will need to tap into reserve funds due to the state budget shortfall. She reported on proposed legislation and has included those bills in her report. Cody Davis asked how funding is received. Heather said about 50% comes from the federal government, and 50% from the state. She said the federal funding goes to the state and the state allocates the funding to them based on the older adult population. Heather's written report is attached as Appendix A.

Grant Update – Laura Kay Good presented a spreadsheet on the grants currently being administered by AGNC. She then spoke about the RPI grant for Northwest Colorado Outdoors. She said that the steering committee has been chosen. She said 35 people applied and 18 were chosen. She said the website for NWCO will be housed on the AGNC website. She spoke about the selection process and the governance strength of the steering committee. She reported on the communities that she has visited, as well. Jeff Comstock commented that the RPI is running smoothly due to the work of AGNC.

Wolf Coalition – John Swartout reported that there was a request for filing in the federal register for public comment. He said the federal government is looking for public comments regarding what is working well and what is not working in the wolf reintroduction program in Colorado. He said they need documentation to show that the state has not met the federal requirements. He said they are working with ag groups, local governments, sportsmen, etc. He said they really need local governments to go on the register and make comments. He said they will be sending out a template to help with the process. He spoke about the disregard for the wolf plan by the CPW commission due to political pressure and the subsequent unwillingness to follow the plan. He said this is an opportunity to work towards a pause in the program until the state upholds the promises that were made. He said the last day for comments will be May 11. Tiffany Dickenson said that it was discovered that many depredations are not being reported to USFW by CPW. John said that unconfirmed kills are not being reported, even though it is important information for USFW to have. Perry Will commented that unconfirmed kills should also be reported to tie into the compensation piece. Jeff Comstock commented that Moffat County has not had a confirmed depredation, but the impact on the county is still great just due to the threat. Doug Overton commented that he is very appreciative of Tiffany and John putting the coalition together. William Dearing asked if any wolves had been sighted in Garfield County. Perry spoke about the several sightings that he was aware of. John said that this effort is not about ending the wolf program, but about making sure the state is keeping the promises made to the voters. Riley Hurd commented that it is important to make individual comments and not to submit form letters.

JOLT – Ray Beck spoke about the 4th annual energy summit on June 18 & 19 in Grand Junction. He said they are finalizing the speaker agenda and encouraged everyone to register. He spoke about the topics for the summit including geothermal, data centers, power co-ops, and the keynote speaker from the Department of the Interior, Karen Budd-Falen. He said that she will be attending the AGNC meeting the day before the summit on June 17, as well. Tiffany Dickenson spoke about the AGNC meeting on June 17th from 1-5pm. She said that she is working to coordinate the meeting and asked everyone to let her know if there is someone specific they would like to attend.

Tri-State – Sarah Carlisle reported on a filing that was made to the PUC, including wind and solar, and battery projects. She said that Tri-State did not include a proposed gas plant in Moffat County. She said that due to project costs, they will be pausing this project but will revisit this opportunity in the future. She said that they are projecting being able to provide adequate resources to their members through 2035. She said they received a federal notice that would require them to keep Craig Station open. She said this notice was for 90 days and will be renewed at the end of March. She said they are in communication with the federal government and they expect to receive another notice. She said this requires them to be “on call” in the event it is needed, but that this does cost them more money. She said the state requirements are conflicting with the federal requirements at this time, as well. Doug Overton asked if Tri State would be affected by lack of water in hydro projects. Sarah said they have joined a regional organization to help with these projects. Jeff Comstock asked if hydro projects were to fail would the Craig Station be asked to come back online. She commented that she does not know the answer, but that it does take 48 hours to bring the coal plant back online. Mistalynn Meyeraan asked how this effects workforce on standby. Sarah said that they are getting paid regardless.

Eva Branson – Local Government Federal Funding Advisor. Eva introduced her role with the state of Colorado in the Governor’s Office. She spoke about the services that she provides and that she does not report on policy. She said that her role was created to help local governments navigate federal funding. She said that she is also happy to help with state funding connections if needed. She presented a PowerPoint presentation and spoke about the grant navigation program that is now phasing out. She said she will pick up where the RGN program ends to continue matching local project ideas to federal funding sources, and to provide insight into federal changes. She spoke about technical assistance including navigating federal changes, fulfilling complex compliance requirements, and looking ahead. She spoke about strategic advocacy for all local governments including tracking federal funds and crafting programs. She spoke about current grant writing and

technical support that runs through the end of 2026. She spoke about local match assistance that is also ending at the end of 2026. She encouraged everyone to reach out to her by email.

Trent Jones – Mountain Pine Manufacturing. Trent introduced himself as president of a sawmill in Craig. He gave a PowerPoint presentation and spoke about forestry health. He spoke about the wood straw that his company produces. He spoke about erosion control and what the product is used for. He said his company is the only wood straw producer in the world. He said all the timber comes from hazard tree forests. He said it is the best land reclamation product available today. He spoke about the impact on stormwater permits. He spoke about traditional erosion control using ag straw, rolled erosion blankets and hydro mulch. He said that these products are not working very well and the reasons that they don't hold up. He spoke about the test plot that he did with the wood straw and how well it worked compared to hydro mulch. He spoke about wood straw acting as a rainfall interceptor and that it retains moisture and provides shade. He spoke about long-term restoration. He spoke about scientific studies and testing. He said they began their plant about 10 years ago and have done over 800 projects. He spoke about projects they did in Manitou Springs, Glenwood Canyon, oil pads in WY, abandoned mine lands, a rock quarry in Golden, Trapper Mine, and the Parachute roundabout. He spoke about the cost of wood straw versus erosion blankets and hydro mulch. He said wood straw is less expensive than erosion blankets but a little more than hydro mulch. He said that wood straw is convenient for small projects like culvert replacement. He said that CDOT accepted the product for use in 2020, but it is not yet published in the CDOT standards book. He spoke about providing education for the local road and bridge departments. He said he can provide test materials, as well. He said it comes in the form of a bale and is spread by hand, or it can be spread with blaster type machinery, or even out of helicopters. He said that once it is spread it is very hardy. Jeff Comstock asked if it would change the pH of the soil and Trent said because it stays on the surface it would not affect the soil chemistry.

NCEI - Matt Solomon. Matt presented a PowerPoint and spoke about DOE evaluating states capable of supporting a full lifecycle ecosystem of nuclear energy, through an RFI (request for information). He said that Colorado is credible with a workforce already aligned. He spoke about the work already completed regarding the RFI that he is working on. He said they learned that if they did not submit a proposal they would not be considered for future projects. He said that the state intends to submit a response but that it lacks many things that NCEI can provide with a response from the Northwest region. He said that he is requesting a letter of support from AGNC and authorizing NCEI as the lead for a regional response. Jeff Comstock commented that he thinks it is appropriate for the region to submit a response. Cody Davis also commented that he thinks it would be good to have a regional response. He said that a vote to approve a letter of support from AGNC for the regional response will be taken by email in the future.

Federal Delegate Updates –

Senator Bennet – Delaney Deskin reported on funding for SBDC and the work to keep that funding. She spoke about CDS and applications that are due by Friday at 5pm. She said that they have introduced the rural hospital revitalization act.

Representative Hurd – Riley Scott reported that they passed their 5th bill out of the house. She spoke about the Made In America Jobs Act to bring manufacturing jobs back to America from overseas. She spoke about the Geothermal Ombudsman bill, and the amendments to the Farm Bill. She said that their CDS applications have already closed due to earlier deadlines in the house. She spoke about the ones that were previously awarded in the AGNC region. She said they are working on an act to reauthorize hazardous materials storage in Mesa County through the Department of Energy.

Executive Director Update – Tiffany Dickenson spoke about the work she has been doing. She spoke about the recent article that came out regarding the lack of wildfire mitigation funding in the northwest region of the state. She said she would like to see if CSU would come to present their study at a future board meeting and give recommendations. She spoke about the upcoming meetings in April that she will be attending. She also spoke about the May 6 & 7 CPW meeting in Grand Junction.

Perry Will commented that the Orfs have been doing a great job working at the legislature. He also asked about AGNC’s position on the right to float bill. Cody Davis said that it will most likely be discussed during the legislative call.

New Business –

Next meeting April 22, 2026, Rangely District Hospital, 225 Eagle Crest Drive, Rangely CO 81648

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 11:46am.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Eva Branson	Chris Nichols
William Dearing	Ty Wattenberg
Delaney Deskin	Matt Solomon
Karen Roberts	Ray Beck
Rochelle Firth	John Bristol
Heather Jones	John Swartout
Cody Davis	Melody Villard
Margie Joy	
Sarah Carlisle	
Tinker Duclou	
Riley Scott	
Doug Overton	
Laura Kay Good	
Trent Jones	
Perry Will	
Tiffany Dickenson	
Mistalynn Meyeraan	
Toni Barrett	

APPENDIX A



Updates from AAA 3/25/2026:

- One of our contracted providers, Meals on Wheels of Mesa County, is changing fiscal sponsors in April. Their current fiscal sponsor is Intermountain Health, and their new sponsor will be Volunteers of America Colorado.
- This month one of the small assisted living facilities in Mesa County closed as the owner wanted to retire. This affected eight residents who needed to find new placements.
- The State Unit on Aging (SUA) is going to provide \$18,000 to Colorado Legal Services in our region. The SUA had some legal service dollars that needed to be spent by 6/30/2026, and the SUA thought our region would benefit from additional funding as Colorado Legal Services is expected to be out of funding. The SUA will complete a purchase order directly with Colorado Legal Services. No contract amendment will be needed.
- Our State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPS) received additional funds in the amount of \$3,333. These are federal SHIP carryover funds. The AAA completed a contract amendment for these funds.
- State Funding for Senior Services (SFSS), which comprises General Funds and Older Coloradans Cash Funds (OCCF), will remain flat funded for FY 2026-2027. Because the OCCF is projected to have an end balance of \$2.75 million at the end of the fiscal year, the JBC staff recommended and the JBC approved, reducing some of the state's General Fund support (\$1.25 million) for SFSS and using OCCF money instead to cover the difference for SFY27. In SFY28, the state's General Fund support for SFSS would be reduced by \$250k and the difference would have to be made up from the OCCF. However, according to CDHS, the cash funds would be exhausted at this point, which would decrease SFSS funding in SFY28. It appears there may be a misunderstanding between spending authority and the actual cash balance in OCCF. The higher balance in the OCCF is largely due to interest earnings from a large deposit made several

years ago, not because the funds were unneeded or unspent by local Area Agencies on Aging.

Legislation:

- HB26-1010 Older Adult Support & Representation in the Workforce 60+ ▪ The bill increases participation, representation, and support for individuals 60 years old or older in the Colorado workforce and in organizations related to employment and the workforce. Introduced in Senate – Assigned to Business, Labor, & Technology 3/3/2026.
- HB26-1018 Long Term Care Services for Nursing Home Residents ▪ The bill requires an individual being discharged from a nursing facility to be presumptively eligible for long-term services and supports under Medicaid. House Committee on Health & Human Services Refer Amended to Appropriations 2/17/26.
- HB26-1022 Jury Duty Opt-Out for People 72 Years or Older - The bill allows a person who is 72 years old or older to choose to temporarily or permanently opt out of jury service. The judge or jury commissioner may require documentation in support of the opt-out. House Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Refer Amended to Appropriations 1/29/26. ▪
- HB26-1100 Guardianship for Incapacitated Adults ▪ The bill repeals provisions related to the guardianship of an incapacitated person and enacts provisions related to the guardianship of an incapacitated person drafted by the uniform law commission as part of the "Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act". Introduced in the House-Assigned to Judiciary 2/3/26.
- HB26-1107 Health Care in Regulated Facilities ▪ The bill establishes information disclosure requirements for a licensed facility that advertises, markets, promotes, or offers services, including memory care services, for individuals with dementia and dementia-related conditions, including Alzheimer's disease. It previously had that a CNA could give injections, but that was removed from the bill. Introduced in Senate – Assigned to Health & Human Services 3/17/2026.
- HB26-1110 Vulnerable Adult Financial Exploitation Banking ▪ The bill creates the "Adults' Security and Safeguards from Exploitation in Transactions Act" or the "ASSET Act". The bill requires or authorizes a qualified individual at a bank or credit union (financial institution) to do certain steps when the individual reasonably suspects that a vulnerable adult (eligible adult) is the victim of financial exploitation. House Third Reading Passed – No Amendments 3/9/2026.

- SB26-007 Medical Marijuana Use in Health Facilities ▪ The bill permits a health facility allow patients who are terminally ill and who are registered in the state's medical marijuana program to use medical marijuana within the health facility, subject to certain parameters. Sent to the Governor for signature 3/18/2026.