



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

April 22, 2026

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Rangely District Hospital, 225 Eagle Crest Drive, Rangely CO 81648

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 – Vice-Chairman Doug Overton called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes – Cody Davis made a motion to approve the March 25, 2026, meeting minutes; Chris Nichols seconded the motion; and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the February financial statements. She presented the profit and loss for March noting the negative net income balance and explained that she expects that number to come up. She presented the balance sheet and spoke about the bank balances. She presented the accounts receivable and noted that AGNC has billed \$69K for enterprise zone fees to date, which is \$10K more than this time last year. She noted that the state still has an outstanding balance for the RGN grant, and that RCEDP has told her that the check will be sent soon for their EDD dues. She presented the transaction list. She presented the credit card charges report that is new this month and said that this was done to be more transparent about these charges. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Mike Samson; the motion was seconded by Chris Nichols; and the motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Roundtable:

Battlement Mesa – William Dearing said thank you for the support from Garfield County.

Craig – Chris Nichols reported about the affordable housing that they are still trying to get filled and he noted that the city will be several million dollars in the hole on the project. He said they are hoping to work with the school district to place people in the units. He said they are hoping to get money from DOLA for a big sewer line project. He said they have a new city manager that started on 4/20/26, KC Hume. He said he is a long-time resident of Moffat County and former Sheriff. He said that the extension of the operation of the Craig Power Station will go through the end of June. He said that the deadline to close the plant is mid-2028. He said there is still progress on the mountain rail project. He said they worry that the state may take away some of the funding for the project to balance the budget.

New Castle – Rochelle Firth reported that they won an award from DCI, and were nominated by AGNC. Dave Reynolds reported that Grady Hazelton is the new mayor. Grady said they have discussed the importance of AGNC and the need to stay involved.

Rangely – Jonah Bollinger reported that they have a new boat ramp opening. He said they are working on potential geo-thermal in Rangely and other economic development projects.

Rifle – Michael Clancy reported that they attended the GarCo Energy Symposium. He said they had recent ribbon cuttings for the Rifle Apartments and the Rifle Creek Golf Course. He reported on recent construction efforts including a new bridge on Park Avenue. He said they are working to get funding released for transportation.

Project and Committee Reports:

AAA – Heather Jones reported that they now have a part-time long-term care ombudsman hired that attended the annual conference in Denver. She said that she hopes to be able to present a budget for approval at the next AGNC board meeting. She spoke about the community conversations that have been scheduled around the region. She then reported on legislative items from her written report, attached as Appendix A.

Grant Update – Laura Kay Good presented a short PowerPoint including a slide showing amounts that have been spent and amounts remaining on the grants that AGNC is administering. She then spoke about the RPI grant for the NWCO. She spoke about the steering committee and the support they are getting from CPW, BLM, and the Forest Service. She spoke about the Voices of the Land handout from RPI. She then presented a few grants to watch including water grants, safe streets for all, and building resilient infrastructure and communities. She spoke about the DCI conference that she recently attended and her meeting with Devan Aziz in Palisade. Mike Samson asked about the SSFA grant and Laura Kay explained that a safety action plan is required for the grant. Mike asked her to send him the information on the grant. Laura Kay said the grant is meant to help with safer roads with an emphasis on improving safety.

Workforce Update – Carolyn Tucker presented via zoom. She presented the unemployment rates for the region with comparison counties. She said that rates have not changed greatly, but they are starting to tick up. She also presented the unemployment rates that were released for February 2026. She presented graphs of the unemployment rates for December 2025 – February 2026. She then presented the unemployment rates by age group. She spoke about partners in industry engagement to address workforce issues. She spoke about local activities including hiring events, career fairs, webinars, sector partnerships and training, and apprenticeship development. She spoke about the talent summit tactical plan, which is a statewide effort to build industry driven solutions to Colorado's workforce shortages. She said that the three industries that were chosen to target were construction, healthcare and early childhood education. She presented the map for the talent summit tactical plan and noted that the Western zone encompasses the AGNC region. She presented an example of the plan that was developed for early childhood education. She spoke about the 2025 Talent Pipeline Report. She then presented an example of a graph from the report.

JOLT – Ray Beck reported via zoom. He spoke about the committee that makes up JOLT. He spoke about the mission of JOLT and noted that energy is essential to economic development. He then spoke about the sponsorships for the annual JOLT conference. He said the energy summit is scheduled for Grand Junction this year in June. He said the keynote speaker will be Karen Bud Fallen with the Dept of the Interior. He spoke about the meet and greet that will be held to facilitate networking. He said registration is open at joltenergysummit.com. He spoke about the presentations and speakers that have been scheduled for the summit. Tiffany Dickenson said that she will send out the agenda to all the AGNC membership. She also said she will work on securing the location for the AGNC June board meeting in Grand Junction. She said she would like to invite specific people to attend the board meeting to participate in the roundtable with Karen Bud Fallen.

DOLA – Dana Hlavac said they are in the middle of the only funding cycle this year. He spoke about the reappropriation of mineral and severance funds by the legislature. He said they hope to have two funding cycles next year. He said that DOLA can do training for newly elected officials. Callie Scritchfield asked if DOLA would do parliamentary procedure training for their special districts. Dana said that each organization does things differently, so that might make a difference in the training offered. Mike Samson commented that it would be good not to adopt a formal procedure that would risk public interference.

Wolf Coalition – Perry Will spoke and noted that John Swartout was unavailable due to attending the CPW confirmation hearings. Perry commented that USFWS is aware of the issues in Colorado. He also said that he feels like the coalition is making headway in the state regarding the wolf reintroductions being paused. Doug Overton said that he felt the coalition was making a difference. Callie Scritchfield commented that it is important for people to make comments to the USFWS and the federal register. Tiffany Dickenson said it is important for people to make individual comments. Callie encouraged attendance at the CPW meeting in Grand Junction on May 5 & 6 at the convention center. Perry spoke about the Circle the Wagons social that will be taking place at the same time. Mike Samson spoke about a letter that Garfield County sent opposing the appointments of two CPW commissioners. He said that he would like AGNC to send a similar letter. Perry commented that it is important to reach out to all the state senators, as well. Tiffany Dickenson said she has a letter that she will finalize and send. She also said that it is important to support the nominees that are working hard for the region and science-based recommendations.

Karissa Courtney, CSU Wildfire Social Science Assistant Program Manager. Karissa presented a PowerPoint via zoom on Mapping Community Capacity to Reduce Vulnerability to Wildfire in Colorado. She presented background information on the study. She presented a map of previous wildfires in Colorado. She spoke about local capacity measurements that were specific to pre-fire treatments. She spoke about the indicators of local capacity. She spoke about the organization of the indicators. She about her process to weight the indicators. She then presented the index map, showing high capacity in green and low capacity in orange. She noted the lower capacity in the AGNC region. She then presented a map that combines capacity with wildfire risk, indicating wildfire burn probability and intensity. She then presented a map with funding indicators based on grant funding that was awarded. She spoke about different ways to build capacity, depending on what works best for the communities. She spoke about ways to increase capacity and decrease vulnerability. She spoke about the collaborative readiness framework including aligning community values and resources. She spoke about the Colorado Forest Resource Guide and other helpful resources including the fire adapted pathways tool, Colorado forest tracker, and the community wildfire mitigation best practices toolbox.

Right to Hunt and Fish Resolution – Mike Samson spoke about the fact that Colorado is not a right to hunt and fish state. He said that Perry Will brought the need for a resolution to the Garfield County commissioners. He said that GarCo then approved a resolution. He said that they would like to get every county in Colorado to pass a resolution. Perry Will said that there are 24 states that have the right to hunt and fish in their constitution, but Colorado is not one of them. He said the resolutions would help to show support for a statewide constitutional amendment. Jeff Comstock asked what the ramifications are of not having this in the constitution. Perry said it does not mean that hunting and fishing is not allowed, but that it would send a good message that these rights should be upheld. He said he would like to see it statutorily protected. Mike Samson made a motion to approve AGNC Resolution 26-001: Right to Hunt & Fish; Grady Hazelton seconded the motion; and the motion passed unanimously.

Federal Delegate Updates –

Representative Hurd – Riley Scott reported on the Small County PILT Parity Act. She said that they are strong supporters of the PILT program. She said the act does a formula fix for counties with less than 5,000 in population. She said the act creates new tiers below the 5,000-population threshold that would enable better

funding for those counties. She said there is a senate companion bill, as well. She reported that the Crystal Reservoir Conveyance Act is working its way through the house and would convey the reservoir to the city of Ouray. She spoke about bill HR-1897 that Rep. Hurd is co-sponsoring to modernize the endangered species act and focus on the recovery of species. She spoke about DHS funding and the shutdown of DHS. She said they are looking at going through a reconciliation process to enable 3-year funding for the agencies affected.

Hugh Gottschalk - Wheeler, Trigg & O'Donnell joined via zoom introduced himself as a lawyer who represents Suncor. He spoke about lawsuits that have been brought against his client by Boulder County suing for nuisance/trespass due to climate change. He said that there are multiple lawsuits across the country pursuing these types of lawsuits to combat climate change. He said that the supreme court has picked their case as a model to determine if these types of lawsuits are legal. He said if they lose, then he expects to see these types of lawsuits increase greatly. He said if they win, then these lawsuits will be thrown out, and climate change will not be addressed by individual cases and judges. He spoke about amicus briefs that can be filed by individual counties or entities effected by the potential SCOTUS ruling. He then asked that the counties in the AGNC region consider file amicus briefs stating their positions. He said this would be important to show the court that Boulder County does not speak for all of Colorado. He said he is recommending an attorney that could write the brief for several counties which would help mitigate the cost. Jeff Comstock said that in the past when AGNC was asked to file an amicus brief that the cost was covered by the companies that were requesting the brief. Hugh said that Suncor and Exxon can not pay for the brief due to the certification process of the brief. He said that financing the brief is up to the counties and the contracted attorney, but the litigants in the case cannot legally pay for the brief. Doug Overton asked if the counties of AGNC would be interested. Mike Samson said that he was interested and would like to ask Tiffany Dickenson to reach out to the attorney to see what the cost would be. JJ Fletcher asked if one county attorney could do the work and have the other counties sign on. Hugh said that writing a brief to SCOTUS would need to be done by someone with experience dealing with this specific kind of procedure. Doug said he would like Tiffany to reach out to the counties to see who is interested. Hugh suggested that a call be set up with the attorney he recommended to see what could be done. Hugh left the meeting and the discussion was started by Tiffany with the board to discuss interest in this request. Doug said that the cost may be prohibitive for each county. Mike commented that a county attorney may not be the best resource for writing the brief, but that he would like to have Tiffany contact the attorney recommended by Hugh to see what the cost might be. Dana Hlavac suggested that AGNC could reach out to NACO to see if they are already filing a brief that the counties could then sign on to. Jeff said that would be a great idea and he would like to see if that could be the best option. Callie also suggested that AGNC reach out to West Slope COGA.

Executive Director Update – Tiffany Dickenson spoke about her written report, which is attached as Appendix B. Tiffany asked for support for the proposed PIN presented in her report. No opposition was expressed.

New Business –

Next meeting May 20, 2026, Garfield County Administration Building, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 195 W. 14th Street, Rifle, CO 81650

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:06pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
William Dearing	Michael Clancy
Chris Nichols	Melody Villard
Grady Hazelton	Alicia Gresley
Doug Overton	Rochelle Firth & Dave Reynolds
Mike Samson	Ray Beck
Jeff Comstock	Carolyn Tucker
Jeannie Caldwell	Riley Scott
Jonah Bollinger	Heather Jones
Laura Kay Good	Kirstin Copeland
Dana Hlavac	Kami Collins
Mistalynn Meyeraan	Cody Davis
Toni Barrett	Carly Thomson
Tiffany Dickenson	John Bristol
Callie Scritchfield	Perry Will
J.J. Fletcher	Karissa Courtney
	Hugh Gottschalk

APPENDIX A



Updates from AAA 4/22/2026:

- Our part-time long-term care ombudsman who we hired at the end of January 2026 has completed her training and is now certified. The long-term care ombudsman attended their annual conference last week in Denver.
- The Regional Council on Aging grant review committee will be meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2026, to review the grants for the upcoming fiscal year.
- The State Unit on Aging (SUA) provided the AAA's with their draft SFY27 budgets last week. Our draft budget amount is \$2,450,627 for services and administration.
- The AAA has scheduled all of the 2026 Community Conversations:
 - Monday, May 11th 10am-12pm Mesa County Workforce Center Room D (512 29 ½ Rd., Grand Junction, CO 81504). Virtual Option.
 - Thursday, May 14th 10am-12pm Fruita Community Center (324 N. Coulson St., Fruita, CO 81521).
 - Tuesday, May 19th 10am-12pm Clifton Community Center (3270 D ½ Rd., Clifton, CO 81520)
 - Friday, May 29th 1pm-2:30pm Lucy Huntley Senior Center, Colorado Mountain College (1402 Blake Ave., Glenwood Springs, CO 81601).
 - Wednesday, June 3rd 10am-11:30am Fairfield Center-Chuckwagon (200 Main St., Meeker, CO 81641)
 - Monday, June 8th 10am-11:30am Radino Senior Center (403 North White Ave., Rangely, CO 81648)
 - Tuesday, June 16th from 12pm-1:30pm Senior Social Center of Craig (775 Yampa Ave., Craig, CO 81625).
 - Thursday, June 18th from 10am-11:30am Rifle Senior Center (50 Ute Ave., Rifle, CO 81650).

Legislation:

- o HB26-1010 Older Adult Support & Representation in the Workforce 55+ ▪ 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.

o 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.

o 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.

o 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". House Committee on Judiciary Refer Amended to Finance 4/1/26.

o 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 said that a CNA could give injections, but that was removed from the bill. Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments 4/7/26.

o 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 take certain steps when the individual reasonably suspects that a vulnerable adult (eligible adult) is the victim of financial exploitation. Senate Second Reading Special Order - Passed with Amendments - Committee. 4/17/26.

o SB26-007 Medical Marijuana Use in Health Facilities ▪ The bill permits a health facility to 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. Governor signed 3/30/26.

APPENDIX B

Executive Director's Update – April 2026

USFWS Federal Register Comments

AGNC is drafting comments on two separate federal notices related to wolf management, and we are asking every member county to submit their own comments on both. I will send a coordinating email for your review ahead of each deadline.

- **Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear & Mexican Wolf Rules** — three existing rules proposed for renewal without change. **Comments due May 11, 2026.**
- **10(j) Rule Review — Wolf Reintroduction Implementation** — USFWS is requesting information on how Colorado has implemented the 10(j) rule, focusing on livestock depredation, nonlethal deterrents, interagency coordination, and compensation fund adequacy. **Comments due June 5, 2026.**

CEDS Regional Outreach

Engagement meetings have been completed in Rangely, Meeker, Craig, and Rifle. Remaining sessions: **Steamboat Springs – April 29** and **Grand Junction – May 4**. We inadvertently overlapped with the Craig EDAC's monthly meeting, so we are scheduling a follow-up Zoom with that group to ensure their full input is captured. The Rifle meeting had very low attendance, we will be reaching out to Garfield to do an additional meeting for the county.

Freight Rail Tax Credit – Craig Branch Line

Staff participated in a joint Union Pacific–OEDIT meeting on the new Freight Rail Tax Credit, which applies only to the UP Craig Branch line. The credit is fully refundable, covers up to 75% of eligible costs — including both shipping and rail infrastructure — with up to \$5 million available per year. This is a significant opportunity to attract businesses with major freight needs to the Yampa Valley. Direct questions to Kami Collins kami.collins@state.co.us or Quina Weber-Shirk quina.webershirk@state.co.us

EDCC Roundtable / Economic Development Summit

Low registrations for the planned EDCC roundtable, combined with consistent feedback that everyone is buried in meetings, led us to fold that content into the August Economic Development Summit instead of adding another date. Summit planning is underway, aligned with our CEDS priorities.

CPW Commission – Grand Junction, May 6–7

The CPW Commission meets **May 6–7 at the Grand Junction Convention Center (159 Main St.), beginning at 8:30 AM**. Key items include the proposed furbearer/fur ban rule. Written public comments are due **May 3 at 11:59 PM** at engagecpw.org/pwc-public-comment.

"Circle the Wagons" Social — May 6, 5:30–8:30 PM, Clarion Inn Hotel (755 Horizon Drive). Hosted by Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Outfitters Association, and Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management in conjunction with the commission meeting. Board members should have received the flyer from Lauren Dobson — if not, let us know and we'll forward it.

Opportunity Zones 2.0

The OZ 2.0 eligible tract list is out. Key changes from OZ 1.0: program is now permanent (redesignated every 10 years), income threshold tightened from 80% to 70% of area median family income, contiguous tract provision eliminated, and eligible tracts reduced by roughly a quarter nationally. The Governor's 90-day

nomination window opens July 1, 2026; new designations take effect January 1, 2027. Now is the time to identify priority tracts!

OEDIT, CMU, and GJEP are hosting an **OZ 2.0 Western Slope session Monday, May 11, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM at CMU UC South Ballroom (1455 N. 12th St., Grand Junction).**

Enterprise Zone – Clear Creek County Boundary Amendment

We are working on an Enterprise Zone boundary amendment request for Clear Creek County. Approximately half the county graduated out of the EZ program beginning January 1, 2026 — driven by skewed data from the other half of the county rather than a true reflection of economic conditions in the affected area. The entire county now demonstrates the economic distress required for eligibility, and we are working through the amendment process to get the full county reinstated into the program.

Pioneer Impact Network (PIN)

PIN proposes to rebrand and expand our EDD membership program into a database-driven, issue-oriented coalition model open to businesses, nonprofits, and individuals — and to use that recurring membership revenue to sustain our Regional Grant Navigator position after state RGN funding ended. The financial model targets at least \$125,000/year in recurring revenue, with startup funding to be sought from grants.

The board is being asked to support moving forward with the concept, pursuing startup funding, and directing staff to return with a full implementation and budget plan. Northwest Colorado COG has indicated potential interest from Grand, Jackson, and Routt to help fund our RGN as the other COGs let theirs go. We would like to begin conversations with Grand, Jackson, and potentially Routt counties about cost-sharing the RGN role. We would welcome any AGNC members that wants to assist with finalizing the details of the PIN membership.

PIN sits entirely on the EDD side of AGNC and does not affect COG dues.

Congratulations, Mistalynn!

Mistalynn will be graduating Summa Cum Laude from the University of Colorado Denver with her Master of Public Administration on May 16!

AGNC has been proud to support Mistalynn throughout her academic journey, and that support has always been rooted in something we believe deeply: that investing in the people who are already part of our region is how we build the leadership our communities need for the long haul. We fully expect to see Mistalynn step into an administrative role in one of our member communities in the years ahead — and knowing that kind of talent and dedication will be staying in Northwest Colorado makes this achievement even more meaningful to all of us. Congratulations, Mistalynn — we could not be more proud!