



MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

July 22, 2026

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Grand Valley Recreation Center, 398 Aroyo Drive, Battlement Mesa, CO 81635

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 – Treasurer Grady Hazelton called the meeting to order at 9:03am. Introductions were made.

Municipal Roundtable:

City of Craig – Chris Nichols reported that they opened their river park.

City of Rifle – Karen Roberts reported that they have a lot of street projects, they opened a new 5-acre park with an ADA playground, they are continuing work on the Park Avenue bridge project, and they continue to work on the park and ride project. She said that they will make the 3rd street project open for the duration of the fair.

Town of New Castle – Grady Hazelton reported they have been dealing with the recent mudslide that closed I-70 and Hwy 6. He said the roundabout on the east end of town worked well, but the bridge replacement on the east end of town was a huge challenge. He reported that the town council received training from DOLA. He said they did a bus tour with Sen. Hickenlooper's office.

BMSA – Brandon Burke reported on the projects they continue to work on.

Approval of minutes – Grady Hazelton made a motion to approve the June 17, 2026, meeting minutes; Mike Samson seconded the motion; and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the June financial statements including the profit and loss and noted the growth in contribution project admin fees and noted that mileage expenses may also be more than usual. She noted the RPI grant expenses, as well. She presented the balance sheet. She presented the accounts receivable and noted most of the outstanding invoices are for contribution projects. She then presented the transaction list and credit card purchases. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Mike Samson; the motion was seconded by Grady Hazelton; and the motion passed unanimously.

AGNC Comments Letter Re: OMB 2026-0034 – Tiffany Dickenson presented a letter to the federal Office of Management and Budget previously approved by the board via email. A motion to ratify the letter was made by Grady Hazelton; the motion was seconded by Mike Samson; and the motion passed unanimously.

2025 AGNC Financial Audit Report – Paul Miller presented the audit report for 2025 and commented on the importance of internal controls. He said that the board is a very important part of the internal control process and encouraged them to ask questions when reviewing financial statements. He spoke about the opinion that was presented and noted that there were no concerns. He spoke about the statement of financial position, which is the balance sheet. He spoke about the statement of expenses and revenues. He spoke about the footnotes and said that the board should review these notes. He said the budget to actual is important for the board to review and understand why there might be differences. He spoke about the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, which applies to AAA. He said that he works closely with AAA to audit and reconcile those funds. He said the next step after board approval is to file the single audit report. A motion to approve the 2025 audit report was made by Grady Hazelton; the motion was seconded by Mike Samson; and the motion passed unanimously.

Project and Committee Reports:

AAA – Heather Jones commented on the audit and the team of people that work with Paul Miller to provide the information that he needs. She reported on the SUA annual evaluation. She reported that they completed eight community conversations and passed out surveys at the meetings. She spoke about the results from the surveys. She spoke about the ombudsman program. She presented the overall survey results, including client satisfaction. Richard Orf asked what questions were used for the survey and Heather noted the criteria for each of the questions. Her report is attached as Appendix A.

Workforce Update – Carolyn Tucker with the Workforce Colorado Rural Alliance presented a PowerPoint via zoom. She presented the unemployment rates for June 2026 compared with May 2026 and June 2025. She presented a graph for unemployment rates by age group for periods dating back to 2010. She then presented a map of projected population change for 2024-2034. She presented a list of partners that work with Workforce Colorado. She spoke about local activities including hiring events, career fairs, job seeker webinars, sector partnerships and training, apprenticeship development, talent summit and tactical plan development. She presented helpful links that are included in her presentation. Heather Jones asked if they do events for 55+. Carolyn said they don't because retired folks are hard to find and asked if Heather could help facilitate something. Heather said the subject came up in her community conversations and interest in part-time work. Perry Will said that they are writing a letter of support for CMC to provide healthcare training.

DOLA Update – Dana Hlavac said they hope to have a \$15M grant cycle this fall for FML funding. He said they expect it to be extremely competitive. He spoke about possible legislation for 911 fees. He said it is a season of fires and floods which is stretching him very thin.

Grants Update – Mistalynn Meyeraan presented a spreadsheet of grants that are currently being managed by AGNC. She spoke about the EDA Partnership Planning grant. She spoke about the RPI grants that she is extensively involved with. She said that Phase 1 of the RPI grant will finish in August, and Phase 2 has begun to scope projects in the region, including an asset map for Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties. She said that the application for Phase 3 is due today and she is working to submit well-scoped projects for the application. She said that the RGN has finished. She spoke about the REDI grant for High Altitude Geothermal for the purchase of a skid steer. She said they are submitting a final invoice to DOLA for reimbursement soon. Richard Orf asked about pushbacks from CPW regarding the proposed projects. Jeff Comstock commented that he would like us to stand strong and continue to push back with CPW to ensure the voices of the region are heard. John Swartout said that Daphne Gervais is a strong ally and can be helpful in coordinating with the BLM. Mistalynn commented that the BLM offices in each county have submitted letters of support and have been very helpful.

Unified Wolf Coalition – John Swartout reported on the CPW commission and the recent appointees that were rejected by the full senate. He noted that these appointees were anti-hunting and anti-agriculture. He noted that the Governor then made 3 appointments outside of the legislative session, which means they could be seated and vote. He said the new appointments are worse than the ones that were rejected. He said the commission ignored the recommendations of the CPW director and staff at the last meeting. He said they will have 3 more meetings before the governor leaves office, and he believes this is purposeful to continue their campaign against hunting and agriculture. He said he expects that they will try to remove lethal take of wolves before the governor leaves office. He said the wolf coalition and others need to continue showing up at the meetings to push back. He spoke about the federal MOU with USFW. He said there were many comments made to the federal register and USFW is going through all the comments now. He said that they hope that USFW will freeze the MOU and renegotiate the MOU so that it functions more in line with the legislation that was originally passed by the voters. He said he is looking forward to their decision and ending the political interference with the CPW commission. He reported that the coalition is creating a document for the governor transition that can be submitted with concerns. Tiffany Dickenson said that AGNC will be working with the coalition to submit local concerns. Mike Samson asked about legislation in Oregon that would potentially ban hunting, fishing and agriculture. John said there is a proposal in Oregon to take away management of hunting and fishing. He noted that the funding for these proposals comes from out of state. He said there was an organized outcry in Oregon, and the governor there has come out in opposition to it. He said that Colorado is the center of funding for these out of state groups. He spoke about the ballot initiative in Colorado for the right to hunt and fish. Tony Haschke asked about environmental groups taking private lands through federal corridors. John said there is a concerted effort for wildlife corridors which lock up private lands. He said it was prevalent during the Biden administration. Tiffany commented that she is concerned about the use of “social values” in decision making. John commented that there is a new appointee using a survey she presented to show “social value” and giving CSU a black eye. He said that she is ignoring science-based wildlife management and they will continue to push back on it. Perry Will commented that the legislation on the ballot for the right to hunt and fish is a must win. John commented that it is a huge risk if it does not pass.

Legislative Update – Richard Orf spoke about the primaries and the downhill slide toward the elections. He said interim committees won’t be meeting due to budget constraints. He presented the upcoming ballot initiatives including those on the ballot, under review, in circulation, and denied title setting ([2025-2026 Initiative Filings, Agendas & Results](#)). He said it will be a very large ballot this year. He said the budget will continue to be challenging but may be better than forecasted. Dianna Orf commented that the change in the governor will trickle down to changes throughout the state programs. She said that bill requests need to be turned in by the 1st of September. Richard said he expects to see more social legislation. Dianna spoke about state trust lands finalizing a report to the legislature with recommendations. She said they are looking at ways to incentivize more conservation and recreation. Richard spoke about water and the Colorado River negotiations. He said that the federal government will most likely make the decision and it will end up at the supreme court. Dianna spoke about whether the state legislature can make any changes that would affect the final decision. Tiffany asked Richard to explain something she had heard from him regarding harm and take legislation. Richard explained what he had heard regarding protecting habitat from individuals in Boulder and CU. John Swartout commented that it also included elimination of the wildlife commission. He said the effort is focused on creating an activist board to eliminate fossil fuels and agriculture. Richard said they are going to be vigilant to research the efforts in the legislature this coming year. Tiffany Dickenson asked for input regarding issues that AGNC should be engaged with for the upcoming legislative session. Richard commented on the use of AI for public comments. Tiffany said it makes it even more important for in-person comments at meetings and during the legislative session. Callie Scritchfield said that CPW is going to stop giving elected officials priority and extra time to comment. Richard commented that CPW does not have a rule set that they follow. He said he would like to see someone in the legislature take this issue seriously.

CEDS Presentation – Mistalynn Meyeraan presented the new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the AGNC Economic Development District. She spoke about the public comment meetings that were held in each of the counties. She spoke about the outcomes of these meetings and the main takeaways. She said that next step will be to open it for 30 days of public comment and then she will make revisions and bring it to the board for approval in September. Her PowerPoint presentation can be found here: https://agnc.org/images/uploads/AGNC_CEDS_What_We_Learned.pdf.

Federal Delegate Updates –

Sen. Bennet's office – Delaney Deskin reported that Sen. Bennet sent a letter to FEMA urging federal funding for wildfires. She said that he will be introducing legislation with Rep. Hurd preventing the expansion of the mid-continental mine near Glenwood Springs. She said that he is introducing legislation called the Chile Act regarding disaster assistance for crop production. She said he also reintroduced an act to continue to provide financial assistance to small farmers.

Executive Director Update – Tiffany Dickenson asked for priorities from the group regarding issues with the current administration. Priorities mentioned included grant funding, understanding that rural issues are different from the front range, local control, unfunded mandates, greater density without local support, protecting severance funds, land use decisions, energy decisions without local support, energy issues, agriculture support, natural resources, and the politics of electrification. She then spoke about ballot initiatives for the upcoming session including transportation funding, the right to natural gas, and the right to hunt and fish. She also spoke about the ballot measure pertaining to school funding. She announced that the Northwest SBDC position is open for applications. She encouraged everyone to show up to the upcoming CPW commission meetings. She spoke about a data center workshop that she attended in Denver and shared that she is concerned with the effects on agriculture. She spoke about the upcoming ED Summit in Rifle on August 19th. She said that she is pleased with the outreach from organizations wanting to participate in the summit. She then asked the board to reply to her email request for the EDCC grant.

New Business –

Next meeting September 16, 2026, CNCC Library, 2801 W. 9th Street, Craig, CO 81625

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 12:22pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Grady Hazelton	Emily Schwaller
William Dearing	Dianna Orf
Tony Haschke	Chris Nichols
Richard Orf	Carolyn Tucker
Heather Jones	Ray Beck
Brandon M. Burke	John Swartout
Dan Birrer	Jeff Comstock
Perry Will	Margie Joy
Mike Samson	Callie Scritchfield
Tiffany Dickenson	John Bristol
Cody Davis	
Karen Roberts	
Delaney Deskin	
Dana Hlavac	
Toni Barrett	
Mistalynn Meyeraan	

APPENDIX A



Updates from AAA 7/22/2026:

- At the end of May, the AAA received notice from the State Unit on Aging (SUA) regarding our annual evaluation. The SUA found no compliance issues with the AAA.
- The AAA has completed all eight Community Conversations. We had 82 individuals attend the Community Conversations. For comparison, in 2022 we had 79 individuals attend the Community Conversations. Between the Community Conversations, Performance Measure Surveys and Regional Council on Aging members handing out surveys, 1040 individuals completed the two-question survey required by the State Unit on Aging for the Area Plan. The AAA has started writing the four-year plan and hopes to have a draft completed by September 2026.
- The Colorado Coalition of Elder Rights and Abuse Prevention and the Adults Financial Justice Coalition held a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day hybrid event on Monday, June 15, 2026.
- Contracts for SFY27 have been sent to and received from contracted providers.
- The State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office will be doing their yearly monitoring visit of our Long-Term Care Ombudsman program the last week of July 2026.
- Region 11 Performance Measure Survey Results