



**MINUTES**  
**AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING**  
**February 18, 2026**  
**9:00 am**  
***Via Zoom***

**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.

**Approval of minutes** – Mike Samson made a motion to approve the November 24, 2025, meeting minutes; Doug Overton seconded the motion; and the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial report** – Tiffany Dickenson presented the financial statements for November and December, 2025, and January 2026. The November/December profit and loss statement was reviewed and she pointed out that Dr. Perry billed \$9000, which is only ½ of his usual cost for the newsletters. She reviewed the balance sheets and noted the amounts for AAA. She then reviewed the profit and loss for January 2026 and noted that dues are distributed to income throughout the year. She reviewed the January balance sheet. She then reviewed the accounts receivable including grant amounts that are due from the state. She reviewed all the transactions on the check register from November to date, including a large check to herself for her mileage and reimbursements for all of 2025. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Doug Overton; the motion was seconded by Chris Nichols; and the motion passed unanimously.

**Votes for Approval:**

Tiffany Dickenson presented three letters that had previously been approved by email and required ratification. A motion to ratify the three letters was made by Doug Overton; the motion was seconded by Mike Samson; and the motion passed unanimously.

**United Wolf Coalition** – **John Swartout** reported that CPW has announced that they are not sourcing wolves for this season, which means the window for release of Dec-April will not have any wolf releases. He said this was in part because Washington would not allow Colorado to source any wolves from them. He also said that CPW could not source them from British Columbia due to a letter from Brian Nesvick with the USFWS. He said that tribal governments have also refused to give Colorado wolves. He said the upcoming wildlife commission meeting is on March 4 & 5. He said they will be hearing about 8 depredation claims and 5 will be recommended and 3 will not. He said they are waiting for a decision from USFWS about what the program will look like moving forward, particularly when it comes to re-releasing depredating wolves. He said the state responded to the USFWS letter. He said the only way to see anything from the state is to file a CORA request. He said USFWS could put the state on a corrective plan, but they are waiting to see what happens. He said there is a petition from Delia Malone to change compensation for landowners and remove any indirect costs to  
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landowners. He said she refiled the petition, but they don't know when it will be heard. He said that Jeff Davis was fired by the governor, which was verified by a CORA request from a reporter, and then given another job because he threatened to sue the state. He said that Jeff Davis has since taken a job in Wyoming. He said they continue to work to hold the state accountable to what they said they would do when the voters approved wolf reintroduction. He then commented that he wanted to thank Tiffany Dickenson and her work in bringing together the members of the coalition. Mike Samson asked about Delia Malone's petition and John stated that she is seeking to limit compensation to a per head cost. He said that it would potentially cut compensation by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of what they normally get. He said legislators have made it clear that the high compensation numbers would not be seen if the state were doing what was promised in the first place to mitigate the depredations. He said they are looking at having about 1000 people show up to the March CPW meeting for public comment.

## **Municipal Roundtable**

**City of Rifle – Michael Clancy** reported that Rep. Hurd came to visit the City of Rifle and the meeting focused around federal funding and infrastructure investment. He said they have received grant support, and it may have been the first time a representative has come.

**Town of New Castle – Dave Renolds** reported that they are working on a new wastewater treatment plant and shop. He said they just finished a raw water irrigation project, which will be connected to new developments as they come online. He said they have been reviewing their emergency drought plan as a town council. He said the roundabout project is complete all except the final landscaping. He said they are replacing a historic bridge on main street. He said they have an application for a hotel and restaurant near the interchange, a recently approved townhome development, and a 60-home development.

**City of Craig – Chris Nichols** reported they have purchased and finalized the business park with two tenants already signed on, including NCIC. He said they have created the Moffat Economic Development Authority with funding from the settlement they received from Tri-State and Xcel, with \$28M initial funding. He said they have established a transit authority with Routt County to provide bus services between Craig and Steamboat. He said they have received a grant for the mountain rail station in Craig. He said they have begun a search for a new city manager to replace Peter Brixius once he retires in September.

**Town of Rangely – Jonah Bollinger** introduced himself as the new town manager in Rangely. Lisa Jones reported that they are working with RBC to house CNCC's pilot program at the county airport. She said that this year the college received \$643K dollars from CDS to renovate the building at the airport and they are so grateful to all who supported this effort.

**Priority Based Budgeting – Dana Hlavac** gave a PowerPoint presentation. He said that there are many reasons to consider PBB including labor constraints, rising costs, and decreased funding. He said the first step is a planning process, defining priorities, and establishing weighting criteria. He said that he recommends a 20-year strategic plan. He said the next step is program inventory, with a need to align priorities with programs. He spoke about the need to make policy decisions, based on how well the program moves the needle on achieving priorities. He said once that has been established, the next step is budget integration including spending on priorities. He said it is important to make the priorities transparent to the public with a ranked transparency model. He spoke about governance guardrails. He then presented a proposed timeline including priorities, inventory, scoring and budget integration. Cody Davis commented that this is good timing and that Mesa County is in the process of PBB. Tiffany Dickenson commented that DOLA will do trainings if communities are interested. Ray Beck commented that Dana gave a good overview and that a newly elected official should ask a lot of questions and reach out to Dana for further guidance.

**Middle Colorado Watershed Council – Kate Collins** gave a PowerPoint presentation. She spoke about the mission of the MCWC. She presented a map of the watershed. She said that MCWC represents 5% of the Colorado River watershed. She spoke about what they do and why it matters, including threats to the watershed. She spoke about this winter's measurable shortfall, snow water equivalent projections, and that Garfield County is in an extreme drought. She said they have won a grant and are in the pre-award phase currently. She spoke about the Colorado river wildfire collaborative. She said the grant was extremely competitive and they were one of 7 in the state to receive funding. She said the funding will allow for a program manager for 3 years. She spoke about the wildfire ready action plan which allows them to prioritize assets. She spoke about the Rifle Creek Restoration and reported that they are moving forward with the implementation plan. She spoke about the grand tunnel ditch flume replacement, the government creek drainage, Centennial Park, Deerfield Park, and the Roan Creek Fish Barrier Project. Grady Hazelton asked about the status of the zebra mussels in the Colorado River. Kate said that it will be our new normal and there will need to be more coordinated prevention. Cody Davis asked if irrigators are treating for the mussels, and Kate said she did not know and that she would follow up.

**Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones**, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of AAA efforts as outlined in her written report. She spoke about minimum nursing standards for staffing that were rescinded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She said that AAA met with Rocky Mountain Employee Ownership Center to launch the first Home Care Cooperative. She said this would add another home care agency for the more rural areas. She spoke about the contract amendments for the carryover funds. She said that a new ombudsman started at the end of January. She said that the State of Colorado has rolled out their Multi-Sector Plan on Aging which includes a new older adult data dashboard. She spoke about the new Code of Federal Regulations which requires AAA to update the composition of the Regional Advisory Council. She stated that she will begin working on the next four-year plan. She said that contracted service providers will be sending out surveys this month which are due back to AAA for input into the state database by May. She then reviewed current proposed legislation for the state of Colorado, as found in her written report. Mike Samson asked about the ombudsman for Garfield County and when they would be full-time. Heather said it has always been part-time and that two have been covering all the facilities in Garfield County. Heather's report is attached as Appendix A.

**Grants Update – Laura Kay Houser** reviewed the spreadsheet that updates the grants currently administered by AGNC. Cody Davis commented that he really appreciates this spreadsheet and the information that it contains. Laura Kay then spoke about the meetings that have been held for the NWCO RPI Grant. She said they are currently seeking members for a steering committee. Kari Brennan said they have already received 12 applications for the committee. Laura Kay then reviewed the grants round up on the AGNC website and showed everyone how to access it. She encouraged everyone to let her know if they needed help.

**Broadband Update – Corey Bryndal** reported on the work he has done with Region 10 to expand the broadband network. He spoke about the construction of the CNL's and the work being done on the 100-gig link to Salt Lake City. He said that they have partnered with Fastrack Communications out of Durango for network operations. He said they are now delivering services to Collbran, who is in turn supporting the school district. He said they are supporting a wireless ISP, as well. He said they will be providing 10-gig services to higher education institutions in the region through a grant that they received. He said they are continuing to work with several communities throughout the western slope to increase speeds.

**JOLT Update – Ray Beck** reported and introduced the members of the JOLT committee. He said that they have almost finalized the speaker agenda for the conference in June. He said speakers will include a panel on geothermal, an update from Dr. Perry, a presentation from Guzman Energy, a panel on obstacles in energy development, and they continue to work on the keynote speaker. He said they are hoping for someone from the Department of the Interior. He said they have several other panels planned, including a student panel from

CNCC. He spoke about all the support from everyone and said how grateful he is for it. He said there will be a meet and greet on June 17 at the Hotel Maverick. Tiffany Dickenson spoke and said that the AGNC board meeting will be held in conjunction with the JOLT conference and that she hopes to have the DOI representative at the board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 am for EDD Meeting

Meeting reconvened at 11:22 am

### **Federal Delegates Updates**

Janeth Stangle with Sen. Hickenlooper presented an update and said that he is in Pueblo to visit the Arkansas Valley Conduit and to speak out against the Veto of those funds. She said he has made several public statements about the drought situation in the state. She said he secured \$145M in CDS funds for homegrown projects including Carbondale, Roaring Fork School District, De Beque, Fruita, Youthzone in Garfield County, Grand Junction, Parachute, and Rifle. She said they will begin the CDS information meetings on the process in early March and will start the 2027 process next month. She spoke about the BUILD grant and letters of support. She said there is a grant available from the Dept. of Labor for Apprenticeship Programs, and she will send out information on that.

Betsy Bair with Rep Hurd presented an update. She said thank you for all the letters on the Elk and Lee fires and they have been sent on to the White House. She spoke about the mini-government shutdown affecting homeland security. She said that they are continuing to work on funding DHS. She said the SAVE Act has passed the house and they believe the Senate will take it up next week. She spoke about the Crystal Reservoir Conveyance Act which affects the town of Ouray's water supply. She spoke about research regarding substance abuse in youth and a new bill introduced by Rep. Hurd allowing grants to states and local governments to do PSA's. She said they are doing a lot of work on transportation in the area. Tiffany Dickenson asked about the BASICS Act and if Rep. Hurd is in support of it. Betsy said she does not know but that she will reach out and follow up with her. Betsy said the US Army Field Band will be at the Asteria Theater in GJ in March and the tickets will be free.

Delaney Deskin with Sen. Bennet presented an update. She said they are also working on the Valley Conduit and Elk and Lee Fire funding issues. She said they are working on Medicare funding for continued access to treatment. She encouraged everyone to reach out for CDS funding requests, as well.

**Executive Director Update – Tiffany Dickenson** presented her written report. She spoke about Legislative and Policy issues including the Energy Worker Penalty Waiver Act, the Clean Heat Plan, and the BASICS Act. Cody Davis said he will speak with Tiffany more about the possible lawsuit regarding the Clean Heat Plan. She then spoke about advocacy, outreach and meetings including GJARA & AMGDC Committee and CPW March Commission Meeting. She spoke about the importance of attending the CPW meeting on March 4 & 5. She spoke about transition, funding and planning including a NW Colorado Transition Report by CU Capstone, Congressionally Directed Spending regional awards, Opportunity Zone Planning with an anticipated meeting in Grand Junction in April, and a Regional Data Center Study and possible EDA grant. She said that she is asking for feedback about AGNC possibly applying for EDA funding for a regional data study. Cody Davis said he thinks it's a good idea and would provide good baseline data. Tiffany's written report is attached as Appendix B.

**New Business –**

*Next meeting March 25, 2026, 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 11:50am.**

**Attendance:**

<b>IN PERSON</b>	<b>VIA ZOOM</b>
	Tiffany Dickenson
	Toni Barrett
	William Dearing
	Mistalynn Meyeraan
	Laura Kay Good
	Grady Hazelton
	Dana Hlavac
	Mike Samson
	Wade Haerle
	Kate Collins
	Michael Clancy
	Ari Lewis
	Kari Brenna
	Doug Overton
	Alicia Gresley
	John Swartout
	Ray Beck
	Chris Nichols
	Heather Jones
	Cody Davis
	Lisa Jones
	Craig Fuller
	Betsy Bair
	Jonah Bollinger
	Wendell Koontz
	Grady Hazelton
	Janeth Stancle
	Tinker Duclou
	Callie Scritchfield
	David Reynolds
	Delaney Deskin
	Jeff Comstock
	Corey Bryndal
	Jeannie Caldwell
	Kari Brennan

## APPENDIX A



# AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

### Updates from AAA 2/18/2026:

- On December 3, 2025, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rescinded part of the minimum staffing rule in nursing homes (3.48 total hours for nursing staff) and the requirement of a registered nurse onsite 24 hours, 7 days per week. As a result, Colorado nursing homes will not have to increase their state requirement of “no less than two hours of nursing time per resident per day.” This is unfortunate as the increase of minimum nurse staffing hours would have been a step toward improving the quality of care in nursing homes.
- The AAA met with Rocky Mountain Employee Ownership Center (RMEOC). RMEOC is looking to launch Colorado’s first Home Care Cooperative. This would be a statewide, Class A medical home care cooperative with five regional branches. RMEOC would like to start their first branch in Mesa County. This branch would serve Mesa, Garfield, Pitkin, Eagle, Summit, Grand, Jackson, Routt, Moffat, and Rio Blanco counties.
- Contract amendments for the SFY25 carryover funds went out at the beginning of the year.
- Our new part-time Long-Term Care Ombudsman started at the end of January. Her name is Erika Satie. She will mostly be covering Mesa County facilities.
- The State of Colorado has rolled out their Multi-Sector Plan on Aging, which includes a new older adult data dashboard. The plan is a roadmap of what the state has planned for the next ten years.
- The new Code of Federal Regulations requires AAAs to update the composition of their Regional Advisory Councils (RAC). Some of the new requirements include adding a family caregiver and a local elected official. AAAs have to come into compliance with the new RAC requirements by 7/1/2027. The AAA is also looking to update the process of how individuals are appointed to the RAC.
- The AAA will be starting to work on the next four-year area plan. I plan to hold community conversations this summer. There are some new requirements for the plan: digitally accessible, 30-day comment/feedback period open to the public and a four-year budget.
- This month our contracted providers will be sending out performance measure surveys to participants of services. The surveys are due back to the AAA by April 3, 2026. All data from the surveys must be completed for the State Unit on Aging by May 2026.

### 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 the House-Assigned to Business Affairs & Labor 1/14/2026.**

- 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. **Introduced in the House-Assigned to Health & Human Services 1/14/26.**
- 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. **Introduced in the House-Assigned to Health & Human Services 2/3/26.**
- 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. **Introduced in the House-Assigned to Finance 2/3/26.**
- SB26-007 Medical Marijuana Use in Health Facilities ▪ The bill mandates that 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. **Senate Committee on Health & Human Services Refer Amended - Consent Calendar to Senate Committee of the Whole 2/12/2026**

## APPENDIX B

### Executive Director's Update – February 2026

#### Legislative and Policy

- **Energy Worker Penalty Waiver Act** – The Energy Worker Penalty Waiver Act is currently under review with Representative Hurd's legislative policy team. This proposal would waive early withdrawal penalties for displaced coal and energy workers accessing retirement savings; we will share updates and support opportunities as it moves forward.
- **Clean Heat Plan – Potential PUC Lawsuit** – Former Routt County Commissioner Doug Monger notified us of a potential lawsuit challenging the PUC's Clean Heat Plan. Organizers may ask AGNC and member jurisdictions to join or sign on in support (no funding requested).
- **BASICS Act – Potential Support** – Congress has introduced the bipartisan Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act, which would update federal surface transportation programs to better fund locally driven bridge, safety, and community-priority projects, with explicit benefits for rural regions and small communities. The bill would provide more flexible, predictable funding and give regional entities like AGNC a stronger role in identifying and advancing priority projects, rather than relying solely on statewide programs. We have been asked to encourage Representative Hurd's office to sign on as a supporter; I am requesting board discussion and direction on whether AGNC should formally endorse the BASICS Act and communicate that support and request to Rep. Hurd's team.

#### Advocacy, Outreach, and Meetings

- **January Presentations – GJARA & AMGD Committee** – Following the November op-ed on over-regulation, I was asked to present in January to the Grand Junction Area REALTOR® Association and its AMGD Committee on Northwest Colorado's transition, Clean Heat and energy policy, and AGNC's advocacy work. These conversations help expand our network of informed community and business partners.
- **March 4–5 CPW Commission – Denver** – AGNC plans to attend the March 4–5 CPW Commission meeting in Denver. The Unified Wolf Coalition is urging a strong turnout on March 4 to oppose proposed furbearer rulemakings; March 5 will focus on wolves and there will also be a hearing on SB-003 at the capitol. If you must choose one day to attend in person, the coalition is asking that it be March 4.

#### Transition, Funding, and Planning

- **NW Colorado Transition Report – CU Capstone** – A University of Colorado capstone team, working with the Rural Opportunity Office, is preparing a Northwest Colorado transition report expected to serve as a model for other coal communities. Because the project is funded by OEDIT and may influence future state funding priorities, it is important that local officials and stakeholders engage so the recommendations reflect community needs.
- **Congressionally Directed Spending – Regional Awards** – Several projects in our region received Congressionally Directed Spending this cycle, including:

- \$3 million dollars for US-6/1st Street Safety Enhancements in Parachute
- \$1.05 million dollars for the Northwest Colorado Innovation Center Building in Moffat County.
- \$320,000 for the Town of De Beque’s Secondary Water Source Project in De Beque
- Rifle (Garfield County) – Drug Testing Public Safety Initiative – City of Rifle – \$401,000

AGNC submits letters of support for Northwest Colorado applications – please be sure to reach out for a letter for your requests! The 2026 CDS request forms are open and available now – due on March 24<sup>th</sup> by 5 p.m. MT. If a local match is needed, awardees can pursue EDA funds as match, and AGNC is available to assist with those applications.

- **Opportunity Zone Planning – Mesa County (April)** – Mesa County and partners are working with OEDIT on “Opportunity Zones 2.0,” including an Opportunity Zone planning meeting anticipated in Grand Junction in April. We will distribute the confirmed date, time, and location and strongly encourage participation so local priorities are reflected in any updated OZ strategy.
- **Regional Data Center Study – Possible EDA Grant** – With increasing interest in data center development and likely attention to rural locations, AGNC would benefit from a regionwide assessment of power, water, broadband, land use, tax, and workforce conditions. I am seeking board feedback on whether AGNC should pursue EDA planning funds for a regional data center study to guide decisions about what types of data centers we want to encourage or limit in our communities.