



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC EDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 17, 2021

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2510562431>

By Phone: +1 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 251 056 2431

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

1:00 P.M. Call to Order – Mike Samson, Chairman

Approval of November 18, 2020 AGNC EDD Minutes

Workforce Impacts of COVID-19 – Carolyn Tucker, Regional Business Services Coordinator, Colorado Workforce Center

Carolyn Tucker gave a presentation (attached) regarding the status of the Northwest Workforce Area. She noted that women are having to leave the workforce temporarily because of the unavailability of schools and childcare due to the pandemic.

- Christina Oxley, Business Service Coordinator, Northwest Workforce Sub area – presentation (attached)
- Celina Kirnberger, Mesa County Workforce Center – handout attached

Report on EDD Activities:

Coal to Products Project Update – Jeremiah Riley, Joshua Riley, and Nathan Perry provided an update on the Coal to Products project. The project is slated to be completed by the end of September. They are focusing on 6 counties: 3 in eastern Utah and 3 in northwest Colorado (Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt).

Additionally, the Uintah Group, led by Jeremiah Riley was selected to complete an Economic Recovery and Resilience Plan as a part of the CARES Act funding AGNC received to address the impacts of COVID-19.

Economic Development Coordinator Search --Bonnie is hoping to hire someone to fill this position by March 1. They will work on projects, funding, and grant-writing in coordination with the economic development organizations throughout the region.

Rural Jump Start Program for Western Garfield County –Western Garfield County (not including Carbondale and Glenwood Springs) will be considered at the February 18th EDC meeting for an exception which will allow them to apply for designation as a Rural Jumpstart zone. Two businesses, Springborn and Tiny Homes, are interested in pursuing designation through the program.

EDA COVID Relief Bill – Should the relief bill being considered in Congress pass, EDA anticipates receiving funding of about \$3 Billion. AGNC EDD members should consider opportunities they might wish to fund and begin to prepare grant ideas; it is hoped that this round of funding will also include the provision for an 80/20 match.

Partnership Planning Grant – We just completed our renewal paperwork and are applying for a 3-year grant cycle. We should hear about the grant approval by the end of March.

Broadband Discussion – There is a Zoom meeting on 2/26 at 10 am with Region 10 to discuss requests for broadband assistance utilizing the Region 10 Broadband network being placed from Montrose to Glenwood Springs.

ED Summit – Currently, staff plans to host an Economic Development Summit in August 2021 in Rifle, pending the status of COVID restrictions throughout the year.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Attendance:

Kevin Batchelder, Garfield County
Ray Beck, Moffat County
Tony Bohrer, Moffat County
Bill Carlson, Town of Palisade
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County
Brian Condie, City of Rifle
Cody Davis, Mesa County
Tinker Duclou, CMC
Grady Hazelton, Town of New Castle
Laura Kay Houser, AGNC
Heather Jones, AAoA
Tyler Kelly, Rifle Reg. EDC
Celina Kirnberger, Mesa County WFC
Drew Kramer, Tri-State Energy Co-op

Mike Lane, Delta County
Alyssa Logan, Sen. Bennet's office
Chris Nichols, City of Craig
Christina Oxley, CWF
Tiffany Pehl, AGNC
Nathan Perry, UINTA consultants
Bonnie Petersen, AGNC
Hogan Peterson, Rep. Boebert's office
Jeremiah Riley, UINTA consultants
Joshua Riley, UINTA consultants
Mike Samson, Garfield County
Don Suppes, Delta County
Carolyn Tucker, CWF



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Mesa County Workforce Center
2020 Highlights

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
UI Rate	4.1	4.1	6.3	12.6	9.0	10.0	6.9	6.2	5.7	5.7	6.0	8.2
Labor Force	75,373	76,603	75,720	73,342	76,142	79,326	76,353	77,389	79,482	79,013	78,770	79,880
Job Orders	347	503	586	388	421	617	590	536	597	709	686	666
Inbound Calls	186	153	364	513	582	757	1,878	1,084	739	796	1,056	1,851

- April had the highest UI rate at 12.6%.
 - The last time we were at a 12.0% UI rate was January of 2010
- Despite economic/pandemic conditions our labor force increased by over 4,500
- Job Orders remain steady
- Limiting in-person to appointment only Monday- Friday 8:00 am-2:00 pm
 - Assisting thousands via phone and email
- Earn While You Learn program (young adult GED incentive program)

Continued Business Services

- Recruiting Assistance
 - Job postings, application collection and screening, assessments
 - Hiring Events
 - Held 29 events in 2020, only 1 was virtual
 - We have the 5 star variance certification through the Health Department
 - 1 outdoor job fair in October 2020- 21 employers, 169 job seekers
 - April 8th, 2021 Grand Valley Career & Job Fair
 - Partnering with CMU; will be an in-person outdoor event
- Onboarding Assistance
 - Career Development (WIOA)
 - On-the-Job Training (OJT)
 - Work Experience (paid internships)

New Program

- COResponds- putting dislocated workers back to work through temp positions that address the pandemic
 - Our funds cover wages and benefits for the temp employee; we reimburse the employer
 - Employer agreement and employee eligibility must be completed prior to start date

"The Mission of Mesa County Department of Human Services is to help individuals and families achieve safety, stabilization, and opportunity for meaningful employment."