



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC EDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 20, 2020

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

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

11:30 pm to 1:30 pm

11:30 A.M. 1. Call to Order – Ray Beck, Chairman

2. Report on EDD Activities: Tiffany Pehl & Bonnie Petersen

Coal to Products Project Update – The EDA Coal to Products project is moving forward, although a bit more slowly due to the impacts of the coronavirus. The first quarter report has been submitted to EDA; Tiffany reviewed the major components of the update. A request was made to share the entire update with the board of directors.

Planning Partnership Grant – AGNC was awarded its first EDA planning partnership grant which will allow us to hire an administrative person. The job description has been updated but due to the stay at home requirement, the job description has not been posted. There are concerns about attempting to train a person during the pandemic with stay at home orders in place; it could create a liability for AGNC. As the stay at home orders are modified, and waivers are granted to allow for training, staff will get the job description posted on the Colorado Workforce site. If any of our members have a candidate in mind, referrals would be most welcome.

EDA Revolving Loan Fund Opportunity – EDA has received funds from the CARES Act to address economic issues related to the COVID pandemic. One item EDA is looking at funding are revolving loan funds (RLF). AGNC has not set up an RLF in the past and some of the AGNC counties are served by the loan fund management through Region 12. Lately AGNC staff have received concerns regarding access to and knowledge of the Region 12 loan fund and questions regarding the organization's ability to establish a loan fund for the AGNC region. Staff visited with Trent Thompson at EDA and he is supportive of AGNC pursuing an EDA RLF as the funds available now would be made available at an 80/20 ratio of funding to match. Staff would like guidance from the board regarding the idea of establishing an EDA RLF by applying for funding through the CARES Act. It was noted that the state is also interested in applying to establish an EDA RLF program to be a statewide program. AGNC was told by Trent at EDA that if the organization pursues its own RLF grant, they will need to contact the state and have them remove the region from the statewide application. Staff noted that there are many documents and components that must be established in order to proceed but in order to assure that businesses in the AGNC region have access to an RLF it may make sense to pursue the idea. It was noted that pulling together the necessary structure to qualify and then applying for and

qualifying for the grant may fail; but for the benefit of the region it may be worth further exploration. A number of members have indicated they would like to see AGNC pursue this opportunity as many of them looked into the option and were told by EDA that it makes more sense to apply from a regional standpoint in an attempt to secure a larger amount for funding. The funds in an EDA RLF continue to belong to the federal government and, unlike other funds used in a differently funded RLF, never leave the federal government nexus. Matching funds for the grant could be applied for through DOLA, regional federal mineral district grant requests, regional financial providers and/or industry members in the region. It was noted that USDA grant funds have been recently applied for to establish an RLF and the grant application and management is quite onerous – this would be the same for an EDA RLF. There were concerns raised regarding staff capacity to work on such a large project; but the importance for the region to have access to such a fund is great enough for staff to explore this as an option. Chris Nichols made a motion that AGNC explore the idea of establishing an EDA RLF and, if feasible, move forward with an application; Mike Samson seconded the motion; motion passed.

ED Summit – the AGNC Economic Development Summit is currently scheduled for August 28, 2020, but most events of this type are being cancelled due to the pandemic and stay at home order. Businesses are less likely to sponsor such an event, attendance is likely to be negatively impacted, social distancing requirements will limit the number of attendees even if waivers are granted to host the event in person. It is difficult to get speakers to commit to attending. It was noted that if the event could move forward, it would be a great opportunity for AGNC to provide a valuable conference. The conference could emphasize how the region might utilize programs to help businesses get restarted and survive the mandated closures. It was discussed that the event could provide information regarding the PPP loans and the changing landscape around those loans; there are opportunities businesses might use through the enterprise zones, opportunity zones and the SBDC. July 1st was established as a make or break deadline for a decision on moving forward with the ED Summit for 2020. Staff will work to secure sponsors and speakers to further determine the feasibility of hosting the event. There was not deposit for the venue so there will not be any loss of funds if the event does not move forward.

EDA non-competitive grant opportunity – In an effort to address economic issues related to COVID-19, EDA will extend an invitation to EDD organizations allowing them to apply for non-competitive grants from funds provided to EDA through the CARES Act. The standard Scope of Work for these awards includes one or more of the following:

- Planning and coordination to draft or update a disaster recovery and resiliency plan focused on pandemic recovery and resiliency
- Funding for regional disaster economic recovery coordinators to serve the communities in the EDD region or Tribal territory
- Technical Assistance for member organizations, local businesses, and other local stakeholders affected by coronavirus
- Capacity support for recipients to assist in implementing the scope of work, including technology costs and personnel costs.

Recipients can choose to implement one or more of these elements. Capacity support costs are only available to assist with other elements, however. Maximum award amount is \$400,000 for District Organizations.

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants will be required to accept their award within 30 days of award notification.

Applicants will be required to submit two additional items within 60 days of award notification:

- Certificate of Completion of Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Training
- Grant Administration Plan

Failure to meet the foregoing deadlines may result in EDA terminating the Award.

EDA will review the Project Narrative, Budget Narrative, and Staffing Plan to determine whether the application is responsive to the invitation, i.e., whether the applicant's proposal

1. Implements the required Scope of Work,
2. Responds to the economic impacts of the pandemic, and
3. Meets all other requirements for funding under PWEDA

EDA may request revisions to the budget or staffing plan to meet EDA or other federal requirements. Applications found to be responsive will be funded at the level provided in the final, EDA-accepted budget. AGNC EDD would like to apply for this grant and request the maximum amount of funding to address one or more of the topics under the scope of work. Mike Samson moved to authorize staff to apply for the EDA non-competitive grant; Chris Nichols seconded the motion, motion passed.

EDD Membership Drive – topic postponed to a future EDD meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Attendance:

Ray Beck, Moffat County
Mike Samson, Garfield County
Tiffany Pehl, AGNC
George Rossman, Congressman Tipton's Ofc.
Diana Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Grady Hazelton, Town of New Castle
Chris Nichols, City of Craig
Keely Ellis, Town of Rangely
Tom Kleinschnitz, Moffat County Tourism
Matt Nunez, City of Glenwood Springs
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County
Makala Barton, Rio Blanco ED
Christina Oxley, Colorado Workforce Cntr.
Merritt Linke, Grand County
Kimberly Bullen, DOLA
Tanya Doose, Rifle Chamber of Commerce

Bonnie Petersen, AGNC
Betsy Bair, Senator Gardner's Office
John Justman, Mesa County
Doug Monger, Routt County
Lisa Piering, Town of Rangely
Alyssa Logan, Senator Bennet's Office
Ted Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Richard Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Perry Will, State Representative
Tim Redmond, Town of Hayden
Jeannie Caldwell, Town of Rangely
Drew Kramer, Tri-State
Jon Bristol, Routt Chamber ED
Paula Stepp, City of Glenwood Springs
Jenn Ooten, City of Glenwood Springs
Gavin Baird, Observer