



MINUTES
AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING
May 25, 2022
9:00 am to 1:30 pm

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 Mike Samson, called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. Introductions were made, and Commissioner Samson gave thanks to CNCC for the meeting facility.

Approval of minutes – Cody Davis made a motion to approve the minutes; Bill Carlson seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Tiffany Pehl reported on April 2022 financials. The balance sheet as of April 30, 2022, was described, assets and deferred revenue explained, future revenues include grants that are pending payments. The Profit and Loss statement as of April 2022 was described – on track with expenses year-to-date, grant expenses are in contra accounts. The Check Register as of May 24, 2022, was described including the amount passed through to AAoA. The Accounts Receivable report as of May 24, 2022, was described and total Accounts Receivable was explained, including the Oak Creek membership which still needs to be received, and we are still awaiting a payment on the EDA grant. Lisa Piering made a motion to approve the financial report; Cody Davis seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Project and Committee Reports:

Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of AAA efforts. AAA received the SB290 purchase order in the amount of almost \$1million to support providers in the region. Once invoiced and received they can get those funds out to providers. Rescue plan health funds were about \$102,000 (see Heather’s detailed report attached). Heather reported that they did hire a new ombudsman in Garfield County and the position is posted for Mesa County ombudsman. Community conversations are planned and are listed as of the report. They will be gathering information on services provided and needed in each area. Legislation updates, SB-079 Dementia Training requires training for providers. SB154 – Increased safety in assisted livings. SB185 – security – access funding to help support the aging citizens, SB187 – funding for local resources for those who wander, SB203 – PACE – requires oversight for PACE programs, similar to nursing and assisted living facilities. Heather reviewed the state fiscal year budget recommendations. There were \$2.9 million in requests and \$2.5 million in funding. They will use reserve funds to help support programs, as well. There were increases in costs across the board (fuel, food, etc.). There were no questions. A motion to approve the recommended AAA budget was made by Bill Carlson, seconded by Lisa Piering, and the motion passed unanimously. Heather’s written report can be seen at the end of these minutes as Appendix A.

Broadband update – Corey Bryndal was not in attendance at this meeting to provide an update.

Wolf Creek Reservoir update – Alden Vanden Brink provided an update for the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District. Wolf Creek is the preferred alternative of the project titled the White River project. Alden read from the decree regarding water rights, different uses of the water, White River is first in line and junior in the water rights, augmentation and mitigation plan is instrumental in moving forward, rules regarding release of water designed to give project flexibility (very important). There is an Intergovernmental Agreement to develop the plan. Kenney reservoir is emergency backup at this point due to level of water. Geotechnical assessments were discussed on Wolf Creek Reservoir. Environmental plans to protect endangered species were discussed. Regional benefits were discussed including water for species, help stream ecology improve, water to sustain grow and promote the economy, benefits to local properties to make them more valuable, recreation potential, augmentation water, municipal, industry, hydro power, over appropriation source. Permitting was discussed, Alden said they are close but have new requirements as part of the process that are put in place. They have commitments from several local counties and municipalities, and they have unanimous support. NEPA was discussed, and they are close to submitting the application. Public comment is forthcoming. Economics of the project was discussed including sales tax revenue and state funding. They anticipate the project will bring in new revenue and jobs to the region. White River basin is in a water crisis and this project is desperately needed. Dredging Kenney Reservoir would cost \$700 million, and construction of Wolf Creek would cost \$147 million. If the river runs dry, all endangered species would be killed. There is a chance the permits will not be issued by the federal government, but they have done all they can to prepare the application. Bill Carlson asked if the jobs would be temporary. Alden said the construction jobs are temporary, but would create 360 permanent jobs, and then there is the trickledown effect. Samson asked who is in opposition to the program. Alden said it is mostly those who just don't like dams. Kireker asked Alden to follow up with his office with updated documentation.

Ballot Initiative - Cody Davis provided an overview of a ballot initiative being considered to reorganize the COGCC to IOGCC. 136 is a constitutional amendment, and 137 is change to statute. Cody would prefer 136 so that it cannot be changed. Cody stated that oil and gas regulation is a good thing, but politics and regulation setting don't mix well. Industry needs to know where the regulations are going to be set to plan for future. Therefore, they are proposing an independent oil and gas commission that is not appointed by the governor, which is then subject to politics. It would be a 6-member board that selects recommended commission members. Board would be 2 democrats, 2 republicans, 2 independents. Then retired judges would select the recommended members. Commission would be as much of an administrative process as possible, with clear rules. Appeals can be made, there would be a robust application for permits, and funding for the commission would be the same. Cody has met with the Title Board to work on this initiative. The title of the initiative must be a single subject issue, and they told Cody the title is not a single subject. They will have to get a decision about the title before they can go out and get signatures and will need approximately 50,000 signatures statewide. They would like AGNC's official support of the initiatives, although the initiatives may not happen until next year at this point. Discussion was had regarding the effect on small communities with the attack on fossil fuels. Matt Kireker talked a little about Sen. Bennet's proposal for funding and how it may help these effected communities. Motion to support the initiatives was made by Bill Carlson, a second was made by Lisa Piering, and it passed unanimously. Cody Davis abstained from the vote.

National Energy Community Transition Act – Matt Kireker, Office of Senator Bennet presented information. Closure of the coal production units was discussed and the loss of tax revenue and the services that would be affected, and then how to diversify. Sen. Bennet wanted to find payment in lieu of taxes for these counties. A bill has been introduced by Sen. Bennet to address these needs. The definition of what qualifies and who would receive the funding was discussed. Some funding would go directly to counties. Another account would be set up for capacity building grants. There would be a 7-to-11-member board to administer the funding with no more than a 1-person majority of political affiliation on the board. The board would be geographically diverse as well. Formula for dispersing the funds was discussed, with economic factors, and eligibility. An entity could ask for an investment from the board for a project within an eligible community, as well. Richard Orf asked a question about the definition of impacted communities and how to keep the energy definition very tight so that all the funds don't go to larger metropolitan areas. He also asked if AGNC would qualify for grants, and Matt said yes. Richard also asked for assistance with grant writing as well. The bill was just introduced two weeks ago. Dianna Orf asked about which committees it was referred to – Matt said it would be Judiciary, which could refer it onto something else. Tony

Bohrer commented on how Bennet's office has been very accommodating about changing the bill as they have requested. He also commented about concerns with the formula to distribute funds equitably. Rio Blanco County Commissioner Love asked if they had been contacted, and Matt said Commissioner Gates was contacted. Funds would come from oil and gas leasing revenues with \$20 billion newly appropriated one time, invested with annual return anticipated. Mike Samson commented he believes it is a step in the right direction. The look back is 20 years in this bill. Motion was made to support the bill by Tony Bohrer, seconded by no one at this time, so the motion did not pass at this time. Mike Samson commented that Sen. Bennet has been good to work with and asked that he continue to support oil and gas in our nation, and he is disheartened that Sen Hickenlooper has changed his support of oil and gas. Helen Katich from Hickenlooper's office said she will pass on Commissioner Samson's concerns. Larry Elarton spoke about how one of the most valuable resources in the west water is, and how to use hydroelectric, and his concerns about the continued draining of our reservoirs. He would like to see those issues addressed, as well.

AGNC Board meeting was recessed at 10:48am for the AGNC EDD meeting.

AGNC Board meeting was reconvened at 11:25am.

Consideration of Resolution – Mike Samson discussed a resolution brought forth regarding an I-70 alternative route study proposed by Rep. Boebert. Mike talked about how Cottonwood Pass is not a viable alternative for heavy traffic when I-70 is shut down in Glenwood canyon. A letter of support to conduct a study was presented. McKenna Farley from Rep. Boebert's office spoke about how the bill will be a study with an appropriation section after the study is decided. The study would be funded through DOT existing funding. A motion to pass the letter in support of the resolution was made by Cody Davis, with a second by Bill Carlson, and the motion was passed unanimously.

NW Colorado Atomic Energy Feasibility Study – Mike Samson presented to AGNC that Sen. Rankin will be holding a meeting on June 14th in Craig to answer questions and encouraged all to attend the meeting if possible. Sen. Rankin has asked AGNC to be the base to the project moving forward. Invitations will be sent out for the June 14th meeting. Richard Orf talked about how multiple entities are starting to work on these ideas, and they would like to find a way to make these entities more cohesive and work together towards atomic energy projects.

Legislative Update and Wrap-Up – Richard and Dianna Orf gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the recent legislative session and what was accomplished. AGNC took a position on 67 of the 86 bills evaluated by AGNC. Most movement on bills was during the last 4 days of the session. Richard Orf went through the bills. Air and water quality issues are impacting north Denver metro area, some of the bills reflect this. Transportation bills were discussed. Economic Development bills were discussed, including additional funding for just transition with some concern over the lack of oversight, and how to move forward. The need for smaller communities to access grants was discussed, and the need for grant writers. Richard said the concept of providing for this is moving forward. Tax bills were discussed including tax exemptions and refunds (TABOR). He commented that Bonnie Petersen was helpful in getting the amendments needed for the TABOR refund to technically work. Criminal and Social Justice bills were discussed, and a couple of the bills effectively became studies – Jail Standards Commission and Reduce Justice Involvement for Young Children. Broadband only had 2 bills, and both passed. Big Deal Bills were discussed including collective bargaining which passed on the party line, although the governor has not signed it yet, and veto letters have been sent out. WUI building codes were discussed, and many didn't make it onto a bill this year, but they expect them in the future. Election security was discussed and was heavily amended. Building Greenhouse Gas Emissions was discussed including the attack on local control and was also heavily amended. The Butcher's Bills were discussed including major environmental bills of the past, the centralization of policymaking to state agencies, the threat to coalitions and large associations, and home rule. Looking ahead they will be looking to limit late committees, there will be aggressive campaigning, a loss of senior policymakers, and redistricted/reapportioned regions.

Federal Delegate Updates

Senator Hickenlooper's office - Helen Katich – joined us from Durango via Zoom. She added her email to the chat. They have signed on to resolution to declare small business week. They introduced a group of small business focused bills, including bills increasing minorities and women owned businesses, more resources for businesses to switch to green energy, and incentives for small business retirement savings possible through tax credits, eliminating red tape. CDS season is right now, and they have received a number of requests from the AGNC counties. They are working through the requests now and will be in touch. Infrastructure investment and jobs act – final package went through last November, rural broadband, roads and bridges, etc. They are working closely with Colorado broadband office for distribution to priority projects. Helen stated that it is important to get started early and often with the Colorado broadband office to obtain these funds. Drought and wildfire funds are also available, and they are working closely with federal agencies for deployment of these funds.

Representative Boebert's office - McKenna Farley – nothing too localized since we met a month ago. She said thank you for supporting the I-70 resolution. They have introduced grey wolf bill to delist the wolves which would also ensure that it would not be up for judicial review. It is with the committee on natural resources.

Senator Bennet's office – Matt Kireker – reiterated some of what Helen said about the infrastructure bill. Being on priority lists within your local TPR's is important to get in on this funding. This is over the next 5 years. He was able to talk to the guys from town of Dinosaur at the meeting and emphasized the need for broadband and to connect with the Colorado broadband office. Burn area recovery funds are available through this bill as well. Higher Education Innovation Act would create a 5-year pilot program to look at outcome-based programs that would qualify for federal aid. Matt emphasized that Sen. Bennet wants to support the communities of the western slope.

Administrative Update – Mike Samson provided an update on the following topics:

- Bill Carlson will be running for municipal league executive committee; voting is June 15th and he asked for votes from all municipalities.
- Ginny Love attended today for the first time as a newly elected Rio Blanco County Commissioner. She said she was very impressed with her first meeting with us. Mike Samson said that we look forward to seeing her at our meetings.
- Keely Ellis from OEDIT was in attendance and is happy to connect with anyone.
- The mayor of Dinosaur attended, and the town has a couple of new investors in town that they are excited about.

New Business – *Next meeting June 15, 2022, Garfield County Administrative Building Community Room, 195 W. 14th Street, Rifle, CO 81650*

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:27 pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Cheryl Meier	Christelle Khalaf
Jeff Tripp	Ashley Pynes
Bill Carlson	Heather Jones
Alden Vanden Brink	Johnny McFarland
Larry Elarton	Brandon Bainer (Kacie Sallee)
Richard Blakely	Shannon Scott
Tim Webber	Helen Katich – Senator Hickenlooper
Lisa Piering	Jeff Engell – Director SBDC Mesa
Jeannie Caldwell	Melonie Matarozzo
McKenzie Webber	Betsy Bair
Keely Ellis	Charles Nye
Cody Davis	Drew Kramer
Tony Bohrer	Davin Bagdonas
Ginny Love	John Bristol - Routt County EDP
Dianna Orf	Jeremiah Riley
Richard Orf	Joshua Riley
Mike Samson	Anna Stout – Mayor Grand Junction
Tiffany Pehl	Joel Riggins – Deserado Mine
Toni Barrett	
Lisa Jones	
Matt Kireker	
McKenna Farley	
Nathan Perry	

APPENDIX A



Updates from AAA 05/25/2022:

- The AAA received the purchase order for the SB290. However, the State Unit on Aging (SUA) required the AAA to submit an invoice for payment. An invoice was sent on May 5th to the SUA. The AAA is working on getting contracts out to providers once the funding is received.
- The AAA will be receiving a contract sometime soon for the American Rescue Plan Public Health funds. We are being awarded \$102,193.87. These funds can only be used to increase the public health force working with older adults. Moffat and Garfield County were the only interested counties in the funds. There might be an opportunity to use some of the funds as a scholarship to help pay for CNAs going into Home Health or Nursing Facilities. The funds do not need to be spent until 09/30/2024. The AAA has some time to plan.
- Alpine Legal Services has found a new Long-Term Care Ombudsman for Garfield County. She will start this week. Her name is Andrea Dazzi and her background is in nutrition and long-term care facilities.
- Every four years the AAA creates an area plan for the region. Part of the development of the plan comes from local community conversations. Below are the meetings that have been scheduled. The AAA is still working on scheduling a meeting in Rangely and potentially other towns in Garfield County. See the attached flyer for the upcoming meetings in Mesa County for June.
 - Friday, June 24th 10am-12pm Central Library Grand Junction
 - Friday, June 24th 1:30pm-3:30pm Fruita Community Center
 - Thursday, June 30th 10am-12pm Palisade Library
 - Monday, July 11th 1pm-3pm Rifle Library
 - Tuesday, July 26th 1pm-3pm GWS Library
 - Tuesday, August 23rd 1-3pm Senior Social Center in Craig
 - Tuesday, August 30th from 9:30am-11:30am Fairfield in Meeker
- Legislation Updates:
 - SB22-079 Dementia Training (sent to Governor 5/9/2022)
 - SB22-154 Increase Safety in Assisted Livings
 - SB22-185 Security for Colorado Seniors (sent to the Governor 5/18/2022)
 - SB22-187 Supporting Recovery Programs Persons Who Wander (Sent to Governor 5/18/2022)
 - SB22-203-Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (Sent to the Governor 5/18/2022)
- SFY23 Recommended Budget