



**MINUTES**  
**AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING**  
**July 20, 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 9:03am. Introductions were made.

**Approval of minutes** – Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes; Ginny Love seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**Financial report** – Bonnie Petersen reported on the June 2022 financials. The balance sheet as of June 30, 2022, was described with assets described, deferred revenue explained, accounts receivable described and deferred future revenues explained. A large portion of the income is attributable to AAoA and has been processed out. The Profit and Loss Statement for June 2022 was described. We are a little ahead in revenue for the month and the year. A good portion of this is attributable to contribution project admin fees. We are slightly under for expenses on the month and the year. The Check Register as of 7/14/22 was described with checks written since last board meeting. A large check was processed for AAoA, giving us a little bit of interest into the checking account while it was held there. Accounts Receivable as of 7/14/22 was described and most of these are contribution project fees that have been billed. We will follow up with Jackson County and Oak Creek regarding their outstanding balances for member dues. Mike Samson asked a question about Oak Creek being contacted. Bonnie is unaware of any contact, but they will follow up. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Chris Nichols, seconded by Lisa Piering, and the motion passed unanimously.

**2021 Final Audit** – The final audit was presented for approval. Chris Nichols commented that it was a smooth audit. A motion to approve the 2021 Final Audit was made by Lisa Piering, seconded by Tony Bohrer, and passed unanimously.

**Project and Committee Reports:**

**Area Agency on Aging** – Heather Jones, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of AAA efforts. Contracts have been sent out for the July 1st start date. SB21-290 funding was received, and the providers have begun the projects. They have resubmitted an application for additional funding to help with additional voucher funds in the amount of \$79,000. They have been busy cleaning up their data for transition to a new data base with the state. The new Garfield County ombudsman is on board and has begun working in the community. They have made an offer for the Community Outreach Manager and are awaiting his/her acceptance of the offer. They have begun the community conversations and have had a variety of turnouts for these events so far. Surveys should be going out to the region this week with official results back in October 2022. Mike Samson asked if he is getting the DocuSign's done correctly, and Heather said he is doing fine as far as she knows. Heather's written report can be seen at the end of these minutes as Appendix A.

**Legislative update – Richard Orf** provided a legislative update and commented that they have begun interim committees. Jail committee has met to discuss jails and an amended bill. Committee includes legislators, sheriffs, mental health and is more diverse and will have recommendations for bills by November 2023. Tax policy oversight committee is covering tax credit exemptions for oil and gas, as well as oversight of enterprise zones. The state auditor has concerns that EZ tax credits are having an impact. There have been conversations that they probably are benefiting rural parts of the state and it is hard to quantify. Richard said that this is something to keep an eye on. Water, agriculture, and resources committee meeting is having its first meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Wildfire committee is discussing new fire codes for construction. Bonnie Petersen commented that the tax credits for rural Colorado are sometimes very hard to obtain since we must prove we are distressed and that if they are going to take away these credits, they need to replace them with other incentives. Measures of distress were discussed. Richard suggested making a presentation regarding the EZ zone and the workload on AGNC to address the concerns of the Auditor. He will work with Tiffany to see if they can get on the agenda. Ashely Pynes joined the discussion and said that region 10 might be interested in joining the discussion as well. Ashley said they are still trying to educate their small business about the EZ and how to navigate getting the tax credits, and how much of a difference they can make to their bottom line. Richard commented that we may need to emphasize the stringent standards that are required to get the credits. Keely Ellis and Drew Kramer also commented they would like to be involved as well. Chris Nichols asked if we need better education in the communities. Bonnie said they have had good success getting the accountants on board and educating them about it. Tony Bohrer commented that his CPA is well educated about it. Matt Kireker asked if it is easy to evaluate how many are taking advantage of the program. Bonnie said there really is not a good tool for that. She talked about how large corporations may be making investments in rural communities because of these tax credits.

**Letter of Support for Senator Bennet** – Matt Kireker introduced a letter for AGNC that was presented for approval. He spoke at the Rangely meeting about a bill being introduced to fund energy transition communities due to closures. This would help build bipartisan support for this effort by signing this letter. Tony Bohrer commented that he supports this letter as a piece of the puzzle and has worked with many others on this bill and asked Jeff Comstock for his input as well. Jeff said that what they liked is that it would be funds that wouldn't have to be fought over but is privately managed to get the money to the effected communities. He said that CCI asked many questions and has ended up backing the process as well. He said that it is a chance to win, and they don't take anything from the communities. Mike Samson talked about the Rangely meeting discussion. Tony Bohrer moved to approve the letter, Bill seconded, and discussions followed. Chris Nichols asked how the bill is funded. Matt said that the initial \$20 Billion is seeded to an outside corporation and would be newly appropriated for annual type distributions. The other funding would be one-time type distributions for capital projects, etc. That would come from the treasury from unobligated funds for competitive grants. Bonnie Petersen asked if the grants would require matching funds. Matt said it would be administered by the corporation, so it would ultimately be up to them, but the bill does not require a match. Although, the corporation may do something different. Bonnie asked if the language in the bill could be changed so that matching is not required. Matt said he would take that back to the Senator. The motion to approve the letter of support passed unanimously.

**The AGNC Board Meeting was recessed at 9:55 am for the EDD Meeting.**

**The AGNC Board Meeting was reconvened at 11:22 am.**

**Consideration of Resolution – Defining Legislative Jurisdiction and Authority on Federal Lands – Brandon Siegfried.** Brandon noted that the first 4 pages of the resolution were discussed at the last meeting in Rifle. Brandon briefly reviewed the first 4 pages of the resolution, and what defines the different jurisdictions. Brandon began reviewing on page 5. Bonnie Petersen discussed that one thing that concerns her is that if you have a violation on federal property, that you will be prosecuted in federal court. She said that the public should be more aware of this. Brandon said that he thinks the sheriffs can do a better job of putting this information on their websites. Mike

Samson spoke about the liability that the sheriff takes on by giving authority to federal officers. Brandon said that is why it is important to educate the public. Tony Bohrer talked about the problem with telling private landowners who they can sell their land. Mike said that it's not that they dictate who to sell to, it's that the sale is not done properly and following current laws. Tony asked if we have gotten lawyers to look at the resolution. Bonnie said that we have not had a legal opinion regarding the resolution. Tony said he is concerned that it is very specific and needs to be looked at by a professional. Brandon said he hasn't found an attorney that truly understands it all. Ginny Love said that she gave the resolution to her sheriff and his concern was that he has a good relationship with the federal agencies and doesn't want to jeopardize that with this resolution. Brandon said that the resolution doesn't change any relationships and confirms what is already in place today. He said he would be glad to speak with the sheriff about that. Ginny asked why we need to sign the resolution. He said to educate the public and bring more attention to the current laws. He spoke about how the federal government no longer follows these laws and needs to be reminded of them. Matt Kireker asked for himself (not as a representative for Senator Bennet) to have an example provided that shows what happens. Bonnie spoke about private entities buying property with the intent of selling it back to federal government, without the proper process being followed. Brandon spoke about a land transfer at Sarvis Creek, as well. He suggested that people google the land transfer to learn more. Mike asked if the group understands the 30 by 30 initiative. He stated that this could be a part of the initiative by the federal government to control more of the private lands in the U.S. He spoke about the Sweetwater Lake situation and making it a state park without any local input, and how the money changed hands, and the state did not follow their own rules and regulations. Chris Nichols asked what the next steps would be after the resolution. Brandon said that we could always sign another resolution if we would like to have a lawyer look at it. Bill Carlson commented that the American Stewards website is a good resource for more information on the 30 by 30. Mike commented that this body may not be ready to vote on this resolution yet. He encouraged the commissioners to go back and talk to their other commissioners, sheriffs, district attorneys, and do more research. He said that we can put it on the next agenda if needed. Tony said that it is a lot of good information, but he doesn't think it should be a resolution for AGNC, and that he wanted to say that because he won't be at the next meeting. Mike asked the board what they would like to do. Bill moved to table the resolution until the October meeting with the intent that the counties involved do more research, and Brandon will and gather information from their sheriffs, Chris seconded the motion and asked that more information be provided with how the resolution will be presented. Bonnie said that whatever AGNC does with this resolution, we need to identify who needs to be made aware of these issues and that we have a role to play in education. She urged everyone to research more about the 30 by 30 initiative. She said that the criminal justice education should have this federal jurisdiction information as part of their curriculum. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Federal Delegate Updates**

John Swartout with CCI – John gave a Sage Grouse update and reported that it is currently operating under the 2015 plan. They will take a look at the plan and make recommendations as cooperating agencies. They believe the Colorado plan does not need a lot of changes. However, they are not sure they are on the same page as the governor and the state of Colorado. There are nine counties that are cooperators and he stated that the governor's office should be coordinating the meetings with the cooperating agencies. John will be in touch when he has dates from the state. He also reported that there is money still waiting for the counties from the federal government regarding oil and gas drilling on public lands. It is currently passed the senate but is stuck in the house and CCI is fighting for this money for the counties of NW Colorado.

Matt Kireker with Sen. Bennet – Matt discussed the VA clinics and closing small clinics such as in Craig. They were glad that this was diverted. He talked about the Maybell project and water from the Yampa River, and the high costs of the projects. They will be releasing a bill called the Student Apprenticeship Act where students would have programs with real life skills. They also have a police bill addressing co-responder programs for mental health crisis situations. They are looking for a bipartisan cosponsor. Matt commented that Michael Bennet has worked with Bonnie all the way back to Club 20 together. Matt then read a letter from Senator Bennet regarding her retirement.

Janeth Stanclie with Sen. Hickenlooper – Janeth provided updates on funding for local counties through the CDS process. She discussed veteran’s affairs including the stopping of closing certain centers. She also said that a letter was sent to small business administration regarding lending and affordable access to capital.

**Administrative Update** – Bonnie Petersen and Tiffany Pehl provided an update on the following topics:

- Bonnie said that AGNC is very supportive of the EDA being reauthorized, speaking directly to the legislative representatives.
- Bonnie spoke about her retirement and how much AGNC has meant to her. She talked about how much NW Colorado means to her and she feels that Tiffany will do a good job as executive director. She is pleased to have Jeff Tripp join the organization as well as Toni Barrett. She feels the organization will be in good hands.
- Tiffany then reported regarding the Wild Earth Guardians webinar that occurred on July 19<sup>th</sup>. She said they are upset to have ranchers involved in the Wolf reintroduction and do not believe it is what the voters intended. Their group would like to see up to 1000 but at least 750 wolves in Colorado. They believe the world’s largest elk herd is a detriment and the wolves will help with controlling those numbers. They do not believe there should ever be lethal force on public lands to control the wolves. The southern Ute tribe was left out of their plan, and she believes it is because they do not support wolf reintroduction. Bill Carlson pointed out the article in the Daily Sentinel on 7/20/22 regarding this issue. Bonnie said they will send out a synopsis of the webinar to everyone.

**New Business** – *Next meeting August 17, 2022, 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 1:41 pm.

**Attendance:**

<b>IN PERSON</b>	<b>VIA ZOOM</b>
Ginny Love	Heather Jones
Brian Condie	Carolyn Tucker
Chris Nichols	Shannon Scott
Drew Kramer	Jeannie Caldwell
Keely Ellis	Lisa Piering
Matt Kireker	Trent Thompson
Ashley Pynes	Christina Oxley
Crystal Mariscal	Cody Davis
Katherine Papenbrock	Jeff Layman
Richard Orf	Dana Hlavac
Bill Carlson	Betsy Bair
Tiffany Pehl	Janeth Stancle
Mike Samson	John Swartout
<u>Dana Hlavac</u>	Rangley Gas & Water Utility – 970-675-8476
Brandon Siegfried	
Jeff Comstock	
Bonnie Petersen	
Sarah Carlisle	
Tony Bohrer	
Jeff Tripp	
Toni Barrett	

## APPENDIX A



### Updates from AAA 07/20/2022:

- SFY23 contract amendments have been sent out to providers and we have received over half of them back already.
- The AAA received SB21-290 funding on 6/9/2022. The AAA has sent contracts out to providers and providers have already begun to invoice the AAA for the funds. There is also a round #2 for SB21-290. The AAA has resubmitted one application that was previously denied in the first round. Applications are due August 1, 2022.
- The State Unit on Aging (SUA) is in the process of transitioning to a new database, but the transition has now been pushed back to 10/1. In the meantime, the AAA and providers are working on cleaning up the data before we roll to the new database.
- Our Garfield County Long-Term Care Ombudsman is officially certified and has been out in the field visiting with residents and meeting staff.
- We have a conditional offer out for the Community Outreach Manager position. This individual will likely start in beginning to mid-August.
- We had seven people attend our Grand Junction Community Conversation, eleven people in Fruita and one person attend our Community Conversation in Palisade. It was pouring rain on the day we held the Palisade conversation, so it might have prevented folks from attending. We had 14 people attend our Community Conversation in Rifle. The State Unit on Aging will be attending the Community Conversation in Glenwood Springs on July 26<sup>th</sup>.