



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

May 19, 2021

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2510562431> Password: 2462

PHONE: +1 (669) 900-6833 Meeting ID: 251 056 2431 Password: 2462

Call to order – Mike Samson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. Mike introduced himself and asked everyone in the room and on the Zoom call to do the same.

Janet Rowland will serve as alternate board member representing Mesa County. Brian Condie will serve as alternate board member representing Garfield County municipalities. Jeff Comstock will serve as alternate board member representing Moffat County. Bill Carlson will serve as alternate board member representing Mesa County municipalities.

Approval of Minutes – Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the April minutes. Brian Condie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Financial report: Bonnie Petersen provided an overview of the financials for April. Income for April was \$52,379.23, ahead of the budget for the month. YTD revenue continues to exceed budget. Expenses for the month were slightly over budget; however, year to date expenses are substantially below budget. Net income is ahead of budget for the month as well as year today.

Our auditor will come to our meeting next month to make his yearly report.

Brian Condie moved to approve the financial report; Keely Ellis seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Project and Committee Reports:

Legislative Update – Orf & Orf

The governmental affairs team has testified in multiple committees, in support of Jump Start, REDI, DOLA, and OEDIT over the last month. There is a large amount of one-time funds coming to the state, which will be available for various grants and they encourage everyone to get their applications in. The legislature is trying to provide funds for COVID recovery to create and support jobs. One bill would place \$15 million in support of Just Transition. This is the first time ever that they have seen the legislature provide funding for investments directly into businesses.

Health care has been a major topic this session. The public option bill has been modified significantly; health care providers are still under a requirement to reduce costs. Access to insurance does not mean access to care. The transportation bill will establish several new enterprises to avoid the cap on enterprises. They are trying to spread transportation funding across a broader swath of the economy. There is a push to get more electric vehicles on the road and this bill has several provisions to support that effort. AGNC's official position is Amend on the bill. The Wolf Reintroduction Bill being sponsored by Representative Will to fund the introduction through the general fund is up today. It will appropriate \$5 million for wolf introduction. HB1243 also is being introduced. This bill is about law enforcement, and we are supporting it.

The legislature is scheduled to adjourn on June 12. The Orfs will reach out throughout the week to get feedback regarding various bills. HB1312 takes away credits and exemptions for the coal industry. They still have over 300 bills to dispense with.

AAoA - Heather Jones

Heather provided an update that is found as Attachment A to this document. Heather attended a virtual national presentation on senior advocacy – quite a few US senators, representatives, and governors shared what they have to do to support seniors. The State Unit on Aging (SUA) held a meeting on how to open dining sites in the state. Sites are open in Routt and Rio Blanco counties; Mesa and Garfield counties are pending opening. Heather is attending a Project THOR meeting to discuss opportunities to deploy mentors across Colorado to help coach seniors on technology use across communities. Heather said she still has some funds available to provide iPads and internet service for older adults. She said they will continue to run the virtual Senior Law Day. 54 people have registered for May 7 and 35 have registered for the next meeting.

Heather sent out her proposal for grant disbursement for this year. She explained her proposal to the group and answered a few questions. They will have \$600,000 in funds unspent and will carry that over to next year for future requests. Chris Nichols made a motion to approve Heather’s recommendation for AAoA grant disbursements. Brian Condie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Colorado Forest and Water Alliance – Nancy Fishing

Nancy discussed how the Colorado Forest and Water Alliance (COFWA) is a three-way team including the Timber industry, Water Congress and Watershed Health Investment Partners. CLUB 20 is represented by Cindy Dozier, Chris Treese, and Nancy. Nancy provided an overview of the Colorado Timber Industry issues. COFWA, tries to stay “big picture”; there are laws and policies that only speak to individual industries, and they try to pull the issues together.

Colorado is the only state where all of the water goes out of the state. Northwest Colorado is one of the most extreme fire types of fire risks in Western Colorado. Our part of the state used to be low risk for fires because of our elevation. Community Wildfire Protection plans were put into place in the early 2000’s after the Hayman fire, but none of the plans considered the water implications.

Local governments need to have a voice in talking with agencies and considering the impact of downstream water issues. One of COFWA priorities is to get a plan in each basin roundtable. We must strategize and focus on bringing forest health and water together. Runoff after fires results in filling reservoirs from soil erosion. It is better to spend money pre-fire rather than post-fire. Land management will protect recreation, provide water, and encourage tourism.

COFWA is trying to appeal to all areas of the state to find rural and urban solutions. Want to make sure not to duplicate efforts. AGNC is requested to adopt COFWA’s strategizing principles.

Merrit Linke from Grand County talked about their big fires and shared their approach. It is important to make the message clear to opposition groups that we are using an all of the above approach and that includes grazing which helps to mitigate fire danger and is a fire management tool. Protecting does not mean hands off – it means actively managing. Some groups may be waking up to this in terms of watershed health – two of the largest water providers in Colorado were directly impacted by fire. Northern water has taken lead on northern fires. Denver water taken lead on efforts around Williamsburg fire. What we have been doing is not working so need to take different action.

Mike Samson, Jeff Comstock, Gary Moyer, Cindy Dozier, Hogan Peterson, Bill Carlson, Betsy Bair, and Chris Nichols all commented that we need to take better care of our forests and our water, or we are going
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to be in a worse situation than we are already in. We need to give land management agencies the tools they need to manage. We need to talk to Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper about reorientation of budgeting at the national level. There needs to be buy in from municipalities, counties, state, and federal agencies.

AGNC will put together a resolution to bring to the June Board Meeting that incorporates COFWA principles and healthy forests.

Administrative Update

Bonnie Petersen provided an Administrative Update on the following topics:

- Bonnie presented a Resolution against the PAUSE initiative.
- Bonnie brought up the Wolf Reintroduction Issue. She said that Dir. Prenzlou committed to Commissioner Bohrer that it would be appropriate for commissioners to weigh in with conversation with Key Stone group regarding recommendations to the commission considering a cooperation agency idea. John Swartout will set a date to kick that meeting off.
- Bonnie said that AGNC opposed the confirmation of Tughton to the Wildlife Commission.
- There was an announcement that the new CNCC President in Rangely, Dr. Lisa Jones, starts July 15.
- Peter Brixius, Craig City Manager, gave an update on several projects they have been working on. He said they received a \$1.8 million grant from EDA and the EPA Brownfield Award for \$300,000. Housing and workforce are becoming a premium for his community. They would like to improve rail utilization between Craig and Steamboat and, perhaps, create an RTA for the area.

PAUSE Resolution – Chris Nichols made a motion to adopt the resolution for AGNC opposing PAUSE; Melody Villard seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Federal Delegation Updates

Alyssa Logan, with Senator Bennet's office, said they are busy working on the American Rescue Plan implementation. They are encouraged that uses for funds is more flexible, especially for broadband and water infrastructure. Expanded childcare tax credit will start being released July 15. Want to see new telehealth services become permanent and paid for by insurance. Senator Bennet has been working on a bill requiring outreach to rural communities to streamline funding for water infrastructure grants.

Hogan Peterson, with Representative Boebert's office, said they have been working on the AIM Act to direct \$650 billion in unspent COVID funds for infrastructure. Representative Boebert has also been working on a discharge petition which would overturn the moratorium of drilling on public lands. She is planning a Round Table Discussion in Moffat County later to review the 30 x 30 plan. She is continuing to support the BLM HQ staying in Colorado.

New Business: *Next Meeting June 16, 2021, Garfield County Commissioner's Room, 108 8th Street, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601*

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:04 pm.

Attendance:

Betsy Bair, Community Hospital

Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 Economic
Development District

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Ray Beck, Moffat County
John Bristol, Steamboat Springs Chamber
of Commerce
Peter Brixius, City of Craig
Bill Carlson, Town of Palisade
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County
Brian Condie, City of Rifle
Cindy Dozier, Club 20
Keely Ellis, Town of Rangely
Nancy Fishing, CLUB 20
Mike Hawley, Colorado Mountain Realty
Todd Hollenbeck, Mesa County
Jennifer Holloway, Craig Chamber of
Commerce
Laura Kay Houser, AGNC
Heather Jones, AAoA

Tyler Kelly, Rifle Regional EDC
Drew Kramer, Tri-State Energy Co-op
Tom Keinschnitz, Moffat County
Merrit Linke, Grand County

Melonie Matarozzo, Town of Collbran
Sarah McCarthy, Sen. Hickenlooper's office

Gary Moyer, Rio Blanco County
Chris Nichols, City of Craig
Dianna Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Richard Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Ted Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Karl Paulsen, CWF
Tiffany Pehl, AGNC
Bonnie Petersen, AGNC
Hogan Peterson, Rep. Boebert's office
Janet Rowland, Mesa County

Mike Samson, Garfield County
Shannon Scott, Craig Economic
Development
Eddie Smercina, Rio Blanco County
Carly Thomson, Rio Blanco County
Carolyn Tucker, CWF
Melody Villard, Moffat County

ATTACHMENT A



Updates from AAA 5/19/2021:

- Virtually attended the National AAA Association Aging Policy & Advocacy Summit April 27-29th.
 - Good Presentation on Advocacy vs. Lobbying
 - Quite a few US Senators & Representatives who are supportive of aging services
 - Reflection in the AAA network receiving stimulus funds during COVID-19
- The State Unit on Aging held a roundtable discussion on how we can get more nutrition dining sites back open during the pandemic
- Project SOARR: Supporting Older Adults through Relationships and Resources
 - Grant Project through University of Colorado: Multidisciplinary Center on Aging
- Virtual Senior Law Day 5/7: 54 registered, 5/14: 39 registered
- The AAA did get the federal carryover dollars out the providers across the region
- AAA 2021-2022 Grant Recommendations