



**MINUTES**  
**AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING**  
**March 20, 2024**  
**9:00 am to 1:30 pm**  
**Garfield County Admin Bldg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room,**  
**195 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Rifle, CO 81650**

**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** – Vice Chairman Chris Nichols called the meeting to order at 9:04am. Introductions were made.

**Approval of minutes** – Lisa Piering made a motion to approve the February 21, 2024, meeting minutes; Bill Carlson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial report** – Tiffany Dickenson presented the February 2024 financials. She reported that the reports may look different due to switching over to QuickBooks online. The Profit and Loss report was discussed including a profit of \$40K for the month, with county dues explained and expenses discussed. She talked about the changes to the grant navigator program and how that will affect the grant navigator wages. She talked about the month versus the year. The Balance Sheet was discussed as of 2/29/24 including the bank account balances. The accounts receivables report was discussed including amounts past due from Glenwood Springs, contribution projects, OEDIT EZ grant payment, as well as ED dues from Routt County. She discussed the EDA outstanding balance which is due to the issues with the transition of the requisition system in the past few months. The check register was presented with nothing out of the ordinary. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Mike Samson, seconded by Bill Carlson, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Proposed Updates to the Procurement Policies** – Tiffany Dickenson reported that updates to the procurement policies have been made to comply with requirements for AAA. Tiffany displayed the current procurement policy that is in place and discussed the importance of the executive director to sign off on grants. She said the new policy is separate from the procurement policy. She presented the changes made to the procurement policy necessary to incorporate AAA into the policy. She said that Cody Davis had his county attorney review the policy and he made some recommendations for changes. She said that she updated the policy with his recommendations. She also pointed out that there is a section for appeals which is necessary for AAA requirements. A motion to approve the policies was made by Lisa Piering, seconded by Bill Carlson, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Project and Committee Reports:**

**Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones**, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of AAA efforts. Heather reported that they are in the hiring process for the long term ombudsman. She said they have been sending out program surveys and they have until the end of March to send those back to her. She said the state would like to see providers receive at least a 90% approval rating. She said that she likes to see the responses and the

interactions with the clients and the providers. She reported that the state unit on aging is soliciting feedback on updating their policy and procedures manual. She said they will be presenting virtual spring senior law sessions and reviewed the flyer for that. She talked about legislation including HB24-1115 Prescription Drug Label Accessibility, HB24-1142 Reduce Income Tax Social Security Benefits, HB24-1229 Presumptive Eligibility for Long Term Care, HB24-1152 Accessory Dwelling Units, HB24-1211 Funding for Senior Services Contingency Fund, SB24-040 Funding for Senior Services, SB24-136 Appointees of Guardians and Conservators. Heather's report is attached as Appendix A.

**NCEI Update – Matt Solomon** presented and discussed the EnergyWerx grant. He said that the eight projects in the grant are working collaboratively and sharing ideas. He spoke about consultants they have brought on to craft the survey questions. He reported that Nathan Perry will work on the data once the surveys are back. He said they have applied for a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of support from the federal government. He said they partnered with JOLT and presented data to show a distressed community for the application. They hope to hear about this funding in the next couple of weeks. He said he is optimistic about getting this technical grant. He presented a grant opportunity for a consent based citing grant. He presented it to the communities in the room and asked anyone interested to please contact him. He said the deadline is March 22<sup>nd</sup>, but he has heard the deadline will be extended. He said he can talk with anyone interested. He said that NCEI can apply for the grant, but he wanted to present it to the individual communities so that he doesn't step on any toes by applying for the grant. He also said he will try to find out more about the extended deadline date.

**CDLE Workforce Update – Carolyn Tucker** joined online and presented for the Colorado Workforce. She presented a PowerPoint and reported that Elizabeth Garner gave an economic update from the State in Glenwood Springs, so she used some of that information in the presentation. She talked about Big Picture Trends including population growing at a slower rate, migration and mobility slowing, harder to attract and retain the best and the brightest, jobs and retirement drive demand for migration, aging impacts everything, and the growing race and ethnic diversity. She presented on the unemployment rate in the AGNC region with a December to January comparison. She noted that unemployment rates usually go up in January after seeing better employment in December, mostly due to the Christmas seasonal hiring. She reported on jobs by sector for the different counties. She said that she will send the PowerPoint to AGNC so that it can be sent out to everyone. She segmented the jobs by low, mid and high wage jobs. She noted that the information was based on July 2022. She presented on the Colorado Talent Pipeline Report including continued strong job growth in Colorado, nearly 64% of job growth took place in non-metropolitan areas, labor force participate rate, talent shortage, business with 50 employees or less constitute the majority of business, and technology continues to evolve rapidly. She showed a slide with tables on core skills including creative thinking, analytical thinking, technological literacy, curiosity and lifelong learning, resiliency, flexibility and agility, systems thinking, AI and big data, motivation and self-awareness, talent management and service oriented. She presented on future trends including continued adoption of automation, job training opportunities expanding, post-secondary training requirements, and global interconnectedness. Mike Samson asked about the lowered standards with the military taking recruits that have not graduated from high school. Carolyn said that she had not heard that, but she commented on the skills-based jobs that do not necessarily require a degree and how that opens up the talent pool. Christina Oxley also commented on the shift to skills-based hiring versus credentialing. Kris (online participant) commented that she would like to see trades put back into the schools. Christina said that she agrees, and she sees that the barriers may be finding teachers and the cost of running these programs. She also talked about the partnerships between community colleges and high schools to offer some of these programs.

**DOLA Update – Dana Hlavac** reported on DOLA projects including middle mile broadband. He updated on funding that was awarded to communities in the AGNC region. He said it has been very productive. Tiffany talked about the mini grants that we have been awarded. She said that we have made a couple of changes to the applications and will get those out in the next couple of days.

**DOLA Land Use & Water – Scott Williamson** gave a presentation on DOLA land use and water. He said that he is the land use and water planner with DOLA. He talked about the objectives including DOLA’s role in water and land use integration in Colorado. He presented on the division of local government including providing support for local problem solving, informing decision making, and investing in communities. He spoke about a supply-demand gap in the water plan, due to population growth, climate change, water scarcity, and water law. He spoke about solutions including storage and usage. He spoke about local control and local responsibility, including decisions on local growth and water supplies. He said that land use and water is a work in progress and displayed a timeline on the work since 2009. He presented a slide on the strong foundation of the water plan including action areas, Colorado’s vision, and tools for action. He spoke about the alliance of interests formed into a non-formal, multi stakeholder group to develop resources, provide technical assistance, and track progress. He spoke about HB20-195 passed in 2020 identifying a water element in comprehensive plans requirement. He spoke about relevant DOLA planning resources including direct assistance, funding, and networking. He spoke about EIAF planning grant guidelines including that a water element is required, self-assessment in first 6 months, and an action plan. He then opened the floor for questions and posed some questions to AGNC. He asked what is most helpful in what DOLA does. Alicia Gresley said that DOLA has been helpful in cutting through the noise. Chris Nichols said that regional managers and their assistance is very important. Scott asked where the biggest needs are in water, land use and planning for the future. Jeff Comstock talked about the immediate needs in the Yampa Valley, including over appropriating the Yampa River. He said the other big issue is the large amount of water that will be available after the coal plants close and negotiating a legislative win for those water rights. Scott asked about resources and assistance that would be most helpful in planning for the future. Ray Beck asked if DOLA will be helpful in the future with the legislation that is being presented on PFAS in water. Chris commented that the DOLA grant navigation is a good model for others to follow and that it is a relatively easy process. Scott said they want to bring forth best practices for the comprehensive planning grants. He asked who needs to be involved in the discussion going forward. Jeff Comstock asked that they make a presentation to the basin roundtables and participate in their processes. Scott presented technical resources available including Growing Water Smart, and a Best Practices guide. He said that he is happy to hear from anyone and he provided his contact information.

**Office of Just Transition – Wade Buchanan** gave a presentation and he commented that he appreciates the good work that Heather Jones and AAA do in the state. He shared a PowerPoint presentation. He spoke about the purpose of the office which is to work with the coal transitioning communities including the Yampa Valley. He said they are established by law and are limited in their authority by legislation. He said that the timeline is determined by expected closure dates of the Craig station, Hayden station and the Twentymile, Trapper, Colowyo and Deserado mines. He spoke about the collective impacts in property taxes (statewide) and direct job losses (statewide). He spoke about goals and funding. He spoke about long term goals and funding provided by the legislature (statewide). He presented a slide showing what OJT is versus what OJT is not. He said they view themselves as partners with the communities, to provide resources and expertise. He spoke about OJT programs and activities. Kirstie McPherson with OJT presented on community assistance. She spoke about business creation, retention, expansion, and attraction. She spoke about community strategy development and brainstorming, business retention and expansion programs, incentive and private investments, federal and state grant connections, and partnership with OEDIT and state agencies. She said there will be a SBDC office in Craig funded by OEDIT. Wade spoke about the grant program briefly and discussed some of the challenges he said he faced in starting the grant program, including capacity issues. He spoke about community assistance and giving communities a voice at the public utilities commission. He said that they noticed there were some large communities and other than Pueblo there were not any energy communities at the table. He spoke about the resulting work of OJT and their work with the PUC. He spoke about grant writing assistance and technical studies. He also spoke about the Yampa Valley Worker Survey and said this is guiding their planning. He talked about pre-closure programming and post-closure programming. He then spoke about the community grant program with a total of \$15.6M offered, and \$7.9M earmarked for Yampa Valley. He said

they have given out 20 grants totaling \$6.9M, including Pueblo and Morgan County, West End of Montrose County, Delta, and Yampa Valley. He presented a slide on the Yampa Valley Grant Approvals totaling \$4.04M including regional, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties. He spoke about 3 Yampa Valley grant denials including a solar project, renewable energy demonstration project, and public information/education project. He spoke about the reasons for the denying these projects. He opened it up to questions and answers. Tiffany Dickenson asked about the definition of transition communities and if it could include oil and gas communities. Wade said it is a legislative decision and he said there are some costs to consider, but they are focused on coal until the legislation changes the definition. Tiffany asked about the SBDC program and asked about the effect on Rio Blanco County since they are in the Mesa County SBDC program. She said she would like to see more stakeholder involvement in these types of decisions. Kirstie said that OEDIT made the decision on the SBDC since they are funding it. Wade agreed that they need to make sure that we involve all the stakeholders, and he will talk with Tiffany more about how to make this work. Ray Beck asked if there will be more funding from the state for OJT. Wade said they are funded with enough to do the pre-closure work, but they could use more funding for the grant programs and post-closure work. Ray suggested that we speak with our state officials to make sure the funding is continued. Ray commented about severance tax dollars and the effects of the legislation to ban oil and gas. Wade spoke about the severance tax for coal that is being phased out, and that the difference will be given to OJT which is the estimated \$12M by 2030 that he is showing on his slides. Bill Carlson spoke about tax credits that could help small businesses and said they need to focus on these credits instead of the energy tax credits. He asked that this be part of the education process when presenting to small businesses. Kirstie spoke about the work she is doing on this education process. Chris Nichols thanked them for their presentation and their work.

**Colorado Conservation Alliance – Denny Behrens** presented as an advisor to the Colorado Conservation Alliance. He said they were formed in the last year because of the wolf reintroduction. He spoke about the disease that the wolves carry and the disregard of the disease by the reintroduction plan by not requiring NEPA. He spoke about Echinococcus Canadensis and what the disease is. He said it is a tapeworm disease that canines carry. He said they discovered that the wolves are carrying the G8 and G10 strain in Idaho and Montana. He said the disease is transmitted through wolf's feces, which then puts the eggs in the grass, then undulates and livestock feed upon the infected grass. He also said that ranch dogs and pets can roll in the grass and their fur becomes contaminated. He said the dogs then bring this disease into homes and spread the diseases. He said they found out through discussions with veterinary professionals that Praziquantel, used for tapeworms, is not effective. He quoted Dr. Rod Evans. He said the disease is now spreading throughout Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and is emerging in Tennessee and Iowa. He said that we need legislation to protect our wildlife, the livelihoods of our ranching communities, and the health and safety of our families. He said the Mexican wolf was introduced into New Mexico and they are having a lot of issues with depredation. He said the counties in New Mexico are beginning to band together to work on these issues. He encouraged everyone to visit the website at [Colorado Conservation Alliance – Protecting our Western Way of Life \(cocoal.org\)](http://Colorado Conservation Alliance – Protecting our Western Way of Life (cocoal.org)). Mike Clark with the alliance presented on the lawsuit they have filed. He passed out some information to the county commissioners. He spoke about the effects on hunting and the elk population. He said that counties can do NEPA studies and present those findings. He spoke about the wolves that have been brought into the state from Oregon that are known depredation wolves. He spoke about the conflict of releasing grey wolves into Colorado and the impact on the Mexican wolves in New Mexico. He said he would love to see the counties do the NEPA studies to show impacts. He said that hunting is a \$3.2M industry and will be impacted. He said the endangered species act has been violated and they intend to continue to sue. He said if counties do the studies, he will take the information and use it. Mike Samson commented that he has fought against the wolves. He also commented on the number of issues negatively impacting the region. He spoke about his concerns and that the only way to fight is through the court system. Denny said there is a new bill about to be released called the Wildlife Coexistence Bill that will affect livestock.

## **Federal Delegate Update –**

Hilary Henry with Sen. Bennet presented updates. She reported that congressional designated spending is underway, and they are taking joint applications with Sen Hickenlooper's office. She said they are taking applications until March 29<sup>th</sup>. She reported that they were able to get funding for the Silt Wastewater project from last year's CSD. She said they are hopeful there will be another set of budget bills passed with more projects funded. She said anyone can reach out to her with any CSD questions. She reported they are working on customer service issues with the social security administration. She said that if any constituents are having issues with federal agencies they can be directed to their office. She reported on the concerns with the changes and closure to the Grand Junction mail processing facility. She said they have sent a letter, with other legislators, regarding these changes. She said they received an update from the Forest Service about the projects in Colorado to proactively maintain the health of the forests and steps to protect these resources. She said they have advocated for forest management on the western slope. Bill Carlson commented on the difficulty dealing with the social security administration. He also commented on the bank deposits and banks showing the funds as restricted funds until the day after they should be available, specifically Wells Fargo. He said he is concerned that Wells Fargo is making money from holding these funds and not making them available to constituents. Mike Samson said thank you to Hilary for attending the Silt treatment facility dedication.

**Margie Joy with CHFA** requested time to speak about some funding opportunities. Margie joined online and talked about 2 grant opportunities. She said that starting April 1<sup>st</sup> they are opening their direct effect grant application. She said the deadline for applying is Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. She said the other grant opportunity is the Equity Program with applications being accepted until April 18<sup>th</sup>. She said this will help lower- and middle-income renters build equity, with the grant helping on the construction and renovation of these lower income properties. She said there are a lot of housing legislation bills being introduced and CHFA will keep a close eye on these bills.

**Legislative Topics Roundtable – Mike Samson** commented on the presentation regarding wolves and the legislative mess that has been created. He encouraged AGNC to get behind their work. He spoke about bill SB24-159 to ban oil and gas drilling in Colorado. He encouraged everyone to oppose this legislation. He spoke about his disappointment with the state representative for Garfield County. He also said he is disappointed that no one will run as a Republican for this position. He encouraged everyone to continue to fight for the values and issues that affect Western Colorado. Mike Clark commented that there will be legal suits brought against the bill if it passes. Chris Nichols asked if we should write letters. Mike Samson said we should write letters and continue to do all we can to oppose this legislation. Mike Clark said letters are good, but he believes litigation will be the most effective use of resources. Tiffany Dickenson spoke about partnering with other organizations to increase our impact on these issues. She said that Richard Orf updated her that there were 600 people signed up to speak on the automatic weapon ban bill. She said the bill was passed out of committee. She said they expect there to be litigation if the bill passes. Ray Beck commented that there are over 600 bills being introduced. He said that we need more people to testify on the bills that they oppose. He said that he believes that is the only way to make a difference. Tiffany commented that the Orfs have testified, as well as herself. Mike Samson said the Orfs do a great job for AGNC, as well.

## **New Business –**

*Next meeting April 24, 2024, Pioneers Medical Center, Board Room, 100 Pioneers Medical Way, Meeker, CO 81641*

**Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:22pm.**

**Attendance:**

<b>IN PERSON</b>	<b>VIA ZOOM</b>
Heather Jones	Carolyn Tucker – Colorado Workforce
Grady Hazelton	Sarah Carlisle
Kirstie McPherson	Ron Winterton
Bill Carlson	Christina Oxley – Colorado Workforce
Ray Beck	Margie Joy – CHFA Colorado
Mat Solomon	Melonie Matarozzo
Chris Nichols	iPhone
Alicia Gresley	Kris's iPad
Lori Malsbury	Commissioner Tony Bohrer
Lisa Piering	Drew Kramer
Doug Overton	Hilary Henry – Sen. Bennet
Denny Behrens	970-878-3020
Mike Clark	
Scott Williamson	
Tinker Duclo	
William Dearing	
Tiffany Dickenson	
Jeff Comstock	
Mistalynn Meyeraan	
Mike Samson	
Toni Barrett	

## APPENDIX A



### Updates from AAA 03/20/2024:

- The AAA received sixteen applications for the LTC Ombudsman position. We plan to interview five of the applicants next week.
- The first week of April, the LTC Ombudsman team will be heading to Denver for recertification training.
- The AAA has received performance measure surveys from five providers. Providers have until the end of the month to provide the AAA with their surveys. The AAA has begun to enter the survey data into the State Unit on Aging Google Forms and hopes to have this completed by mid-May 2024.
- The State Unit on Aging is looking to update their current Policy and Procedure Manual by July 1, 2024. They have been soliciting feedback from AAAs and contracted providers.

### Legislative:

#### **HB24-1115: Prescription Drug Label Accessibility**

The bill requires a pharmacy to provide an individual who has difficulty seeing or reading standard printed labels on prescription drug containers with access to the prescription drug label information by: Including an electronic label affixed to the prescription drug container that transmits the prescription drug's label information, directions, and written instructions to an end user's external accessible device, including an individual's compatible prescription drug reader; Providing a prescription drug reader at no cost to the individual; Providing a prescription drug label in braille or large print; or Providing the individual with a method recommended by the United States access board. **House Committee on Health & Human Services Refer Amended to Appropriations 3/12/24.**

#### **HB24-1142: Reduce Income Tax Social Security Benefits**

The bill expands the current income tax subtraction for social security benefits. Current law allows any individual who is 65 years of age or older at the close of a taxable year to subtract the total amount of social security benefits that the individual received from the individual's federal taxable income, to the extent those benefits were included in federal taxable income, when determining the individual's state taxable income. The bill expands this subtraction to any individual who is 55 years of age or older. **Introduced in House and Assigned to Finance 1/29/24.**

#### **HB24-1229: Presumptive Eligibility for Long-Term Care**

Beginning January 1, 2026, the bill removes the requirement that the department of health care policy and financing (department) fully assess a person in need of long-term services and supports for the appropriate level of care before the person is presumed eligible for the medical assistance program. The bill authorizes the department to make any necessary changes to any other federal authorizations that are authorized by the federal centers for

Medicare and Medicaid services in order to implement the presumptive eligibility requirements for persons in need of long-term services and supports. **House Second Reading Special Order-Passed-No Amendments 3/15/24.**

**HB24-1152: Accessory Dwelling Units**

The bill creates a series of requirements related to accessory dwelling units. The bill establishes unique requirements for subject jurisdictions and for qualifying as an accessory dwelling unit supportive jurisdiction (supportive jurisdiction). **House Committee on Transportation, Housing & Local Government Refer Amended to Appropriations: 02/27/2024**

**HB24-1211:** The bill creates the state funding for senior services contingency reserve fund (fund) in the department of the treasury to aid the state office on aging in addressing unforeseen circumstances experienced by an area agency on aging or a provider of eligible services. **This bill was signed by the Governor on 2/27/24.**

**SB24-040:** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, the bill appropriates \$5 million from the general fund to the department of human services for state funding for senior services. The bill also requires the general assembly to annually adjust for inflation the general fund appropriation for state funding for senior services. Funding must be reviewed every three years to make sure there is adequacy of the appropriations for senior services. **Referred unamended to Appropriations 1/25/2024.**

**SB24-136:** The bill provides guidance for guardians and conservators and clarifies how appointees must make decisions on behalf of a person under guardianship or conservatorship. It encourages the use of protective arrangements and less restrictive alternatives instead of conservatorship or guardianship if a person's needs can be met with support services and technology. It also expands monitoring of guardians and conservators to ensure compliance with fiduciary duties and prevent exploitation. The bill includes a limitation on a guardian's ability to prevent communication, visitation, or interactions between a person subject to guardianship and a third party. **Assigned to Judiciary 2/7/24.**