



**MINUTES**  
**AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING**  
**May 15, 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** – Chairman Cody Davis called the meeting to order at 9:06am. Introductions were made.

**Approval of minutes** – Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the April 24, 2024, meeting minutes; Mike Samson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial report** – Tiffany Dickenson presented the April 2024 financial reports. She asked if the new formats for the reports were okay, and there was no opposition. The Profit & Loss was discussed including EZ admin fees, grant navigator and expenses, with net income above budget. The Balance Sheet was presented as of April 30. Accounts Receivable was discussed including overdue amount from Glenwood Springs, a bill to GRHD for the overpayment from the State for meals on wheels, OEDIT which is past due, but she said that we have been told that it is in process. She noted that Routt County paid their 2<sup>nd</sup> half 2023 dues. The check register was discussed with nothing out of the ordinary. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Mike Samson, seconded by Chris Nichols, 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 a new long-term care ombudsman will be starting soon and brings about 11 years of experience. She attended the senior Law Day held in Glenwood Springs. She reported that she also met with the region 8 DHHS leaders and emphasized the need for more funding. She reported that an interim director has been appointed for the director position of Aging and Adult Services. She reported that GRHD was invoiced for an overpayment of funds due to services provided to non-eligible participants in the meals on wheels program. She said that this is due to the fact that the individuals must be over the age of 60 for funding. She presented the estimated budget but said that the state has not finalized the funding amounts yet. She said they expect flat funding from the state, so they took those numbers to estimate a new budget. She said they did get a \$2M dollar increase, which went to homestead funding. She said that the budget she is recommending shows several cuts in various programs. She noted that the Mesa Senior Transit will not receive funding in the 2025 budget, and a significant decrease in funding for the St. Mary’s Community Connections. She said that AAA will not send out contracts until they get the final funding numbers from the state. Cody Davis asked about the difference between the requested and recommended amounts. Heather said the grant committee reviews the requests and then makes recommendations about how much can be allocated. A motion to approve the proposed budget estimates was made by Chris Nichols, seconded by Mike Samson, and the motion passed unanimously. Heather

spoke about legislative updates which can be found in her report. She said she was disappointed and concerned about the lack of funding. Heather's report is attached as Appendix A.

**NCEI Update – Matt Solomon** reported on the recent op-ed sent about energy poverty. He spoke about the effort that was begun last year with the Nuclear Now showings and the comments that were taken from those events. He said they used those comments to formulate the survey that is currently out. He said that as of today, 422 people have participated in the survey in our region. He said Dr. Perry will crunch the numbers and he hopes to present that data next month. He said they hope to develop the next survey with the Colorado School of Mines. Chris Nichols asked about the results so far, and Matt said they will see what Dr. Perry gives us. Matt said they have their first meeting with CLEAP next week, and they have put in for a third grant.

**DOLA Update – Dana Hlavac** reported they have several grant requests from local communities in the region. He reported that the admin grants fund has been exhausted. He said the Ready Grant cycle is complete, with no request from the AGNC region, and the next cycle opens July 1<sup>st</sup>. He spoke about the US 50 closure, and said they are asking regions to track any impacts from the closure for possible future assistance. He said there will be a vacancy on the EIAF committee and if anyone is interested to please contact him. He said would like to see some representatives from the Northwest region.

Cody Davis said he is on the statewide code board and said that stakeholder engagement in the new energy codes will be very important. He would like to see more communities engage in the process because he assumes it will become mandatory instead of optional in the future. He said he would get information sent out about the stakeholder engagement process.

**CDLE Workforce Update – Christina Oxley** reported that reports were run for the counties in AGNC, as well as cities. She said she sent those reports to Tiffany Dickenson, and she will get those out to the communities. Christina encouraged anyone with questions to reach out to her.

**Broadband Update – Corey Bryndal** presented slides on the broadband goals including expanding coverage, reducing wholesale costs, improving reliability, and increasing speeds. He spoke about preparing for the last mile investment and enabling new use-cases. He presented a map showing the expansion project for the state. He spoke about improving reliability by building a ring around the state with an alternate path. He spoke about building backbone fiber with lateral fiber to the CNL locations. He spoke about 12 new CNL's in the AGNC region. He said that as of May 2024 all Garfield County construction is complete, Mesa County is complete, all lateral fiber construction is complete, De Beque construction is underway, the Zayo fiber lease is signed, the CDOT fiber lease is signed, and they are working on COGS, COGJ, Lumen. He said that equipment staging will begin June 2024. He emphasized that all dates are subject to change. He showed a CNL being installed in Silt, with pictures of Parachute and Silt CNL's. He showed a map of what the CNL's will eventually look like. Mike Samson asked about someone who contacted him about doing a story about broadband from KREX. Corey asked Mike to give him Corey's contact information. Corey said there is a lot of effort being made in last mile connections, but the middle mile connections need to be focused on as well. Dana Hlavac commented on DOLA and the effort to create a statewide plan for the middle mile. Corey said that they realize they need one management structure for the entire state. Mike said thank you for all of Corey's hard work and making the dream come true.

**AGNC Resolution in Opposition to the Dolores Canyon National Monument – Cody Davis** spoke about the resolution that Tiffany wrote to oppose the Dolores National Monument. Anna Stout said that the city of GJ has adopted a resolution in support and would prefer that AGNC not oppose. Perry Will said he has received hundreds of emails in opposition with maybe 5 in support. Mike Samson asked Anna why they voted in

support. She said they are in support of protecting the landscape. Mike Samson said he is in favor of the resolution to object, and that those in his county that have expressed an opinion are adamantly opposed. He said that he understands Anna's point that we be unanimous and asked if any other communities have said they oppose the AGNC resolution. Tiffany Dickenson said that she has not heard from any other communities in opposition to the AGNC resolution. Doug Overton said that Rio Blanco is in support of the opposition resolution by AGNC. He said they are mainly concerned about the size of the national monument being proposed. Cody said Mesa County took a long time to come to a decision and they received information that 60% oppose the monument, and 70% would like to see it done in a different way. He said they believe it is an abuse of the antiquities act, and they should use different tools to achieve the goals that would protect the lands. He said that he supports the AGNC resolution. Brandon Bainer spoke about the grazing rights that will be taken away, and he encourages support of the AGNC resolution. Perry Will said that the senators and representatives in the area were not reached out to in the process. A motion to approve the AGNC resolution in opposition to the Dolores Canyon National Monument was made by Mike Samson, seconded Doug Overton, and the motion was passed unanimously by the AGNC Board.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 am for EDD Meeting

Meeting reconvened at 11:11 am

**Legislative Wrap-Up – Dianna Orf and Richard Orf** presented a PowerPoint. Richard said 705 bills were introduced, 129 evaluated, 72 position, 525 passed, 180 killed. He emphasized that what AGNC brings to them is very important. He reported on session themes including dealmaking, major amendments on bills that should have died, local issues go statewide, and state budget issues reign supreme. Dianna said they saw several bills that compromises were made on to pass the legislation. Dianna commented that TABOR restricts many policy issues being introduced. Richard spoke about the stresses on the budget including K-12 funding. Richard spoke about legislative majority priorities including affordable housing, environmental bills, gun control, tax credits, social justice/criminal justice reform, and bills around edges of previous issues. He spoke about AGNC Issues regarding economic development. He emphasized that it is important for the rural communities to use the programs so that they can show they are working and can continue to be funded. He presented the environmental bills that were presented to AGNC. Sen. Will spoke about SB-171 to reintroduce wolverines and the amendments to get the 10J rule implemented. Cody asked if there was a timeline for reintroduction and Dianna said there was not.

Jeff Hurd joined the meeting online. He said that he is running for the 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional district and was previously an energy lawyer. He spoke about the key issues of securing the border and working for water and agriculture. He said that the people in the room would be his key advisors if he is elected.

Richard spoke about HB1375, the coexistence bill. He said that it was killed in it's first committee. He said the issues on wildlife are not going away. He expects that we will keep seeing them. Dianna said that it is always amazing that the issues are coming from urban areas that affect the rural areas of the state. Richard said that many environmental bills were turned into studies. Dianna spoke about SB197 and the work that was done with tri-state and Moffat County to protect tri-state's water rights.

Dianna presented a slide titled "the Grand Bargains" which included air quality improvements, enforcement and permitting, severance tax exemption for stripper wells, ozone mitigation, oils/gas production fees, and dredge and fill. She said that the money generated by SB230 will partially go to the CPW, and thanks to Sen. Will, that money cannot be spent on reintroduction to wolves or grizzly bears.

Richard presented the governmental issues from the session including senior services (AAA funding), voting in jails, tap fees, and alcohol beverage licenses. Richard spoke about SB213 to exempt structures, which died, but

was concerning as special legislation. He spoke about other miscellaneous legislation, including +social/equity, and law enforcement legislation.

Richard and Dianna spoke about firearms legislation including owners' insurance requirement, assault weapons ban, safe storage, tax referral, and sensitive spaces. They also spoke about labor and land use/housing legislation. They spoke about transportation and taxation legislation, including real property tax, which will go away if the ballot initiatives pass.

Richard spoke about looking ahead to 2025 including the major election, competing property tax bills, interim committees, affordable housing, land use, environmental control, more gun control and criminal justice.

### **Federal Delegate Update –**

Raven Finegan with Rep. Lauren Boebert's office presented updates. She spoke about the Restore Energy Dominance Act. She reported that the bill has passed the house with bipartisan support. She said Rep. Boebert is openly opposed to the Dolores National Monument and supports the alternative act. She said their office will remain open to assist constituents even during the election.

**Administrative Update – Tiffany Dickenson** spoke about the mini grant program and asked if the board to change the program so that communities can come back for additional projects if there is left over funding. No one objected to this change. She also went over the meeting schedule for the rest of the year including changing the meeting location in September to Community Hospital in Grand Junction. She also asked everyone to put the ED summit on their calendars.

Mike Samson asked about the Mesa County resolution to halt wolf reintroductions. Cody Davis said they are asking CPW to "pump the brakes" while they are dealing with the depredations that are taking place. He said that they do not believe the industry should bear the burden of CPW not being able to effectively manage the reintroduction. Mike said CPW is in a tight spot with bad legislation. Cody said he agrees that CPW is in a tough situation. Mike moved that AGNC draft a resolution, Brandon Bainer suggested that it include defining chronic depredation. Doug Overton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Perry Will spoke about working with the Orfs and said there are no better lobbyists at the capital. He also spoke about the turnover at the capital, and he sees the legislators being replaced by activists.

### **New Business –**

*Next meeting June 26, 2024, Montrose County Events Center, 1036 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Montrose, CO 81401*

**Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:21 pm.**

**Attendance:**

<b>IN PERSON</b>	<b>VIA ZOOM</b>
William Dearing	Jeff Comstock
Matt Solomon	Ray Beck
Heather Jones	Sasha Nelson
Grady Hazelton	Sarah Carlisle
Mike Samson	Jennifer Pieroni
Lori Malsbury	Alicia Gresley
Brandon Bainer	Anna Stout
Perry Will	Betsy Bair
Chris Nichols	John Bristol
Travis Day	Christina Oxley
Tony Bohrer	Raven Finegan
Lisa Piering	Corey Bryndal
Richard Orf	Erin McCuskey
Dianna Orf	Jeff Engell
Ted Orf	Nathan Perry
Tinker Duclo	Merrit Linke
Tiffany Dickenson	Jeff Hurd
Cody Davis	
Dana Hlavac	
Mistalynn Meyeraan	
Toni Barrett	

## APPENDIX A



### Updates from AAA 05/15/2024:

- Our new Long-Term Care Ombudsman starts next week Monday, May 20, 2024. Her name is Casey Ashlock and she comes to us from HopeWest. She was also a social worker at the Marillac Clinic as well as two skilled nursing facilities. She brings to our program about 11 years' worth of social work experience.
- Alpine Legal Services hosted an Elder Law Day on Monday, April 29, 2024. The event was held in Glenwood Springs and there were presentations on Estate Planning Basics, Probate and Estate Administration Basics, Supported Decision Making and Colorado End of Life Options Act.
- The AAA attended a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Meeting with Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota & South Dakota) on Monday, April 29, 2024. The Region 8 leaders were seeking feedback on how best to support the health of older adults. AAAs shared priorities to help older adults thrive in your communities, identify challenges, highlight best practices, and encourage collaboration.
- Kara Harvey, the Director of Aging & Adult Services, left the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) last Friday, May 9th. Laura Strother has been appointed the interim State Unit on Aging (SUA) Program Director. Laura currently serves as the Director of County Relations for CDHS' Community Partnerships. She previously worked for the SUA and the Boulder County Area Agency on Aging.
- The AAA has not received notice of our SFY25 allocation from the State Unit on Aging. The State reports they have not received notice from the Administration on Community Living. I do know there are slight increases at the federal level for congregate, home-delivered meals and caregiver programs. The Joint Budget Committee put in an additional \$2 million for the State Funding for Senior Services. The AAA is recommending this estimated SFY25 budget. This budget is based on flat funding. The AAA is expecting 12% less funding than in SFY24. This budget reflects a 14% cut for nutrition programs, 15% cut for transportation and caregiver programs and 16% cut for other supportive services. The exceptions are that the AAA is obligated to fully fund the ombudsman programs at the host agencies. ADRCs will be running off of a base staff and less funding for vouchers. Hilltop ADRC will eliminate 1 position that is currently open. St. Mary's Community Connections provides reassurance, which is not required by the Older Americans Act. Nonetheless, it provides a valuable service and was provided minimal funding. Mesa Senior Transit which is part of the Grand Valley Transit is going out to RFP, and it is unclear if the new entity would take on contract. Additionally, due to a recent review of federal guidelines in the appropriate usage of federally funded buses, Transdev felt it could no longer provide the mesa Senior Transit for shopping and getting individuals to dining sites. The SFY25 recommended budget maintains equitable funding across the counties as well as maintaining federal funding priorities for Legal Services, Access Services (Information & Assistance, Case Management and Transportation) and In-Home Services.
  - The AAA will provide an amended budget once we receive notice of the final allocation for SFY25.

### 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 Considered Senate Amendments - Results was to Concur-Repas 5/4/24.**

#### **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. **Senate Third Reading Passed- No Amendments- 5/8/2024.**

#### **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). **Sent to the Governor for signature 5/9/2024.**

#### **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. **Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments: 04/17/2024.**

#### **HB24-1312: State Income Tax Credit for Careworkers**

The bill creates a refundable income tax credit that is available for income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2024, but prior to January 1, 2029, for a qualifying resident individual (individual) working in the care workforce in the amount of \$1,500. **Senate Third Reading Passed-No Amendments- 5/7/2024.**

#### **SB24-040: State Funding for Senior Services**

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. *SB24-040 was stripped of the \$5 million increase request as well as the inflation increases. The AAA funding levels will be reviewed every three years to see if they are "adequate."* **House Third Reading Passed- No Amendments 5/6/24.**

#### **SB24-136: Uniform Guardianship & Conservatorship Act**

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. **House Committee on Finance Postpone Indefinitely 5/4/24.**