



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES
AGNC EDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 20, 2022

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

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

Call to order 10:10am

Approval of Minutes – Ginny Love made a motion to approve the May 2022 minutes. Bill Carlson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

OEDIT Updates – **Kat Papenbrock** presented on the OEDIT 2023 Goals and Program for the AGNC. Kat is the Director of the Rural Opportunity Office. She gave an overview of OEDIT with the different divisions and their objectives. The rural opportunity office can be the connecting point for all these divisions. COVID recovery efforts were discussed and OEDIT's role in this. She discussed their goals next year. Goal 1 is to increase the number of jobs created and retained in rural communities from 3000 to 6100 jobs by June 30, 2023. Goal 2 is to increase the percentage of economic recovery funding and services for disproportionately impacted businesses, communities, and industries from 24% to 50% by June 30, 2023. Chris Nichols asked about the causes of the 24% number. Kat said that they realized applications in rural areas increased when they had people in the areas that could advertise and help with the applications. She said that the state is trying to help with funding to help with these efforts in applying for funding. Ginny Love asked about if the jobs are new jobs or retained jobs, and Kat said that it is a mix. Bonnie Petersen asked what technical assistance might look like. As an example, Kat said that a key piece would be an IIA navigator in the region that can help people apply for these funds. Kat said that regional positions may be in place by this fall. Bonnie expressed frustration with a navigator only having the position for one year when we need them for a longer period to understand the region and the needs. The town of Silt asked a question online about who will hire the positions and when. Kat said to stay tuned, and AGNC would hire the position through a grant resource. Drew Kramer asked for Kat's perspective on Enterprise Zones and the discussion we had about leveraging the EZ in our rural areas. She said the program across the board is effective, but we can do better in our networks about educating small businesses. She said that "Is there a way to make it easier for those who don't use a CPA?", is one question she said they struggle with. Drew suggested that perhaps utility companies could put flyers in the utility bills. Kat spoke about how AGNC has partnered with OEDIT for projects including economic reports, and administering the EZ. She spoke about new programs of interest including OEDIT Just transition funds, statewide CEDS and regional EDD grants, economic development organization grants, IIA coordination and support, startup loan fund, new rural venture fund, innovative housing incentive program, engagement with Aspen institute and Western Garfield County economic development initiative. Kat will share the PowerPoint with us, as well. It lists several business and investor resources and incentives available. Kat said that they are currently all

grant funded, but they hope to become legislatively funded. Bonnie said that AGNC needs help with a marketing company to help identify where to market to get businesses to come take a look at our part of the state, versus always looking at the Denver metro area. Bonnie also expressed her concern with the state CEDS idea and loss of opportunity to the EDA funding for our region. Bonnie said we are glad to have a local OEDIT representative in Keely and asked about OEDIT's commitment to keeping local representatives. Kat said a big step is finding permanent funding. She said that rural areas are very important to OEDIT and hopes to have more updates hopefully by November about more permanent funding. Bonnie commented that we need to lobby our legislators to keep funding for Keely's position. Ashley Pynes asked when Startup funds would be available and discussed being able to apply for those funds. They talked about scheduling a meeting in the fall to present opportunities. Bonnie asked about the Aviation Development Zone Tax Credit. Kat said that Rangely and Grand Junction are currently designated as AD Zones. She said that it looks like it might just be a matter of registering an airport as an AD zone. Bonnie asked if we could somehow take out the competition clause for some of the more distressed communities. Kat said she would bring it up at her next meeting and see if the statute needs to be changed or if it can be modified by OEDIT. Keely emphasized that everyone can reach out to her as our local representative.

DOLA Updates - Dana Hlavac spoke about the department of housing funding becoming available designated for affordable housing / workforce housing. He talked about the designation of counties and how that effects what qualifies as affordable housing. They are trying to identify what areas need the funding. They are also looking at what the match funding should look like. He encouraged everyone to get on the website and give input. He discussed how the funding would be distributed. He spoke about broadband funding and the short timeline coming up for Garfield County to spend federal funding by June 2023. After that time, broadband money will be handled by the broadband office and not DOLA. Ready money was discussed, that will fund small projects with a match of 50/50, and must show that it will create jobs. Matt Kireker stressed that Bennet's office should be kept involved in the broadband applications and that they can be advocating for the needs in our state. Dana said there is some concern about the accuracy of the broadband maps. He also said that DOLA is now down to 5 regional managers, and he now has 14 counties to manage. He said that email is the best way to contact him. Bonnie asked about the future of the mini-grant program, and Dana said that we should apply again. Bonnie spoke about the inaccuracy of the broadband maps, especially in rural Colorado. Dana said that we should reach out to Brandy Rider at CBO, and that she wants to do it right and have the maps be correct.

Report on EDD Activities – Tiffany Pehl and Jeff Tripp talked about the DOE grant application that we have submitted for community engagement for the roll out of nuclear projects in the region. We should hear in the next month about the grant award. It would be about \$600,000. This is the first step before we apply for more grants to repurpose coal fired power plants into nuclear. Bonnie Petersen commented that Jeff and Tiffany put in a lot of work on the grant in a very short amount of time. They talked about the ERRP that has now been released and posted on the AGNC website under the EDD tab. Tiffany talked about the upcoming ED summit and the draft agenda was discussed. SEMPRA will be at the summit and Tiffany asked that we ask LNG providers to attend the summit to make the connection with SEMPRA. They are looking for providers to partner with to get a pipeline to the coast of Mexico. Tiffany spoke about the 2nd ED summit on September 21st to focus on agriculture and housing. She stated that we will be meeting with the CEDS committee next week to finalize that agenda.

New Business: *Next meeting will be November 16,2022, at Garfield County Administration Building, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 195 W. 14th Street, Rifle, CO 81650.*

Meeting adjourned – 11:22am

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
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	