



**MINUTES**  
**AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING**  
**March 16, 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 order at 9:06 am. Introductions were made, and it was noted that Bill Carlson will be the alternate for Mesa County municipalities.

**Approval of minutes** – Cody Davis made a motion to approve the minutes; Bill Carlson seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Financial report** – Bonnie Petersen reported on February financials. February revenue was significantly higher than budget due to billing for contribution project administration fees for the previous quarter. Expenses for the month are on track with the budget; net income for the month was projected to be negative but was positive \$6,848.65. Year-to-date, revenues are ahead of budget, expenses are in line with budget and net income is ahead of budget. Accounts receivable as of March 14, 2022, total \$99,366.84 and the outstanding receivables were reviewed – the majority of the receivables are various grant reimbursements. Cody Davis made a motion to approve the financial report; Bill Carlson seconded the motion, motion passed.

**Project and Committee Reports:**

**Area Agency on Aging** – Heather Jones, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of AAA efforts. They have applied for funding approved through SB290 and submitted 5 applications for \$1.1 million – all but one will be funded for approximately \$994,000; there is about \$5 million remaining in SB 290 funds. All counties will receive funds from the state through purchase order processes. The LTC ombudsman has determined that Heather may not serve as ombudsmen and AAoA director. AAA will have to hire a new regional long term care ombudsman – will post position at beginning of new fiscal year. Some administrative costs will have to be included in the new budget and the person may reside in any county within the region. Received service contract renewals from providers although AAA may not have enough funding to fill all renewals at the requested rates. AAoA and Colorado legal service and R10 will be doing spring senior Law Day for both regions. Heather’s written report is included as Appendix A at the end of the minutes.

Mike Samson offered his and AGNC’s thank you to Heather for her efforts as the leader of NWAAA. Mike has heard from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party that Heather is doing a good job in her role and that it is appreciated.

**Legislative Update** – no update at this board meeting; the regular legislative call on Thursday morning will serve as the board update.

**NW Regional CPW Manager Introduction – Travis Black.** Travis Black is the new CPW NW Region Manager and provided an overview of his background leading to his appointment to the position in NW Colorado. He began working at CPW in 1999 and spent most of his career in the SE part of the state as district

wildlife manager. In 2019 he became deputy regional manager there applied for NW regional manager in December 2020. Travis asked for questions from the group and in response to a question about goals for the position, he noted that his short-term goal is to rebuild the NW CPW team. He noted that dealing with the wolf situation, mostly in Jackson County where there have been some depredation events, is a top priority. USFWS relisted wolves which changed the game for Colorado; now wolves are under federal jurisdiction. The state will have to move forward with its planning process and now the state will have to coordinate with FWS. The state is still moving forward with the plan to be completed by December 2023. Sweetwater lake being considered for designation as a state park, he is working with stakeholders on that issue. In response to a question regarding how AGNC can help him, Travis noted that he needs to learn about organization and is trying to absorb all that is going on in NW region. An invitation on behalf of all counties was extended to Travis to come introduce himself to counties individually. Gary Moyer noted that with the relisting of wolves the state is now required to do NEPA because of the federal nexus that creates, he encouraged Travis and CPW to take that seriously. FLPMA and NEPA along with local land use plan must be considered in those processes. He was encouraged to bone up on authorities those plans have and to understand that a local plan is tool to manage counties for constituents. Sarah McCarthy asked if CPW is developing two separate plans for wolves here as well as those coming in? All will be under the same management plan; the proposition requires establishment of self-sustaining wolf population. Jeff Comstock noted that AGNC has a long history of working on natural resource issues – CPW has been a partner in the jointly developed sage grouse maps. BLM has opened a new amendment process and the counties along with AGNC have been taken back by the state changing position on a number of items. Looked like rug pulled out from the region under the process. Travis will get with Kathy about comments. In response to a question about the 10J process, Travis said CPW is hoping to get a 10J in place. The state already has one pack of wolves, if a second pack is established, it complicates the whole process. AGNC members noted that public lands need to be managed for conservation not preservation; multiple use is more than recreation, it includes logging, energy development, grazing and more. Local governments have a concern that CPW is aggressively working to purchase private – some counties have a policy opposing that. If staff asks for local opinion, they need to be prepared for the actual opinion and not disregard it. Tony Haschke from Battlement Mesa raised concerns about campgrounds being blocked off. Limited physical ability now and access to hunting and fishing is being removed. Land is for everyone to prosper not just industry or for closing. Travis said he would look into why the areas are being closed. Chairman Samson noted that local government is not the enemy – they want to work with you and CPW, but they have had difficulties in the past. Present administration of this state is not conducive to what we would like to see and the local governments would appreciate any help you can provide. Travis said he hopes to work with everyone hand in hand. Travis noted that he appreciated the invitation to the meeting and said that he has an open-door policy and invited members to come see him; he will meet any time he can.

**Regional Broadband Update – Region 10** – Corey Bryndal, Broadband Coordinator– Region 10 (R10) provided an overview of the broadband projects in AGNC region and connections to other parts of the state. Need communities to lead the process – Garfield and Mesa counties have provided a good example. Corey is working with 14 areas in the AGNC region. Many private companies have reached out to R10 regarding the plans. Garfield county has worked really hard on the project; they have submitted a DOLA grant. Mesa has been working with Collbran and the town of Mesa – Fruita is working on matching funds to bring fiber into their community. Efforts are being made to build a broadband ring around state so when the next fire, mud slide, etc. happens, we have a ring around the area so we don't lose service. R10 is experiencing supply chain issues related to equipment. Projects in Garfield and Mesa are being shared across the state as a model – to expand network. Funding from feds is a mixed picture – there are a couple of different buckets – ARPA funds will be allocated to the broadband office. The I-70 project has been recast to be size of a 42-lane highway. THOR has some redundancies built in but R10 is looking for opportunities to expand redundancy and reliability. Hard to quantify redundancy until there is an outage. Corey explained fiber deployment strategies and various broadband speeds with an eye toward providing capacity to enable last mile providers to provide 1

gigabit service to homes. He outlined efforts to improve long haul redundancy around the state and noted that it would be ideal to have a link to Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, and Phoenix. In response to a question about potential satellite connectivity, Corey pointed out that for the broadband backbone, fiber is the best technology. Microwave can provide backup but not fully. Satellite has a distance problem and has an 800 to 1200 milliseconds latency, so they are pretty slow. Low earth satellites provide 40 to 80 milliseconds latency; fiber is 3 to 4 milliseconds of latency. Rural broadband efforts are being built to provide parity with places like Highland Ranch.

### **Member Issues Discussion – Moderated by Chairman Samson**

Chairman Samson reported that the Executive Committee just finished reviewing applications and have identified what appears to be three good candidates to fill the Executive Director position. He noted that the breadth of the applicants shows that a lot of people from a lot of places want to be part of the organization; The Executive Committee will meet Monday to select a candidate for board approval. Hope all AGNC members received the letter from Garfield County about the 30X30 conference April 21-22 in Nebraska. Rio Blanco and Garfield County will be there, Tom Jankovsky will be a presenter. This is a serious issue and is on the level of wolf introduction in the state. Feels like we are being pushed to defend ourselves and lives. Sage grouse is back again. The floor was opened to attendees to bring up Issues or concerns members think AGNC should be aware of.

Grady Hazelton noted that New Castle met with Silt last night where broadband was a big discussion and he asked how the last mile gets installed. Corey has been approached by 6 or 7 private providers who will come to the community and provide fiber to the home; the regional effort is to get the service to the community then the providers work with communities to obtain right of ways, etc. to install the service to the home or business, i.e. the last mile. Wireless ISP's want to expand their footprint as well. Corey also explained the acronym for Carrier Neutral Location (CNL) – and what that is.

Lisa Piering from Rangely shared that the community received some congressional funding through the CDS process. The community will be working on a project with Cogency to install new technology of solar and geothermal to store excess solar heat; Cogency will use Rangely as pilot project. The technology will be installed on Rangely's water facility and recreation facility. Must use all forms of energy – owner would like to expand across NW Colorado. What can we do to help Ukraine? Jeannie Caldwell – Senators offices were helpful with project. CNCC is part of project and working with them to teach.

Keely Ellis introduced her role as the new OEDIT NW region for rural prosperity. She is serving a fourteen-county region.

Gary Moyer noted that Ukraine is teaching us how valuable freedom is right now. He shared appreciation that Mike is laying challenges on the line.

Jeff Comstock shared that some congressionally directed funding was helpful for Moffat County as they received funds for the new county courthouse – it is being built now and offices will move in early 2023. The City of Craig got funding for a wastewater plant also. They are seeing interesting dynamics in Moffat County – the existing power lines are incredibly valuable. Wind projects are being discussed; solar projects are being proposed – small scale to large scale projects are under consideration. A pumped hydro project is being studied for the area - all the proposed projects would make the top 10 taxpayer list in the county.

Brian Condie noted that affordable, attainable, workforce housing is a major issue in Garfield County.

Cody Davis noted that Mesa County is working on broadband issues – thanks to Corey, federal partners, and DOLA. The county is also working on mental health - Mesa has one of highest suicide rates in state; they are

setting up a help line. They are building community halls in unincorporated areas of the county – funding was identified in the past and they are now fulfilling that promise.

Mike Lane shared that Delta County is partnering with the City of Delta to build a new library; there will also be a remodel of the old City Market store. They will move the jail to the City Market store. He noted that they have cartels actively working in drug world – the county denied a large solar project because it was going to be on irrigated farmland – the board indicated it would be better to locate such a project on unirrigated land near Delta.

Bill Carlson said Palisade received \$1 million for the clinic they are establishing with Community Hospital; it is a \$2.5 million project, but prices probably will go up due to cost of materials. Bill shared some experiences from his time spent in the service and the resources used to secure war torn areas; he contrasted that now with the war in Ukraine and concerns where the biggest concern is green concept for tanks running. He also raised concerns that the 30X30 effort locks up ag ground so nobody can do anything with it – this will do the same thing as the state experienced in the Marshal fire. The federal government has decided that central California can't have water to grow food in favor of grass – in a year he anticipates we will have the biggest food shortage we have ever seen. The federal government is making sure we are not producing food for U.S. let alone other countries. Chairman Samson thanked Bill for his service in protecting our freedoms and noted that we are facing times when soon we will have to stand up and be counted.

Betsy Bair announced that Community Hospital received funding for an onsite daycare center on campus. They will provide 24-hour care for employees first then additional capacity may be open to community. The hospital is moving forward, and the Cancer center is being built at the hospital – it will be the largest center between Denver and Salt Lake City.

Nancy Fishing thanked Bonnie for the collaboration between groups and stated that once she is gone, she hopes AGNC will reach out to her to continue the collaborative work. She would like to see AGNC back CLUB20 up and CLUB20 back AGNC up.

Margie Joy shared that at CHFA, 2021 was a year of investment; they provided \$2.8 billion in home ownership. The organization provides opportunities for housing, and economic development; they will roll out more in 2022. \$96 million in tax credits provided for housing, \$103 million spent in support of business. \$4.3 million invested in projects like housing assessments. Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for small housing development projects.

Chris Nichols noted that 2 solar fields have been completed to produce energy in Craig; they don't create jobs but cut cost of municipal energy. The city received CDS funding for backup generators for water and waste water operations; affordable housing funding was provided to bring infrastructure to property. They have been awarded grants for brownfields project and they recently completed a housing needs assessment. They are working with a couple of developers to bring some projects into town. Working through tri-states ERP plan with PUC, state and other partners about transition of Craig Station – setting up guidelines to hire a facilitator. Shannon – already conducted two phase I assessments of property – identified another 4 to 6 properties that could use assistance from funds. Funding will help to get sites shovel ready for projects by placing infrastructure.

Christina Oxley noted that the region is experiencing a workforce shortage and they are trying to determine why that is. They have some funding to work with dislocated workers and to help transition workers.

Melonie Matazorro – Collbran received a grant for a water treatment facility and are working to get a DOLA planning grant for sewer alternative study – they have applied for a CDBG grant to refurbish a 120-year-old

auditorium. They have gotten a broadband grant and may see construction start this summer. They are looking for ideas to help with daycare in the community. There is NO daycare available. Would love to know how to get a day care started - Betsy Bair suggested they have a conversation about some efforts Community is working on. It was also noted that there are \$30 million in ARPA funds directed to day care through state.

Gary Moyer – thanks to Dana Hlavac for assistance with a study on need for county administrator.

### **Federal Delegate Updates**

Hilary Henry from Senator Bennet's office noted that the Senator was excited to see the omnibus bill pass, it included funding for PILT, military pay, and forests. It also included \$41.5 million for coal communities and law enforcement. Also funding for mental health along with individual specific requests. \$13 billion in assistance to Ukraine. Senator Bennet is also looking into more support for Ukraine, cybersecurity and lowering costs for people. The Postal service reform bill passed – \$45.9 billion will come into the agency and they will work with the Postal Service on more administrative level as well. Next week launching CDS requests will be open again on March 21st and close April 8<sup>th</sup> – will send form next week.

McKenna – Boebert – working on bill with regard to introduction of wolves. Language in bill requires that service should work with commission and local stakeholders in adopting the 10J rule. She outlined the bills Congresswoman Boebert is working on related to I-70 and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine. Chairman Samson asked for list of bill provisions in Appropriations 2023 bill.

Sarah McCarthy from Senator Hickenlooper's office noted that the Senator is excited to see funding brought to the West Slope. For the upcoming CDS process, the Senator's office will be hosting a suite of informational sessions to get a step ahead for next year. The Senator is working with Senator Romney to bring forward a bill to extend ESA compliance to water providers trying to do projects on upper Colorado basin. Haven't seen litigation on some projects being worked on – hope to move process forward. Working with Senator Dane in ID to streamline the EDIL program – heard over and over that program was not working – ensures SBA is getting funds out quickly to small businesses. In September Sen. Hickenlooper led on a letter to DOI and USFWS and asked for 10J ruling and they are continuing to work with those organizations on the issue.

Dana Hlavac from DOLA indicated that there are 34 applications for tier 2 EIAF grants with 11 in our region. There will be another cycle late in the year, DOLA wants to see renewable energy in conjunction with construction. REDI grant cycle is opening. Broadband grants – optimistic all funding will come through. Water project money coming – a lot of emphasis on lead mitigation – need to have lead inventory. Lessons from Marshal fire – infrastructure issue – during fires they ran water tanks dry – not enough backup to fight fires. Many communities don't have the ability to go to raw water for backup – may need to look at a backup for resiliency plans. Encourage everyone and administrators to attend webinars being done. A lot of overlap and lack of communication at the state level to identify where the highest priority requests are.

**Administrative Update** - Bonnie Petersen provided an update on the following topics:

- AGNC's has been invited to participate in the sage grouse amendment effort as a cooperating agency and, at the request of the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District, has agreed to them submitting AGNC as a potential cooperating agency for that BLM analysis as well.
- AGNC is working with CNCC to make an application to EDA for some funding to help with obtaining faculty for the expansion of the pilot program.
- The Coal to Products study is coming to a close and the playbooks will be available by the end of April and a meeting will be held to review the findings of the study and go over the playbooks.

- AGNC work with Representative Roberts to submit projects for funding through the Economic Relief and Recovery Task force process established to determine allocation of \$800 million in ARPA funding. Six projects from the AGNC and Region 10 areas were submitted but not one was funded.

**New Business** – Next meeting April 20, 2022, Garfield County Administration Building, Community Room, 195 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Rifle, CO 81650

**Adjournment** – meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

**Attendance:**

Mike Samson, Garfield County	Cory Bryndal, Region 10
Cody Davis, Mesa County Commissioner	Chris Nichols, City of Craig
Grady Hazelton, Town of New Castle	Jeff Comstock, Moffat County
Gary Moyer, Rio Blanco County	Christina Oxley, Colorado Workforce Commission
Bill Carlson, Town of Palisade	Toni Barrett, AGNC
Heather Jones, AAoA	Tiffany Pehl, AGNC
Margie Joy, CHFA	Bonnie Petersen, AGNC
Melody Villard, Moffat County	Mike Lane, Delta County
Carolyn Tucker, Colorado Workforce Commission	Shannon Scott, Craig Economic Development
Keely Ellis, OEDIT	Tony Haschke, Battlement Mesa

Ray Beck, Moffat County

Brian Condie, City of Rifle

Dana Hlavac, DOLA

Nancy Fishering, CLUB 20 & AMG

Johnny McFarland, City of Grand Junction

Travis Black, CPW NW Regional Manager

Call #285-1467

Melonie Matarozzo, Town of Collbran

Sarah McCarthy, Senator Hickenlooper’s Ofc.
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Hilary Henry, Senator Bennet’s Ofc.
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Jeannie Caldwell, Town of Rangely
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Tom Kleinschnitz, Moffat County
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Lisa Piering, Town of Rangely
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Edward Smercina, Rio Blanco County
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McKenna Farley, Rep. Boebert’s Office
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Merrit Linke, Grand County
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Unidentified Caller (2)
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ATTACHMENT A



Updates from AAA 03/16/2022:

- SB290- Last week the AAA found out that CDHS would likely be funding four out of our five applications that were submitted. We would be getting \$994,724.02. AAAs who were not funded have the ability to appeal up until 3/17/2022.
- It has come to the attention of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman that there is a perceived conflict of interest with me being the AAA Director and the Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman. As the AAA Director I have been funding providers who are also affiliated with long-term care facilities. It is a perceived conflict of interest because I am providing funds (as the AAA Director) to entities that own long-term care facilities, but as an ombudsman I have to advocate for residents and have no vested interest in facilities. As a result of this perceived conflict of interest, I am looking to hire a new regional long-term care ombudsman starting in July 2022. Mesa County DHS is willing to hire for the position. The individual would not have to necessarily reside in Mesa County. The funding for the position would come from administrative and service dollars.
- Service providers did submit their contract renewals to the AAA at the end of February. Providers are asking for about \$2.7 million in funding. The AAA is estimating \$2.4 million in funding for SFY23. The AAA will work with a grant review committee within the next month to come up with some recommendations for funding the next fiscal year.
- Colorado Legal Services and the AAA is offering another virtual senior Law Day. See attached flyer