



MINUTES
AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING
April 20, 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, and Jeff Comstock will be the alternate for Moffat County.

Approval of minutes – Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes; Bill Carlson seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial report – Bonnie Petersen reported on March financials. The balance sheet as of 3/31/22 assets were reviewed, and deferred revenue explained. Profit and Loss for March 2022 reflects that AGNC is on track with expenses year-to-date, income for the month was on target and year-to-date revenues are ahead of budget. Accounts Receivable as of 4/18/22 were reviewed, and include pending EDA reimbursements, Mesa County quarterly dues, with the balance representing outstanding contribution project fees. Commissioner Samson asked about the check to Grow Economy which is a payment for the Coal to Products grant work. Bill Carlson made a motion to approve the financial report; Chis Nichols 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. At the end of March, Governor Polis recognized the 50th anniversary of the nutrition program. A Routt County leader who was instrumental in starting the program in 1972 was recognized by the Governor. Catherine Lykken was a key advocate for putting Routt County in Region 11 in the past. Region 11 AAA was selected to participate in the 2022 Older American survey. Moffat and Garfield Counties were interested in ARPA funds and looking at providing about \$74K as a base amount. Heather learned from ACL that funds can be used to put people through CAN training to help with capacity and she may investigate that. In February providers were required to send out surveys to participants to measure services. Received 100% mark that people were pleased with providers; caregivers were rated at 97.3%. Providers must meet a 90% rating and they exceeded that so no corrective action plans will be needed. This shows providers are meeting needs of older adults. Carly Thomson is now the Rio Blanco nutrition manager. The Garfield County LTC Ombudsman will be lost to retirement; an offer has been made for a potential replacement. Every 4 years AAA must make a plan for the next four years; Heather will be hosting meetings this summer to collect input in the development of a plan. She will submit her plan shortly after the first of the year. Heather’s written plan can be seen at the end of these minutes as Appendix A.

Heather reviewed some legislation impacting senior programs that AAA is following:

SB154 – legislation will allow discharge notice appeals; strengthens resident rights. Increases qualifications for administrators of assisted living facilities.

SB185 – Similar to SB290 allowing for grants to AAA’s and senior providers.

SB203 – All-inclusive care for the elderly – PACE takes Medicare and Medicaid funds to go to day centers where they can see dentists, eye doctors, etc. Provides regulatory oversight for institutions.

Broadband update – Corey Bryndal. Corey reported that there is a lot of broadband activity all around the state. Mesa, Garfield, Fruita and Palisade have applied for grants to create CNL’s. Grand Junction, Clifton and Collbran have active projects. Collbran submitted a grant application for an 18-mile fiber link. Fiber will be placed in Glenwood Springs from the highway to a CNL. Rifle has a CNL under construction. Garfield County has submitted a DOLA grant for NCA, SLT, Parachute to provide fiber from the highway to CNLs. They are already starting to sell rack space to providers in these areas. Region 10 continues to work on a connection to Salt Lake City to improve redundancy for the West Slope. Region 10 and project THOR received a \$2.6 million grant from DOLA to purchase equipment and additional leases. R10 is working with Southern Colorado to build a loop to provide additional redundancy which will include a number of municipalities and tribes. Capital projects funding will be coming to Colorado for building out last mile projects. Expect ISPs to participate in funding. Executive Order from the Governor on broadband was codified into law through SB22-1083. The bill addresses ROW access and CDOT access throughout the state. Bonnie asked if a gap analysis would be beneficial given all the activity currently underway and Corey indicated that a gap analysis would be helpful.

Ballot Initiative - Cody Davis provided an overview of a ballot initiative being considered to reorganize the COGCC to IOGCC. The idea behind the initiative is to provide more regulatory certainty for the oil and gas industry. This initiative takes the politics out of the industry oversight and allows for a more administrative process – it is fashioned after initiatives Y & Z. It is hoped that Initiative 136 will be on the ballot this fall; the proponents are looking at both a statutory and a constitutional amendment. Cody outlined how the Commission members would be selected; judges would review a slate of candidates and initially choose six. Terms are four years in length and every two years judges will select replacements for the Commission. The state is more likely to get industry investment when there is regulatory certainty. When asked if AGNC support is needed, Cody said the proponents would ultimately like support sooner than later. Chris Nichols made a motion to support the initiative concept, Bill Carlson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously with Cody Davis abstaining from the vote. A resolution regarding the initiative will be placed on the May agenda for consideration.

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

Wolf Technical Working Group (TWG) Update – Merrit Linke. Merrit reported that TWG meetings will continue until August of 2022 then the group will turn in its report to the CPW commission. Merrit shared that there are objectives set for each meeting and shared those. He provided an update on wolf predation in North Park and the stories in the news. CPW authorized and installed some flagged fencing to discourage wolves – it appears to work for now. If that is determined to be a broad solution, it will be expensive for the state as it cost \$16,000 per mile in the trial but it blew over after a brief period of time. There have been a lot of wolf siting's in Jackson County and some in Grand County as well. It is not known if the wolves are denning, there was one set of wolf pups born last year; don’t know if that will happen this year. CPW will work to meet the parameters of the law and begin the process of introduction in December 2023. Once the TWG and SAG reports are provided to CPW, there will be a series of engagement, outreach, and education; whatever plan is developed it must be good as it is not easy to talk to some stakeholders. The message must be backed up by a good plan with robust tools for management. The TWG has received a lot of input from other states and USFWS who have good insight on what worked in other states. The population and demographics of Colorado are different from other states. The wolf listing did not affect Montana, Wyoming, or Idaho; it does apply to Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California. This handcuffs CPW, ranchers and general public. Western Colorado is different from other states. Funding concerns continue, the bill last year for funding was a start, but when we are talking about flagging, costs become exorbitant. There may be a need for rangers and that will cost \$100,000 per ranger, and it may take 10 or 12 people to provide that function across all areas. We must have funding in place before introduction to address the many needs, it will be untenable if we have

to scramble for funds after introduction. Funds have been dedicated to FWS to develop the NEPA analysis – when listing took place NEPA was required, and that process could take 2 or 3 years conflicting with the ballot initiative. Nothing in the legislation defines how many wolves are to be introduced, the TWG has been working on thresholds and metrics. People will take matters into their own hands if we do not have effective tools, etc.; 98% to 99% of people that voted for this will never see a negative impact. Jeff Comstock pointed out that AGNC was denied a role in developing the state plan but that we have a new opportunity now with the 10J NEPA process to be a cooperating agency, he asked for Merrit's thoughts about NW Counties and AGNC being invited as cooperating agency. Merrit thinks it is a great idea. The big fear is that we blindly go ahead without tools in place to manage them. As a cooperating agency, counties would also be able to put social impacts forward; Merrit said that land use input is also important. Merrit thinks there are some allies, and some advocates that are reasonable and considerate of factors Colorado. Chris Nichols asked how we gain AGNC cooperating agency status – Jeff Comstock said that we can kick start the effort by AGNC writing a letter to FWS requesting that invitation be sent to local counties and AGNC. Chairman Samson will sign the letter. Gary Moyer Referenced that in FLPMA all planning efforts must be consistent with local land use plan – requires consistency and participation as a cooperating agency.

Regional Economic Outlook/Economic Newsletters – Dr. Nathan Perry. Dr. Perry reviewed the economic newsletters he is developing for the AGNC EDD for each county in the region. Mesa County is already being provided through prior arrangements on a quarterly basis and the remaining four counties will be done semi-annually for 2022. The newsletters can be found on the CMU website as well as the AGNC website. He review the information contained in the documents and anyone can review them in specificity on the websites. It is hoped that the newsletters will provide easily accessed data to aid in grant writing throughout the region.

Dr. Perry provided a current economic overview of the region with specific data points for each county relating to current population, job status vs pre-pandemic jobs stats, migration, GDP, pandemic recovery and more. The slides from the presentation are available on the AGNC website. Some key points noted include:

- GDP for 2020 – Delta was the only positive in the region for GDP/ Colorado was positive at 5.75%.
- Garfield County is still experiencing distress due to lack of recovery in the energy industry. Energy has impacted all counties in AGNC.
- Expect good numbers for all counties in 2021 – expect GDP will be positive in all.
- Median household income increased in face of declining GDP largely impacted by government income transfers.
- Accomplished goal of minimizing COVID hit but paying price now with inflation.
- Mesa County is now almost fully recovered in terms of employment. All industries have recovered except for mining, oil, and gas.
- Rio Blanco does not have house price appreciation – the only place it has not increased.
- Garfield is the one county that Dr. Perry is most concerned about in the region. Have a lot of high-income individuals moving to eastern Garfield County pushing median household income up.
- All poverty numbers went down in the region – successful result of fed policy sending money to citizens, it will be interesting to see how the numbers change.
- Garfield and Rio Blanco are not insulated from movements in oil and gas.
- Garfield has not recovered to pre-pandemic job numbers.
- GDP very volatile in Rio Blanco County – median household income slightly positive. Rio Blanco employment holding steady; jobs have not recovered to pre-pandemic level; has held steady last four years after reduction. Construction still down in Rio Blanco County.
- Moffat negative GDP is much more exaggerated. Despite GDP declines median household income trend is up in Moffat County. Moffat employment is holding steady, jobs are declining. Chris Nichols commented that he would like to see a cost-of-living index developed for region.

Inflation – wage inflation has the largest spillover effect for inflation. Supply chain issues fuel inflation – lack of trades drives wages up – tight labor market – rising energy costs all impact inflation. Government kept demand artificially high with stimulus payments impacting housing, and other large items which saw large price increases.

Treasury rates will go up to 4% or more. Government thinks they can force prices down on large, financed items with interest rate increases. Supply chain will push inflation higher; Dr. Perry thinks we may have reached peak inflation. The longer inflation holds on, prices will keep increasing and people will keep paying it. He estimates that 3-4% of the inflation is Russia driven and 4-5% is structurally driven. We could see food issues in less wealthy countries – food prices lead to political and economic turmoil. A couple of recessionary signals – yield curve – went negative for a couple of days – yield curve inversion trend precedes recession. Consumers will pull back, western slope will see slow growth, when unemployment becomes less than 4%, we could see recession. The most accurate recession predictor is the unemployment rate.

Federal Delegate Updates

DOLA Update – Dana Hlavac. Dana provided an update regarding the current grant cycle. He outlined the grants DOLA is considering. A lot of broadband requests are under consideration. Of \$15 million available, \$9 million are requests from the NW region. Tier one projects will be reviewed next week for recommendations – decisions before Tier 2 hearings. Tier 2 to be heard May 25th and 26th.

McKenna Farley provided an update from Representative Boebert's office; the Congresswoman had nine appropriations requests signed into law by president. Secured \$1.7 trillion for medical centers for rural areas; \$48 million for forest health; obtained a legislative rider to remove funding for listing the sage grouse as endangered; \$1 million for livestock loss tools; \$515 million for PILT program. Last week she introduced I-70 bill which requires the Transportation secretary to explore improvements and alternative routes for Glenwood Canyon closures. We will have a draft resolution for AGNC to consider at the next meeting supporting the bill. She sponsored a letter to Secretary Haaland to delist wolves based on research done by the Trump administration. Wolf bill to delist has ten co-sponsors on the bill, hope to rally more. Bill number for I-70 is HR7501. Betsy Bair commented that they need help with tweener hospitals – get left out of all legislation – play an important role in keeping costs down. Would like to see some movement there and would like help with that from congressional offices – Senators have been helpful.

Hilary Henry from Senator Bennet's office reported that applications for CDS closed April 8th with several requests in hand from the AGNC area – thanks to all who applied. Received a lot more applications than expected, it will be a competitive process. Space Command update – Senator Bennet believes Colorado is the best location for the unit from a strategic position as well as for the Colorado economy. Advocating to keep command here. Government accountability report shared how decision was made which raised concerns and there will be continued conversation on that topic. Bennet's office is asking for full funding for the fire in Gypsum. Monday the Senator met with Secretary Deb Haaland and USFS where they announced \$30 million more for fire mitigation. Held roundtable discussion to see how we can be prepared for wildfire season. Introduced last week a bill to provide a tax credit for housing – costs for renovations cost more than the unit can be sold for. Credit would bridge gap between construction cost and sales price – aimed at increasing housing supply. Introduced legislation regarding assets seized from Russian oligarchs. Continuing to work to reduce bottlenecks in supply chains – expect Senate will pass legislation soon to encourage manufacturing within the country. Encourage DOT emerging declaration to allow truckers to have modified operation hours to address supply chain. Bill Carlson made comments regarding the child tax credit bill – learned this tax season that there was a great deal of fraud where people hacked social security numbers for parents and children and there is no tracking for checks sent out. Compliance and access to federal departments need to be addressed. IRS is so understaffed they need more people to address these issues. IRS has a huge staffing issue; the Senator's office is working with taxpayers that have not gotten tax returns yet. Trying to support the IRS – please direct people with specific concerns to the office if they need help. Bill Carlson followed up by saying that trying to get someone on the phone is huge hold time and they only get 3 minutes to address issue.

Sarah Carlisle – Tri-State Update. - Sarah provided an overview about the Rifle station closure in October. Actual life of plant is 2028, it is used little, the four employees working there were not surprised. Two were eligible for retirement and Tri-State is helping to transition the other two. Tri-State approved a \$50,000 contribution to RREDC. Do not have water rights associated with facility so no water assets will be impacted.

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

- Wants to make everyone aware we are wrapping up the coal study, playbooks have been drafted. Will ask Jeremiah Riley and Dr. Perry to join us in Rangely at EDD meeting to do readout of the study and go through the playbooks. Important to follow up and focus on what will make sense for northwest Colorado. Encourage everyone to attend and invite others to join the meeting.
- Space symposium – held annually in Colorado Springs. Bonnie attended with Ray Beck. CNCC aviation director Nathan Hardin also joined them. It is a very well attended symposium and contacts were made with a variety of businesses advocating for consideration of locating operations in NW Colorado. Bonnie asked to meet with the governor with NW Colorado leaders and Lockheed Martin regarding an opportunity to encourage aerospace businesses to come to northwest Colorado.
- Bonnie will be gone for the month of May on vacation. She has planned for Tiffany to be here in her absence and will be prepared to cover her duties.
- Chairman Samson is attending a symposium in Nebraska about 30 X 30 -and will also be at WIR in Alaska in May where they will also talk about 30X30.

New Business – *Next meeting May 25, 2022, CNCC, 500 Kennedy Drive, Rangely, CO 81648*

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Grady Hazelton – Town of New Castle	Lisa Piering Town of Rangely
McKenna Farley – Rep. Boebert	Heather Jones
Sara Carlisle – Tri State	Brandon Bainer (Kacie Sallee)
Ray Beck – City of Craig	Corey Bryndal
Dana Hlavac – DOLA	Hilary Henry Senator Bennet
Jeff Comstock – Moffat County	Anna Stout - Mayor pro-tem Grand Junction
Tinker Duclo – CMC	Clarice Navarro
Chris Nichols – City of Craig	Christina Oxley - CDLE
Brian Condie – City of Rifle	Drew Kramer
Mike Samson – Garfield County	Merrit Linke
Bonnie Peterson – AGNC	Cody Davis - Mesa County Commissioner
Bill Carlson – Town of Palisade	Betsy Bair
Tiffany Pehl – AGNC	Drew Kramer - Tri-State
Dr. Nathan Perry – CMU	
Toni Barrett – AGNC	

ATTACHMENT A



Updates from AAA 04/20/2022:

50th Anniversary of Older Americans Act Nutrition Program-Spotlight.

Gov Jared Polis recognizes 50th anniversary of Colorado Senior Nutrition Program

The Aging and Adult Services (AAS) Division within the Office of Adult, Aging and Disability Services (OAADS) has supported older adults throughout the state with home delivered and congregate meal sites. The numerous services provided at in-person meal sites and through organizations such as Meals on Wheels have provided nutritional support to older Coloradans for more than 50 years.

One of AAS's key priorities is helping older adults stay healthy, independent, and connected. Thankfully, many congregate meal sites and participants are coming back together after two years away due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Catherine Lykken, the primary founder of the Routt County Senior Nutrition Program started the congregate meal site with a dream. In 1972, she began to coordinate home meal delivery and a congregate meal site for older adults in the Steamboat Springs area. She contacted the director of the local hospital, and soon the hospital kitchen was preparing meals to be delivered to the homes of older adults who were unable to grocery shop and prepare their own meals. The program has evolved, 50 years later, and now provides daily meals to more than two hundred older adults in three sites around the county as well as home-delivered meals. In 1977, the program moved into its own space and hired a cook.

"I graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1959 with a degree in social work. My goal was to save the world from poverty. I am still fighting that good fight!" Lykken said. She continues to be involved in several civic organizations.

Lykken's dream was officially realized when Gov. Jared Polis proclaimed March 22, 2022, the 50th Anniversary of the Colorado Senior Nutrition Program stating:

"Whereas, since 1972, the National Senior Nutrition Program has funded local agencies and organizations in Colorado to serve home-delivered and congregate meals that help to ensure older adults have opportunities to stay healthy, independent, and connected; and

Whereas the Senior Nutrition Program is an integral part of communities across Colorado - providing sustenance and so much more to our older community members, especially those most vulnerable to chronic health conditions and social isolation; and

I urge every resident to recognize older adults and the people who support them through nutrition services as essential contributors to the strength of our communities.”

Thanks to people like Lykken and the AAS team, Colorado’s seniors will continue to receive nutritious meals that help them thrive.

- Region 11 AAA was selected by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to participate in the 2022 National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants. 11 AAAs across the state were selected this year.
- Moffat and Garfield County might be interested in the Public Health ARPA funds. Mesa and Rio Blanco are not interested in the funds. We will receive a base funding, then additional funds based off a funding formula from AAAs who declined the funds. ACL did state that AAAs could potentially use the funds for scholarships in health care settings.
- 2022 Performance Measure Surveys initial results:
 - All Registered Consumer Surveys (Wellness Classes & ADRCs) rated 100% at Excellent or Good
 - Caregivers Surveys rated 97.3% Excellent or Good
 - Nutrition Surveys (Congregate, Home-delivered & Grab N' GO) rated 97.2% rated Excellent or Good
 - Transportation surveys 98.2% rated Excellent or Good
- Rio Blanco Nutrition manager Carly Thomson has left the Rio Blanco nutrition program, so they are looking to fill the position. Also, our Garfield County Long-Term Care Ombudsman is retiring at the end of May. We are looking to fill that position and have had one interview with a potential applicant.
- The AAA will be holding Community Conversations for the next four-year plan of the AAA. The AAA is looking to have them this summer.
- Legislation:
 - SB22-154 Increasing Safety in Assisted Living Residences
 - SB22-185 Security for Colorado Seniors
 - SB22-203 Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly