



**MINUTES**

**AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING**

**November 16, 2022**

**9:00 am to 1:30 pm**

***Garfield County Administration Building, 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 Mike Samson, called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Introductions were made.

**Approval of minutes** – Cody Davis made a motion to approve the minutes; Chris Nichols seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of 2023 Meeting Schedule** – Cody Davis made a motion to approve the 2023 AGNC meeting schedule; Chris Nichols seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**Financial report** – Tiffany Pehl reported on the October 2022 financials. The Profit and Loss as of 10/31/22 was discussed including income received, expenses including the negative number for accounting due to AAA repayment of the audit expense, overall, we are ahead in income due mostly to grant income. The balance sheet was discussed as of 10/31/22 including assets, deferred revenue. Accounts Receivable as of 11/14/22 was discussed, including contribution project fees and a credit from the town of DeBeque for their dues paid in advance. Tiffany will reach out to local governments about past due fees. The Check register as of 11/14/22 was discussed including the monthly expenses paid out. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Ginny Love, seconded by Chris Nichols, and the motion passed unanimously.

**2023 Budget** – Tiffany Pehl described the proposed budget and how we expect to reach those numbers. She said that we look at the budget historically and make adjustments as needed. Amounts were discussed including staff raises, an increase in Contribution Project admin fees, and a new item for grants navigator specialist – however, there is not a signed contract for those funds yet. Other grant funds were discussed, and the total income was discussed. We also have included an expense item for consulting fees for Bonnie Petersen’s time that she consults with us. Tiffany pointed out the capacity issues we are having with the Enterprise Zone and Grant Income, with AGNC being the regional access to much of the grant funding. The responsibility for the Enterprise Zone is mostly falling on Tiffany at this point, and we would like to hire at least a part-time position for next year to help out with these items. Cody asked when we will know about the Grants Navigator funding. Tiffany said we are waiting on the state and it’s just a matter of time. A motion to approve the 2023 AGNC budget was made by Cody Davis, 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 They have posted for the long-term care ombudsman and have extended the application. Mike asked about the pay range, Heather said it is about \$48K and she did make sure that it is competitive entry level. AAA contracted providers  
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have been using the states system of salesforce for its new database. It is an adjustment for the providers. She is hopeful it will help with communication between the providers. She has done 11 on-site visits and has 5 more left to do and should be wrapped up by the end of November. A new commission has been created – Colorado Commission on Aging, and is governor appointed. Our area representative is a commissioner from San Luis Valley, Lynne Thompson. Heather recently met with Jarett Hughes regarding guardianships to see where improvements could be made. There is not much need on the western slope, or use of guardianships on the western slope, so she is glad that the state is going to look at this. They will also reassess how skilled nursing is being funded, and the shortage of care givers. The four-year survey CASOA is now complete, and they will be looking at the results to help write the next four-year plan for the AAA. Heather will get this report to AGNC to post on the website, as well. Mike asked for an overall feeling of the report. Heather said that transportation came up a lot, so they are looking at mileage reimbursement as an option for communities that don't have good transportation. She is also looking at carpooling options. Another area of concern is lack of knowledge of AAA and that outreach needs more attention. She also said that housing is a concern, so they are looking at how to address those issues. She talked about the huge discrepancies between income and expenses with our aging population and being unhoused. Ginny asked what percentage of elderly are having these issues, and Heather said she doesn't know but she can research it. In September of 2024 they will lose all their COVID relief dollars, so that is a concern for AAA moving forward, and will be a challenge. She is hoping for a bump in state funding based on population data. Cody asked about the ombudsman position and Heather said they are looking to have someone hired soon. Cody asked Heather to describe what the ombudsman does. Heather stated that there is a state one, and each AAA has a local one. The positions have been contracted out to the counties. Their role is to be an advocate for the residents of the facilities. They make sure the residents are getting adequate care, nutrition, housing, sanitation, etc. The state ombudsman contracts to hire the state position. They also must be careful that there is no conflict of interest when hiring an ombudsman. Heather's written report can be seen at the end of these minutes as Appendix A.

**Broadband update – Corey Bryndal** was not present, but Cody Davis commented that there is a roadblock now with CDOT and broadband access. He thinks they have overcommitted to the communities. Now they are saying they can't give access, and the smaller communities will need to purchase it themselves. Cody said they are working on a letter to send to the governor to ask for access to the fiber. Cody will be drafting the letter in the next week or so. Mike asked if AGNC could support the letter and Cody said he would welcome the support. Hilary Henry asked for written information, and Cody said he can send her what he has, but that it is in the draft form right now. Mike said the executive committee can review the letter and support it once it is ready to be submitted.

**Legislative update – Richard Orf** reported on the dynamics after the election with a democratic majority. He stated that redistricting also made an impact. He said that we should still have good representation on the western slope. He reported that the Governor presented his budget in person yesterday and that housing is a hot issue. An ongoing issue is harnessing state dollars to work with federal dollars and that collaboration with each other will be important. There is a notion to start using state owned lands for workforce housing. Richard stated that there were some questions out of Rio Blanco County regarding water resources. He said they are still digging and looking for the answers. Ginny Love commented on the concerns in Rio Blanco County including economic impacts. Richard commented on the importance of collaboration for the state leaders and elected officials. Bill Carlson asked about the latest news regarding Nebraska building the canal to get water from Colorado. Richard said that it will most likely be tied up in litigation for some time to come. Dianna Orf joined via zoom and said there have not been any new announcements regarding the issue. Dianna said the JBC is up and running. Chris Nichols commented about the capacity issues they are experiencing with a grant they have received from the EDA, and that they have had to hire a consulting firm to manage the grant. Richard said he needs these types of anecdotes to take back to the state. Ginny asked about money for the Just Transition. Richard said that there has not been any movement on that. He said they may expand it in the future to include Oil and Gas, which may dilute the effects. He said the state is still flush with TABOR funds, but it is always a fight for funding. Richard talked about how important it is for people in our organization to voice their opinions on bills when we have our legislative calls. He said he thinks some of the top issues will be water and environmental justice. Ray Beck said that he hopes that the legislature will not change 1314 in regard to Just Transition, and keep it just for the coal transition. The Orf's written report can be seen at the end of these minutes as Appendix B.

The AGNC Board Meeting recessed for the EDD Meeting at 10:02am.

The AGNC Board Meeting reconvened at 11:10am.

**Mike Samson** reported that Garfield County had an oil and gas application submitted for the first time in 2 and ½ years, and it was a monumental task for them to complete the application. Terra Energy Partners applied for 20 new wells on an existing site. He sees this as a good sign and expressed his concern with the future of our energy independence in the country. Mike also spoke about Bonnie Petersen and her contributions to AGNC. She has offered her home for an AGNC Christmas party. The best possible date would be Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 9pm. Mike asked if this was a good date and encouraged as many as possible to come.

**Chris Nichols** reported that Craig is having housing issues and the steps they are taking to try to address some of the problems. They have done a housing needs analysis and they are about 92 housing units short. Moffat county is working on their RFP. He also talked about the new courthouse that is being built in the old Kmart building.

**Cody Davis** reported on the new broadband that they are working on, Clifton town hall and education center, CHIPS legislation, and using Grand Junction as a possible hub. They are also finishing up their master plan update.

**Bill Carlson** reported that the town of Palisade is working on their comprehensive plan, the clinic is moving forward, and they are going to pour the concrete this Friday for the foundation. They also received a DOLA grant to replace a lift station.

**Brian Condie** reported that the city of Rifle is receiving a lot of new build applications, they are working on plans for the island in the Colorado River, the airport continues to grow, and the hangars have sold out all their spots through January.

**Grady Hazelton** reported that the town of New Castle has a new police chief, 32 active building permits, they are working on the budget and now have \$1.7M in reserves.

**Ginny Love** reported on Rio Blanco County including potential wolf kills in the county. They still have not confirmed that they are wolf kills, but there were up to 24 kills. She also reported on the Piceance Creek Mustangs sale, and she encouraged everyone to go online and read the story about the mustang sold to a young girl. They are working on their budgets. January 1<sup>st</sup> will be their Skijoring event and she encouraged everyone to attend. She commented on her service on the AGNC board and that this will be her last meeting. Mike Samson presented Ginny Love with an award for her service to AGNC. This is Ginny's last meeting with AGNC and we appreciate her service and dedication.

**USDA Rural Business and Cooperative Services Programs – Robert McElroy** has been with the program for just about 2 years. Robert presented on the rural development is the USDA economic development leg. He stated that they provide economic development through loans and grants. The USDA rural development administers over 40 programs, over \$40B in loans and grant investments annually, and have a portfolio of investments exceeding \$220B. They have 4 regions across the country, 47 state offices and 400 area offices. In Colorado they have Craig, Alamosa, Wray, Animas and Delta offices, as well as the state office. There are currently three key areas of initiative: COVID-19, Equity and Climate. They are a partner in rural development helping to provide affordable housing, business programs and community programs. He reviewed business programs including business and industry loans, rural economic development loan and grant program, rural business development grants. They fund projects including hotels, manufacturing, construction, assisted living, renewable energy, producer grants, workforce training, business incubators, solar and wind, grain dryers, lighting, and HVAC. He discussed the different grants and loans that are available for these projects. He talked about projects that were funded in 2022 and the amounts that were funded by loans and grants. The OneRD Guaranteed Loan Initiative was discussed including that it is one process, a common application with consistent forms, speed and transparency, and single point lender approval. He spoke about the purpose, lender eligibility, loan limits and borrower eligibility of the One RD. He spoke about the

eligible purposes for the program, and the exclusions to the program. He spoke about a current initiative for the Food Supply Chain Guarantee Loan Program, targeting the food supply chain including diversity, resiliency, and security. He then spoke about the meat and poultry intermediary lending program. They are providing one-time grants that can be turned into low interest loans. The income from the loans can then be revolved indefinitely into relending for the food supply chain. It is currently open through 12/31/22. He spoke about eligible uses for the loan funds. He spoke about the fertilizer production expansion program. It is very new and looks to assist agricultural producers to expand fertilizer production locally. The application deadline for it is 12/29/22. He spoke about the rural business development grant. It provides access to capital for small businesses. He spoke about the rural energy for America program to promote energy efficiency improvements and development of renewable energy systems for agricultural producers and rural small businesses. He spoke about the energy audit and renewable energy development assistance grants, the value-added producer grant, revolving loan fund and intermediary lender programs. He talked about their focus on cooperative services. More information can be found on their website: [usda.gov](https://usda.gov). He spoke about their support for the bioeconomy including that biotech crops are grown on over 170 acres in the U.S. There is a USDA Certified Biobased Product label for these products. He spoke about the step for applying for USDA funding. He reviewed some of the projects that received previous funding and then went over contact information, that is also available on [usda.gov](https://usda.gov). He said there is an office in Craig that they are working on getting staffed, as well.

**Headwaters Housing Partners – Adam Roy** spoke about their projects in western Colorado for workforce housing. They are looking to convert a hotel in Parachute to private housing. They are hopeful to break ground next year and have it completed sometime in 2024. It is meant to be transitional housing while the tenant looks for more permanent housing. He is working with CHFA and USDA for funding.

### **Federal Delegate Update –**

Senator Bennet's Office – Hilary Henry said they are working with communities with issues with postal service, particularly towns that don't have home delivery. Congress passed the postal service reform act. Sen. Bennet has asked the postal service to prioritize service. They plan to continue to push for improvements. She talked about the Farm Bill and the status of the hearings. They are in the process of drafting marker bills for the Farm Bill. Bill Carlson mentioned the issues with the migrant workers in Palisade. He asked if there is something in the bill that could address the need for them to be automatically approved to return each year. Hilary said she can get him more information about what is being addressed for migrant workers. She spoke about forestry funding that is available. The forest service plan identified needs on the front range and near Durango. Sen. Bennet sent a letter asking for more details about this spending, and whether we can expect more money for the western slope. Ginny Love told Hilary about a situation in Rio Blanco County where the forest service asked for funding from the county for a forest service employee. Hilary said she would talk with Bill Mills about this. She talked about veteran services. They are introducing legislation to reinstate criminal penalties for those charging veterans a fee to connect them with veteran services. Mike Samson expressed his gratitude for Sen. Bennet and his efforts, and for having a representative at our meetings. Hilary also spoke about the federal broadband funding that is going to be available and that now is the time to look at obtaining this funding. She said this will be a huge amount of funding available and could greatly benefit western Colorado.

Senator Hickenlooper's Office – Janeth Stangle reported that they are celebrating the one-year anniversary of the infrastructure law. She shared a few grants that have been awarded to projects within the counties of AGNC. She will follow up with an email to AGNC listing these grants. She talked about the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. They have sent a letter asking them to include the Replace Act, which would waive all fees for documents lost during a wildfire. She also spoke about the program for energy assistance for low-income households.

**Administrative Update** – Tiffany Pehl provided an update on the following topics:

- She is taking the last two weeks of December for vacation.
- She is attending meetings regarding Sage Grouse and the Moffat County RFP.
- She reminded everyone to attend the AGNC Christmas Party at Bonnie Petersen’s home on December 17<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 9pm.

**Ray Beck** joined via zoom and commented that he attended a meeting with Club 20 and the oil and gas commission. He said there were 923 permits approved in Colorado and only 4 of those were on the western slope. He also thanked Ginny Love for her service. Ray asked Mike Samson if he could address the importance of being a member of the AGNC. Mike talked about the communities that are not being represented at AGNC and he would like to send a letter to all these municipalities asking for better participation. He said they will also address this at our February meeting, and he sees this being a new emphasis for AGNC next year.

**New Business** – *Next meeting February 22, 2023, Garfield County Administration Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room, 195 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Rifle, CO 81650*

**Adjournment** – meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm.

**Attendance:**

<b>IN PERSON</b>	<b>VIA ZOOM</b>
Heather Jones	Dianna Orf (Ted Orf)
Grady Hazelton	Ray Beck
Ginny Love	Shannon Scott
Bill Carlson	Wendell A Koontz
Richard Orf	Carolyn Tucker – NWCO Business Services
Chris Nichols	Christina Oxley – CDLE
Cody Davis	Corey Bryndal
Hilary Henry	Drew Kramer
Rylee Lopez	Jessica Cowden
Brian Condie	Headwaters Housing Partners
Margie Joy	Robert McElroy
Mike Samson	Janeth Stancle (Sen. Hickenlooper)
Tiffany Pehl	
Toni Barrett	
Robert McElroy	
Adam Roy	
Jeff Tripp	

## APPENDIX A



### Updates from AAA 11/16/2022:

- The AAA has posted for a position as a Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The individual would be covering some facilities in Mesa County as well as Moffat and Rio Blanco counties. The closing of the position has been extended to 11/21/2022.
- AAA Contracted providers have been using the new State Unit Database System (SUDS) for over a month now. The State Unit on Aging continues to work out the kinks in the system. I think for the most part providers are doing okay getting their data into the system.
- I have completed 12 provider on-site visits: Moffat County Housing Authority, Senior Social Center, NW Colorado Health, Hilltop ADRC, St. Mary's Community Connections, Valley Meals and More, High Country Volunteers, Alpine Legal Services, Garfield Senior Programs, NW Options for LTC ADRC, Rio Blanco County. I have four more to complete.
- With the passage of the modernization of the Older Coloradoans Act, a new Colorado Commission on Aging (CCOA) has been selected. CCOA role is to serve as the primary advisory body on all matters affecting older persons. The CCOA is a Governor-appointed, citizen-led, multidisciplinary Commission, comprised of representatives from both the public and private sectors to coordinate and contribute to guiding state programs, services, projects, policies, procedures, and resources in the area of aging and coordinate and guide the implementation of the strategic action plan on aging (Master Plan on Aging). They meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month virtually. The new Rep for CD3 is Lynne Thompson. She is a Saguache County Commissioner (San Luis Valley).
- Recently the Senior Policy Advisor on Aging Jarett Hughes stated that the State would be looking at the Colorado Office of Public Guardianships to see where improvements could be made. The State was also going to review skilled nursing rates.
- On October 17<sup>th</sup>, I received the Region 11 Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults (CASOA). The CASOA happens every four years and the AAA uses to help write the four year plan. I also received each county summary. I am happy to send them out and will see if AGNC can post them to their website.
- With the Community Conversations and the CASOA now complete, I will be looking at the information to be able to help write the next four year plan for the AAA. I will be selecting two-four areas to focus on. This plan is due to the State Unit on Aging 3/31/2023.

## APPENDIX B



### Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado Government Affairs Report November 16, 2022

The November 8 General Election brought many surprises and a new team of players to the Capitol building. The third Congressional district race is still up in the air, with incumbent Congresswoman Loren Robert ahead of challenger Adam Fritsh by less than the half percentage point necessary for an automatic recount. The AGNC region will have new representatives and senators. HD 26, which covers Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, and part of Eagle counties will be represented by Representative-elect Meghan Lukens, a teacher from Steamboat Springs, in the House. HD 57 which includes Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin counties, will be represented by Rep.-elect Elizabeth Velasco, who owns a language services business. Rep. Matt Soper will continue to represent HD 54, covering parts of Mesa and Delta counties. HD 55 which covers the rest of Mesa County will be represented by Rep.-elect Rick Taggart, a member of the Grand Junction City Council. A portion of Delta County, along with Montrose, Dolores, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Ouray and San Miguel counties will be represented by Rep. Marc Catlin, a farmer from the Montrose area. Sen-elect Dylan Roberts will represent SD 8, covering the entire Northwest corner of the State. Sen-elect Janice Rich will take the seat in SD 7 covering Mesa and part of Delta, while Sen. Bob Rankin will continue in the newly drawn SD 5 extending through Garfield and part of Delta down through Hinsdale County. SD 6, which takes most of the Southwest corner of the state, will be represented by Sen. Cleave Simpson from Alamosa.

As a result of the election, which saw several Republicans lose their races, leadership in the legislature will be even more heavily concentrated on the Democrat side of the aisle. The overwhelming Democrat majorities in House and Senate represent a nearly veto-proof legislature (would require 24 votes in Senate), which need not heed the Governor's concerns should they part ways on policy. Leaders of the respective caucuses in each chamber are listed below:

#### House Democrats (Majority 46-19)

Speaker-Designate	Julie McCluskie– Dillon
Speaker Pro Tempore	_____ TBA Monday
Majority Leader	Monica Duran – Wheat Ridge
Asst. Majority Leader	Jennifer Bacon – Denver
Majority Caucus co-chairs	Brianna Titone – Arvada and Mandy Lindsey – Denver
Majority Co-Whips	Andrew Boesenecker – Fort Collins and Iman Jodeh – Aurora
JBC Members (2)	Shannon Bird, Emily Sirota

#### House Republicans (Minority 19-46)

Minority Leader	Mike Lynch - Wellington
Asst. Minority Leader	Rose Pugliese – Colorado Springs
Minority Whip	Richard Holtorf - Akron
Minority Caucus Chair	Mary Bradfield – Colorado Springs
JBC Member	Rod Bockenfeld – Watkins

## **Senate Democrats (Majority 23-12)**

President	Steve Fenberg - Boulder
President Pro-Tempore	James Coleman – Denver
Majority Leader	Dominic Moreno – Commerce City
Asst. Majority Leader	Robert Rodriguez – Denver
Majority Whip	Julie Gonzales - Denver
Majority Caucus Chair	Janet Buckner - Aurora
JBC Members (2)	Rachel Zenzinger – Arvada and Jeff Bridges – Greenwood Village

## **Senate Republicans (Minority 12-23)**

Minority Leader Designate	Paul Lundeen – Monument
Asst. Minority Leader	Bob Gardner – Colorado Springs
Minority Whip	Barbara Kirkmeyer - Brighton
Minority Caucus Chair	Jim Smallwood – Parker
JBC Member	Bob Rankin - Carbondale

Committee appointments have not been made yet but will likely be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks. Key committees for AGNC's interests will be Transportation, Agriculture and Natural Resources (including water), and Local Government in both chambers. Those committee also may see significant restructuring as scope of each committee may be expanded and Republicans stretched thin. The Joint Budget Committee, however, is complete with six members appointed (3 House, 3 Senate) and began work on Monday, November 14. The first order of business for the JBC is to receive briefings by non-partisan staff on each department's budget request and proprieties, along with the Governor's presentation on November 15 outlining his priorities for the year. He has already emphasized that despite the influx of federal dollars into Colorado from COVID relief and the infrastructure bill, there will be little or no money for new programs. Each returning legislator must submit three of their five bill requests to the Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS) no later than November 29, 2022. Each legislator who is newly elected to the General Assembly must submit three of their five bill requests to the OLLS no later than December 13, 2022. However, the titles and content of these draft bills remain confidential prior to introduction unless released by the requesting legislator.