



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

February 17, 2021

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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

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

Call to order – Mike Samson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. Mike introduced himself and gave some information about this background. He had everyone in attendance and on the Zoom meeting do the same.

Approval of Minutes – Chris Nichols moved to approve the minutes from the November 2020 meeting; Keely Ellis seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Financial report: Bonnie Petersen provided an overview of the financials for end of year 2020 and January 2021. Total income for 2020 was \$487,871, which exceeded the Budget. Expenses for 2020 well under budget and net income for the year was \$52,706 substantially better than anticipated (\$39,551.52) loss projected in the budget. The 2020 budget was amended to reflect unanticipated grants received during the year. The Cares Grant Funding is in a separate bank account and the balance is \$100,000.

The P& L for the month of January showed income of \$43,279; expenses of \$36,447; and net income of \$6,832 which is ahead of budget. The total assets reflected in the Balance sheet are \$847,420; part of that number is Deferred Revenue of \$104,329 which reflects dues paid but not taken into income yet.

Cody Davis moved to approve the financial report; Chris Nichols seconded the motion, motion passed.

Project and Committee Reports:

AAoA - Heather Jones

Heather provided an update that is found as Attachment A to this document. Heather said that the long-term ombudsmen can get back into facilities since most have received vaccinations. She said that they are providing adult education through GetSetUp to train seniors on phone use and Zoom among other things. Heather said she has submitted an RFP for new providers and training for existing providers. She said they went through a virtual audit in December which resulted in 1 compliance issue regarding home-delivered meals. AAoA has a \$82,398 carryover and \$137,244 from the last stimulus package to help them through COVID. She said they may receive another 5% of the \$21M package for COVID relief.

Legislative Update – Orf & Orf

The Orfs announced the Legislative Phone Call to take place on Thursday mornings from 8:30 am – 9:30 am. They said the state legislature started meeting on 2/16/21 and they are going to have a busy session. They are planning to meet until mid-June. They introduced 200 bills in the first 24 hours. Transportation is going to be a big issue, including funding for electric cars and charging stations. The state is installing charging stations along the highways and in the state parks. There is also going to be a lot of discussion regarding watershed and forest fire cleanup.

Executive Committee – Mike Samson stated that there will be Officer Elections in April. However, Chairman Ray Beck retired from public service on December 31, 2020; therefore, the Executive Committee proposed that Mike Samson serve as Interim Chair until the election and that Chris Nichols move from Treasurer to Interim Vice Chair. The committee further proposed that Keely Ellis be appointed as Interim Treasurer. We also have one vacancy on the board representing Mesa County municipalities. Grady Hazelton made a motion to approve the interim Executive Committee; Tony Bohrer seconded; the motion passed.

Colorado River District Update – Andy Mueller and Zane Kessler

Andy provided a power point presentation that is found as Attachment B to this document.

CCI Update – John Swartout, Executive Director

John shared that COVID restrictions are decreasing. John told about concerns he has with the nationwide Opioid settlement, which includes \$4M for Colorado. He wants to make sure that there is a balance between the rural and urban area regarding payout. He is concerned that the money may be used up by urban populations first. He said he would like to see 70% of the money put in a state-controlled fund. John discussed the COVID payout and said that the new package would send funding directly to the counties and municipalities.

Federal Delegation Updates

Alyssa Logan, with Senator Bennet’s office, mentioned the importance of keeping the BLM headquarters in Western Colorado and the next steps for accomplishing that. She also discussed the Partnership Act and the Outdoor Restoration Fund. She said that they would address watershed and the infrastructure of outdoor recreation on public lands. Alyssa addressed the COVID Relief Bill being considered by Congress and noted that it includes direct funding for Public Health Infrastructure to pay for vaccine distribution and sanitization. Lastly, she discussed the expansion of the child tax credit (\$3,000 each and \$3,600 each for young children). She said that this would cut child poverty in half.

Sarah McCarthy, Western Colorado Regional Director for Senator Hickenlooper, discussed Senator Hickenlooper’s committee assignments and said that he was involved in efforts to keep the BLM headquarters in Colorado. She also said he is involved in a Bipartisan COVID Relief committee. Sarah said they are continuing to develop their staff. Mike Samson said to give his thanks to Sen. Hickenlooper regarding his stand on the Jordan Cove issue.

Administrative Update

Bonnie Petersen provided an Administrative Update on the following topics:

- Bonnie reminded everyone about the weekly Legislative calls on Thursdays at 8:30 am for members only.
- Bonnie discussed Proposition 114 which involves reintroducing wolves to our area by 12/31/23. There is a movement to accelerate the introduction. We have met with concerned parties and sent a CORA request to the governor’s office, DNR and CPW. We have also sent a letter with CCI, the Cattlemen’s Association, Club 20, and the Wool Growers Association asking to be included in the planning process. Bonnie is going to call tomorrow to see where we stand.
- Bonnie said that there are more bills regarding the wolf reintroduction being introduced that we need to monitor. One bill will identify the funding sources for livestock depredation and make sure it is not licensing fees.
- The Spring Born Greenhouse project is moving forward, and the developers are working with Representative Roberts to introduce a bill that will allow them to be deemed a “farm” under

the definition of agriculture even though they use greenhouses to grow their lettuce. This company is expected to create 20-25 jobs at Silt. They plan to produce 3,500 lbs. of lettuce per day. Perry Will is possibly co-sponsoring the bill to address the agricultural definition issue.

Grady Hazelton challenged Chris Nichols to establish Veteran Parking in his community, carrying on the challenge originally issued by Cheryl McDonald at the Dinosaur Visitors Center.

There was a brief discussion of the 30 x 30 project (a call to action to conserve 30% of U.S. land and oceans by 2030). Jeff Comstock said that it should be run through NaCO and that it will cause significant harm by depriving access to forest lands.

New Business: *Next Meeting March 17, 2021, Garfield County Administration Building, Community Room, 195 W. 14th Street, Rifle, CO, 81650*

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm. Mike Samson asked everyone to please stay for the EDD meeting.

Attendance:

Kevin Batchelder, Garfield County
Ray Beck, Moffat County
Tony Bohrer, Moffat County
Bill Carlson, Town of Palisade
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County
Brian Condie, City of Rifle
Cody Davis, Mesa County
Cindy Dozier, Club 20
Tinker Duclo, CMC
Keely Ellis, Town of Rangely
Ty Gates, Rio Blanco County
Grady Hazelton, Town of New Castle
Laura Kay Houser, AGNC
Heather Jones, AAoA
Tyler Kelly, Rifle Reg. EDC
Zane Kessler, CRWCD
Celina Kirnberger, Mesa County WFC
Drew Kramer, Tri-State Energy Co-op
Mike Lane, Delta County
Alyssa Logan, Sen. Bennet's office
Melonie Matarozzo, Town of Collbran

Sarah McCarthy, Sen. Hickenlooper's office
Brad McCloud, Xcel Energy
Gary Moyer, Rio Blanco County
Andy Mueller, CRWCD
Chris Nichols, City of Craig
Matt Nunez, City of Glenwood Springs
Dianna Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Richard Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Ted Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Christina Oxley, CWF
Tiffany Pehl, AGNC
Bonnie Petersen, AGNC
Hogan Peterson, Rep. Boebert's office
Stephanie Reecy, Mesa County
Mike Samson, Garfield County
Paula Stepp, City of Glenwood Springs
Don Suppes, Delta County
John Swartout, CCI
Carly Thomson, Rio Blanco County
Carolyn Tucker, CWF
Jessica Valand, CWF

ATTACHMENT A



Updates from AAA:

- Long-Term Care Ombudsman are now allowed back inside facilities following specific protocols from the State Ombudsman Office. One ombudsman is still waiting to get vaccinated; otherwise, the rest of the ombudsman have been given opportunities for vaccinations.
- The AAA has partnered with GetSetUp to offer free online classes to older adults in the region. We are able to pilot this platform for free for a couple of months.
- The Request for Proposals for new providers and contract renewals are now open from February 12th - March 12th. We held trainings for new providers and current providers on February 12th.
- The AAA finished virtual programmatic assessments of providers mid-December.
- The State Unit of Aging (SUA) completed a desk audit of the AAA. Only one compliance issue was found. I will work with that specific provider to submit a corrective action plan.
 - Legal Services Providers are currently having a desk audit by Disability Law Colorado
- For the month of February AAA contracted providers are sending out Performance Measure Surveys to consumers.

Funding Updates:

- Approximately \$82,398.20 in carryover funds for services
- \$137,244.68 from the last stimulus that was passed in Dec. 2020
- Potential for another \$21 million to come to Colorado from the COVID relief package being considered in the House and the Senate