



MINUTES
AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING
March 15, 2023
9:00 am to 1:30 pm
CNCC, Weiss Conference Room, 500 Kennedy Drive, Rangely CO 81648

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 9:04am. Introductions were made.

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

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the February 2023 financials. She presented the Profit and Loss including \$100K for grants navigator, and she reminded everyone to contact Jeff if assistance is needed for grants. She stated that the EDO grant extended through April to fund Jeff’s position. The Balance Sheet was presented including AAA assets, the NW energy initiative, and associated liabilities. Accounts Receivable was discussed including Lockheed Martin membership for EDD and the Routt County EDD dues. Tiffany reported that the \$14K in dues for Routt County from 2022 was not paid because it was not in the budget, however, they are going to ask their board to pay for 2023 and moving forward. Tiffany stated that the 2022 dues are ultimately the county’s responsibility, but Tiffany suggested that we forgive the 2022 balance so that we can move forward in good faith. Cody Davis said that if they are willing to pay 2023 and continue to pay moving forward, he is good to forgive the 2022 amount. Lisa Piering agreed with Cody and said it’s always better to try to work together. Mike Samson commented that he thinks AGNC has not been treated well by Routt County, he thinks they are financially fluid, and that they should pay the 2022 balance as they previously agreed to do. He suggested the possibility of asking them to pay ½, but he thinks they should pay the entire amount due. Cody said he will reach out to the Routt County commissioners before we make any decisions. Tiffany will let Cody know what the Routt County EDD decides, so that he can then reach out to the commissioners. Tiffany reported on the check register, and pointed out that all the expenses are standard. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Bill Carlson, seconded by Cody Davis, 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 and sh presented the 4 year area plan. Every 4 years they are required to submit a plan on how they are going to provide services in the region. They held community conversations for public input, with 79 attendees and 187 surveys filled out. Ongoing regional needs included advocacy, affordable and accessible housing, behavioral health, caregiver support, information and outreach, in home services and supports, lack of workforce, nutrition programs, and transportation services. New regional needs included grandparents raising grandkids, social and recreational, and technology training. She reviewed the demographic changes expected in the next 4 years. She talked about the homestead funding and COVID funding that they will be losing in the coming years. She reviewed the community assessment survey of older adults in 2022. They received about 11.73% in return rate. The strongest aspects were
PO BOX 593 GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81502 PHONE 970-665-1095 WWW.AGNC.ORG

safety, mobility, and physical health. The greatest needs were housing, mental health, and employment. The focus for the next 4 years will be on maintaining core services, including advocacy, caregiver support, information and outreach about current services, in home and community-based services, nutrition programs, and transportation. If funding allows, they would like to add consumer directed voucher to help pay for mental health copays, expand transportation services, promote free and low cost social and recreational activities, partner with local agencies who work with grandparents raising grandkids, and collaborate with community agencies to help promote technology education. They will also seek out additional grant funding. They will also build equity, inclusion, diversity in the region through targeted outreach, bring contracted long term care ombudsman underneath the umbrella of AAANWCO, and pilot volunteers in the long-term care ombudsman program. Jeff Tripp asked how they plan to handle the influx of older adults into the region. Heather said they will be targeting their services to the low income, rural and isolated older adults. She said that the increase in inflation may affect middle income older adults as well. She said this is why she feels that the federal funding will not be enough, and this is why they will need to seek additional grant funding. Lisa Piering commented that seniors in rural areas don't have access to the services they need. Brian Condie asked if Heather would send the slide presentation to AGNC, so he can present them at his city council meeting. Mike Samson commented that Heather is doing a great job and it's going to get tougher and tougher for her. He asked if she was familiar with Mary Kinion in the Carbondale area, and she said they are aware of their efforts to deliver meals to that area. Mike stated that the Garfield County commissioners received a letter from a member concerned about the requirements to receive those meals, and her concern that meals are being received by people who don't meet these requirements. Heather said that pre-pandemic they did not even have home delivery in that area. Please contact Heather Jones for a copy of the plan.

OEDIT Update – Keely Ellis reported on her role, covering 16 counties in western Colorado. Her role is to serve as a matchmaker for counties communities and small businesses. There are currently 3 major programs they are involved in. These include Roadmaps with \$40K for each community in the program, creating CEDS for Colorado in a top down approach in order to respect the CEDS already in place for the EDDs, and the Rural Technical Assistance program in the amount of \$2500 for each community. She talked about the new CRVEDP and the work they have done together. Keely said they also send out a newsletter that everyone can subscribe to.

DOLA Update – Dana Hlavac reported on the Energy Impact program, the next cycle will be open in July. The READY grants closed yesterday. There are several housing incentive grants that were given out. There are 3 significant housing programs opening up this spring into fall: Prop 123, information can be found at DOLA main site, provides affordable housing funding from the state, and there is a baseline that must be established by Nov 1st to qualify for next 3 years funding; Strong Communities which can go to infrastructure and is accessible to private developers; and Budget preparation help is available from Dana as well. Mike Samson commented about the broadband call with CDOT last week and asked about his involvement in the call. He said thank you for Dana's part in facilitating the call. Dana said that it is important to monitor the program, but they don't anticipate more obstacles.

Broadband update – Corey Bryndal gave a quick review of the project. He shared the map of the network they are trying to build from Denver to GJ to Durango to Walsenburg and back to Denver. They have worked with the communities with building the lateral fiber into the towns. He talked about the conference call that was held. There were 68 participants on the call, with solid support from all the communities. Each connection point along the highway has been agreed to by CDOT, after 14 months of working on this. The projects can now move forward. Each community can proceed with construction and expect each construction team to meet with CDOT to discuss construction detail. Permits will be issued through CDOT Region 3 Transportation office. He said to stay in touch with your DOLA regional manager, Dana Hlavac. Region 10 will continue to assist and will update AGNC once we have a signed IGA and signed lease agreement. Mike Samson gave a big thank you to Corey and Dana for all their work to get to this point, as well as Cody Davis and his op ed and the letters that were sent from the region to bring all this to fruition. Cody commented that he is very thankful to Corey and Region 10 and all the support they have given us, and he is ready to build some fiber. Bill Carlson said thank you from the town of Palisade, they have signed their agreement with the fiber company to begin work. Mike commented that we are all ready to move forward.

CDLE Workforce Update – Carolyn Tucker reported and she is the regional services coordinator for the rural resort area. Carolyn reported on those things affecting the workforce including increased retirements, decreased birth rates, aging population, population growth continues, but slower, future growth concentrated in metro areas, and Colorado is no longer as competitive as in the past. She spoke about stresses on the workforce including housing prices, childcare, transportation, job choices, skills deficit, inflation and the “great reckoning” which means a change in thoughts about what people are looking for. She spoke about the women in the workforce and the decline taking place. She spoke about the great resignation in November of 2021, but most went to work somewhere else. She talked about the unemployment rates in the AGNC region, which are now very similar to pre-pandemic rates. She spoke about the number of job openings versus a low unemployment rate, and that we don’t have the skilled labor to fill those jobs, which is called the talent deficit. She talked about the community initiatives and activities including just transition efforts, newsletters, housing coalition and housing summits, economic development efforts, childcare working groups, career exploration programs, and webinars to the business community. Workforce services include OJT and paid interns, apprenticeships, labor market information, recruitment assistance and upskilling tools. She also spoke about the Opportunity now Grant, with the second-round letters of intent to open in July of 2023. It provides \$85M in grant funds and can be found here: <https://opportunitynow.co>. Cody Davis asked about the contact for Mesa County Workforce Center, and if there is any interplay with the Colorado Workforce. Carolyn said the funding is primarily from the county, but that CDLE does collaborate with them.

Colorado Welcome Center Update - Cheryl McDonald gave an update and said the center was closed for the winter and reopened on March 1st. The weekends are the busier days, but the weather has slowed things down some. She said that spring break usually increases their visits. She said to email her with any community events, and she can put them on their sign board. She said that the DOW will collaborate with the welcome center to run 2 inspections for the aquatic inspections to boats to prevent the mussels species transfer.

Gail Schwartz with Habitat for Humanity presented via zoom PowerPoint. She spoke about the regional housing crisis. She spoke about the efforts in Basalt and net zero homes being built there. She talked about the homes in Wapiti Commons in Rifle, including designs for older adults. She shared the map with 60 homes built, 40 homes under construction, and many more coming. Habitat has grown and includes the ReStore and financing availability. The homes in Rifle utilize a panel system which helps them to be built faster. They have two more parcels in Glenwood Springs for home building as well. She spoke about the important aspect of a family owning a home where their children can grow up with stability. She presented the Zero Energy Modular Plant that is being planned in Rifle. This would be a modular plant to build deed restricted homes. The facility would be 40-50K square feet. The startup cost is \$2.1M dollars with \$1.755M for equipment and \$345K for facility improvements. It would be cold form steel production from recycled cars. It would provide western slope distribution to communities in need. It would provide an education partnership opportunity to expand the trained workforce. It would create jobs in western Garfield County communities. She said they would not compete with EcoDwellings, because they don’t provide multi story dwellings. She said that their board is working hard to make the dream of home ownership come true. Mike Samson commented that Garfield County was involved in the Wapiti Commons and gave money to acquire homes for county employees. Gail said that these types of partnerships help to fill the gap needed to find housing for local residents. Tiffany Dickenson commented how the process works with the cold formed steels from recycled cars. Gail commented that the job training on this technology is an incredible opportunity. Peter Brixius asked if Prop 123 could help with payment assistance. Gail said they use USDA loans with interest rates around 4%. She said there are other loan options available through the state as well. Gail spoke about the efficiency of the homes and the net zero aspect making things affordable as well.

JOLT – Ray Beck presented on the Northwest Colorado Energy Summit. Ray talked about a group that has come together call Just Organizations Leading Transition, to be the voice of impacted communities. They decided to organize the energy summit. Agenda will include David Bernhardt, Melisa Simpson and many others including Christine King with GAIN. He said the ten top tax generators in Moffat County are energy related. This will mean a large loss of revenue. They have now expanded to a day and ½ event on Friday and Saturday. There will be a tour of the Craig power plant on Friday night. The physical agent will be the Northpark Arts Council. They are putting together an invitation list, and the registration will be \$25. It will take place June 2nd and 3rd at the Quality Inn in

Craig, Colorado. It will be a non-partisan, non-political summit to focus on all sources of energy as fossil fuels get shut down. Mike Samson asked when Christine King is on the agenda. Ray said she will be on Friday at 10am. Ray said they must finalize the agenda and then they will send it out. Mike asked when David Bernhardt will speak. Rays said at 4:15pm on Friday. Brad McCloud with Xcel said they appreciate all the work Ray has put into this.

Roundtable Member Reports –

Brian Condie with the City of Rifle reported on need for affordable housing and 40 new homes being built. The county airport is growing. The Aspen Institute is putting out a survey, mostly to inform the communities about the economic impacts of the airport. Some of these impacts include limousine service and catering. He spoke about supporting the CNCC flight program, as well. The airport development guide was approved by the county. Mike Samson commented that they are also building large hangars.

Lisa Jones, President with CNCC said welcome always. She said thank you for supporting their flight programs. She commented on the training program for the pilots and how excellent it is. She talked about teaching their students about being successful keeping track of all modern technology, while not being dependent on it. They have received a \$1.9M grant to improve technology for their students. She apologized for the technology issues today, and said she is hopeful that there will not be any more issues for the meeting. Tiffany Dickenson asked Lisa to meet with Jeff Tripp to talk about the EDA grant application for the flight program. She said that Keely Ellis is a great resource, also.

Doug Overton with Rio Blanco County spoke about being new and getting his feet under him. He talked about their airport, utilizing prop 123, and attending a lot of meetings.

Cody Davis with Mesa County spoke about broadband, and 4 points of connection that have been solved. He talked about Clifton and the lack of infrastructure, and the needs for that population. He said they are looking at CHIPS funding as well.

Lisa Piering with the Town of Rangely said they are working on housing, capital projects including the sewer plant, collaborating with Dinosaur on gas and fiber. She said they are trying to connect more with Rio Blanco County and collaborate more with them. Lisa Jones said that in terms of housing she would like to see more collaboration and that there is a template with the attorney general's office for asbestos issues. Funding is available for mitigating and to get the homes back on the market. Lisa Piering said the snow this year has been very challenging for them.

Mike Samson with Garfield County said he had just two words: guns and wolves.

Bill Carlson from Palisade talked about finishing their comprehensive plan, and they have a projected date for the community hospital clinic to open at the end of May. He talked about some capital improvement projects, including connecting with the Clifton sewer district. He also said they are looking at a roundabout on Alberta and Hwy 6.

Larry Elarton with the Town of Dinosaur reported they are working on a natural gas project. KLG engineering is doing a feasibility study, and they got funding with the help of Dana at DOLA. They are working on water and sewer projects. They also brought back Bedrock Days and it worked well. Mike Samson asked what their population is, and they said it is about 400. They don't have very many vacancies. Their property values have increased, and both motels have sold and are being renovated. They have seen a lot of out of state people move in to take advantage of the tourism.

Jeannie Caldwell from Rangely said they are working on their comprehensive plan; they just launched their new tourism website and are working on marketing. The OHV adventure rally is coming up in April. They just hired a new chamber director. They will have a podcast up and running in about 3 weeks. Sunrise Park will open this year for older individuals, with a lot of exercise equipment that was funded through CDOT. They are raising funds for a mural. Bill Carlson asked about the Silo and Jeannie said that www.tanksounds.org is their website.

Cheryl McDonald from the Colorado Welcome Center commented that she appreciates the collaboration, and she is happy to advertise any tourism activities. She said they get great support from the town of Rangely, who is their fiscal agent.

Jeff Tripp AGNC reported on the work around housing. They met with Rep Velasco regarding supporting the Parachute Inn and a grant submission. He is still working on the Pioneers Medical Assisted Living project, and they are looking to fund a feasibility study. He said he is also working with the Rifle Airport and the economic development there. He is continuing to work on funding for Habitat for Humanity's project in Rifle.

Lisa Jones with CNCC talked about the 1350 Opportunity Grant. CNCC is partnering with Valley View to develop apprenticeship programs in phlebotomy, patient care tech, and medical assistant. They have submitted a full-scale application with Valley View for this grant. They are also looking at developing curriculum for Molten Salt Energy and can market this program nationwide. She said the last one is on construction management and remediation for multi and single-family properties. All these have been approved. They are also looking at radiologic technician and respiratory therapy programs and are hopeful to get this funding as well. If anyone knows anyone interested in partnering with these programs, please let her know.

Federal Delegate Update –

Janeth Stangle with Sen. Hickenlooper gave updates with water bills. She said they are aware of the drought conditions in western Colorado. She said that the Bureau of Reclamation mandated conservation, and that Sen. Hickenlooper has convened western senators around the Colorado river to continue conversations around solutions to the water situation in the west. They would like state stakeholders to comment with any questions or concerns. She spoke about the Farm Bill and giving feedback to that, as well. There is funding for the forest fire reclamation. The EPA recently released all the grants available through the infrastructure law.

Hilary Henry with Sen. Bennet reported and said thank you for applications for the congressionally directed spending and they are working to get projects funded. She said it was good to hear the funding for the regional grant navigator came through. She asked that the communities reach out if they are still experiencing mail service delays. She gave an update on the Farm Bill and they are continuing to work on feedback, so please reach out if you have anything to comment about. They are focusing on forestry and drought. They have committee hearings coming up and they will send information to AGNC to share on those meetings. She said they are working hard to find funding for wildfire reclamation and prevention, including a fire recovery bill they will be introducing. They are working on a bill for the Dolores River, with bipartisan support for a national conservation area and forest management area.

Administrative Update – Tiffany Dickenson presented our 2-page ad in the Colorado Business Magazine. She said AGNC is working with CRVEDP to help them to do a grant application for a feasibility study, due by the end of the month. They brought in CNCC as partners into the CRVEDP so they could grow the flight program at CNCC and not take away from all the wonderful things they are doing, but they are not looking at starting a new flight program elsewhere. Tiffany said they are looking at applying for a grant for a community engagement study for the NW Energy Initiative. Tiffany said thank you to everyone that got involved in the broadband issue, and that is why AGNC exists, to offer a platform for concerns and a way to collaborate to solve these issues. She stated that we have been partnering with Habitat for Humanity to assist in their projects. They have one contribution project and are applying for 2 more contribution projects. They are also looking for additional grant funding for their projects. She pointed out that next month will be when the IJA and IRA funding will start to drop, so please pay attention, and let us know how we can help with grant funding applications. Tiffany attended the GEMM2 meeting, and she doesn't think anything has changed significantly enough to stop monitoring these rules. She said this is still a fluid rule making issue and there is another meeting on March 21st. Doug Overton talked about Natural Soda and how they are the most efficient in emissions out there. If this is shut down due to the GEMM2, this will move to other facilities outside the state with much worse emissions. Mike Samson reported on the Wolves meeting in GJ last

night. He emphasized the importance of the 10J rule, and the need for it to remain in place. It makes the wolves an experimental population and gives the right to landowners to remove the wolf by lethal means to protect your property. Tiffany reminded everyone about the legislative call on Thursday morning including information about the gun laws that passed, and possible upcoming wolf laws.

Cody Davis talked about the Western States and Tribal Nations group working on exportation of natural gas. Cody said they have requested support for a representative from the western slope on this group. There is a person from WSCOGA interested, but they live in Denver. He is the VP of Caerus. Mike Samson said the counties that are part of the group are Moffat, Rio Blanco, Garfield and Mesa Counties. He would like to see Chelsie Miera take the position, since she is on the western slope. Lisa Piering asked how the state of Colorado’s stance on getting rid of oil and gas will affect this pipeline initiative. Lisa Jones talked about how we need to educate people on the need for these resources. Cody stated that it is more neutral due to the exportation aspect of it. Cody said he will ask for Chelsie Miera to be the local representative. Cody stated that Kathy Hall’s position on the CDOT board will be up in 2 or 3 months, so we should start looking at someone that can take that position, as well.

New Business – Mike Samson said we will be electing a new chairman of AGNC, as well as vice chair and treasurer at our next meeting on April 19th in Rifle.

Next meeting March 15, 2023, CNCC Weiss Conference Room, 500 Kennedy Drive, Rangely, CO 81648

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Brian Condie	Ray Beck
Bill Carlson	AGNC – Tiffany Dickenson
Jennifer O’Hearon	Heather Jones – Region 11 AAA
Doug Overton	Carolyn Tucker – CDLE
Cody Davis	Sarah Carlisle – Tri-State
Lisa Piering	Hilary Henry – Sen Bennet
Tiffany Dickenson	Janeth Stancle (Sen. Hickenlooper)
Mike Samson	Shannon Vassen
Dana Hlavac	Brad McCloud
Larry Elarton	Corey Bryndal
Richard Blakely	Margie Joy CHFA – Colorado
Jeannie Caldwell	Melonie Matarozzo
Kelly Ellis	Peter Brixius
Cheryl McDonald	Karla
Toni Barrett	1-970-826-2023 – City of Craig
Jeff Tripp	Gail Schwartz
Lisa Jones	1-970-738-8020 – Norwood, CO