



MINUTES
AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING
April 19, 2023
9:00 am to 1:30 pm
Garfield County Admin Bldg, 2nd Floor Meeting Room,
195 W. 14th 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 9:05am. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes – Cody Davis made a motion to approve the March 15, 2023, meeting minutes; Chris Nichols seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the March 2023 financials. She presented the Profit and Loss including EDD dues and interest income, and marketing expenses including working on a new EDD logo. Doug Overton asked about the contra expenses and Tiffany explained how those work regarding the grant income. The Balance Sheet was presented including AAA and the AGNC savings account balance. Accounts Receivable was discussed including the billing for contribution project fees. There is an outstanding balance from Central City that we are working with them on. Cody Davis spoke with Routt County about their outstanding balance and reducing it to \$7K and they hope to get that settled. 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 Chris Nichols, seconded by Cody Davis; the motion passed unanimously.

Project and Committee Reports:

Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of AAA efforts Heather reported that she has stepped down as ombudsman since a new person has been fully trained and certified, negating the conflict of interest. She said the area plan has been submitted and they have not received any feedback stating that there are any conflicts. The grant review committee met and is working to reduce the requests to match the funding available. She has been working to gather data results and entering them into the state’s google form. The providers need a 90% good or excellent rating for the contracted services. AAA was selected by the CDHS for an ARPA audit. They provided the needed financial documentation for the audit and feel good about how it went. AAA and Alzheimer’s Association held a meeting in Glenwood Springs for support groups. They also did a presentation with AARP Western Region. AAA will be posting an RFP for some ARPA funding, which will need to be spent by next September. AAA has been hosting a Virtual Senior Law Day and the flyer was presented. Legislative bills of interest were talked about including SB23-01, SB213-040, SB23-058 and SB23-064. Cody asked how guardianship currently works, in regard to SB23-064. Heather explained that there are no resources for guardianships in many counties, and funding is provided by the counties on a county-by-county basis. This bill would require these services statewide. Heather also explained what services are provided in guardianships. Mike asked about the term “ward of the state” and how this is different from guardianships. Heather said that the counties have some adult protection that is run through the judicial system. Heather said there is a big gap that needs to be

filled. She said that this is a controversial bill because of the cost. She said she will follow up to see which counties in the region take guardianships. The details of these bills can be seen in Heather's report, attached as Appendix A. Betsy Bair said she has heard good things about the AAA and said, "well done" to Heather for her work.

CDLE Workforce Update – Chris Oxley spoke about some changes to their website, which is separate from the state's website. She stated that they worked to provide something that would serve the local community. She talked about the workforce area economic indicators, available on the website. The county economic indicators are specific for each county within the region. This report is updated about quarterly and is good information to support grant writing. She said there is demographic, industry and occupation information that is set up as widgets, so the information is always updated. She said if anyone has any questions, please reach out to her. She said the economy is doing okay, however, the workforce is in shortage. She said there is funding available for apprenticeships, and they are focusing on how employers can work at upscaling workers. You can find the website here:

<https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/nwcoworkforce/home?authuser=0>

CHFA Update – Margie Joy reported that opening on May 1st will be their grant applications for Direct Effect grants, with the deadline to apply being May 31st. She said if anyone is interested in a grant, she would like people to call her directly so that she can help them to be as successful as possible. CHFA can also support housing needs studies. She spoke about the NW Colorado Economic Development Council and the housing summit on May 3rd at CNCC in Craig. All the local governments, major employers and others are invited. Margie will send the information to Tiffany so we can share it with everyone.

House Bill 1294 Pollution Protection Measures – Mike Samson talked about the opposition to this bill. AGNC is officially opposed to this bill now. Mike spoke about his opposition to the bill and asked for comments. He stated that the Orfs will be testifying against it tomorrow. Ray Beck commented on SB213 and his opposition for this bill. AGNC is also opposed to this bill.

Election of AGNC Executive Committee – Mike Samson said he is ready to take more of a back seat and will be stepping down as Chairman. Therefore, he asked for the nomination of a new AGNC Chairman for the next 2 years. Chris Nichols nominated Cody Davis for AGNC Chairman, Grady Hazelton seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. A motion to elect Cody Davis as AGNC Chairman was made by Jeff Comstock, seconded by Bill Carlson; the motion passed unanimously. Cody Davis commented and thanked Mike Samson for all his service. Mike said that it's been a pleasure and he will continue to stay active in the organization. A nomination for AGNC Vice Chairman was requested and Jeff Comstock nominated Chris Nichols to remain as Vice Chairman, and Cody Davis seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. A motion was made by Doug Overton to elect Chris Nichols as AGNC Vice Chairman, Bill Carlson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. A nomination for Treasurer was requested and Jeff Comstock nominated Bill Carlson to be AGNC Treasurer, and Cody Davis seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made. A motion to elect Bill Carlson as AGNC Treasurer was made by Chris Nichols, Cody Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Bill Carlson commented on how much he has learned and looks forward to serving as the Treasurer.

Cody Davis, newly elected AGNC Chairman, took over as chair of the board meeting at 10:05am.

Roundtable Member Reports –

Cody Davis with Mesa County reported that they are building town halls in all the smaller communities. He said that building costs have gone up, but they are going forward.

Grady Hazelton with New Castle reported that they have developments in several stages, and are working on getting units set aside for town employees, first responders, etc. He said that some of the challenges include staffing the police department; there is one cadet in the academy, and now it's more likely that you must hire new recruits before they attend the academy. Dave Reynolds, town manager of New Castle, commented on the need for police officers. He also spoke about the housing issues they are facing, and they have been able to work with developers to address

these issues, thus far. He stated that they have made agreements with developers to have rental properties go to the city for first right of refusal at a discounted rate.

Jeff Comstock with Moffat County reported that they have a new courthouse in the Kmart building, which opened last Monday, April 17, and includes many offices for the county. He said it was a \$24M project, which is about half the cost of building a new building. He said the county is working to get augmented water rights after the state over appropriated the Yampa River. He spoke about their commitment to the wolf process and the best possible plan for implementation, including the 10J rule. He also reminded everyone about the energy summit coming up on June 2 and 3 in Craig.

Chris Nichols with Craig reported that grant funding has been received for the Whitewater Park. He said they are also working on a 20-acre solar project with 6 local communities. He said that a 20-unit housing project is seeking grant funding with 1st priority to the school district and hospital, and this will be the first project of the housing authority. He stated that the Urban Renewal Authority's first project is under construction. He stated that the police force is 100% staffed with the last 2 cadets completing their training. He said they are providing incentives including funding weapons, uniforms, etc. for new officers, which were previously required to be purchased by the new hires with their own money.

Mike Samson with Garfield County reported that an energy symposium was held with almost 300 participants, and they had to turn people away. He said there were many good presentations from public and private industries and a post attendee survey said 93% were extremely satisfied. He thanked Janeth Stangle for her email and to tell Sen Hickenlooper thank you for his support on the 10J rule for wolves. He commented that food prices continue to rise, as with everything, and people on fixed incomes are suffering for it. He stated that benefits have recently been cut for many on SNAP. He commented that they have seen an increase in requests for services as a result. He reported that the Rifle airport just approved a new company called Dark Horse for construction of new hangars.

Bill Carlson with Palisade reported that he attended the Colorado River district meeting on April 12 and that they are going to remodel the roller dam in DeBeque Canyon. He said the Palisade police force is now 100% staffed, and they just purchased two electric bikes for the police force which will help them patrol the various festivals and farmer's market. He said they also purchased car barriers for these functions as well to help control traffic and for safety reasons. He said they purchased an ATV for the fire department, and backpacks for paramedics, also for the festivals. He said that in total they spend \$250K on these purchases. He reported that they just started the middle mile and are going to start the final mile for completion of their broadband. He said they are also opening the Community Hospital clinic in May. He also spoke about the upgrades to the local gym.

Doug Overton with Rio Blanco County reported that he enjoyed the Garfield County energy symposium. He said that they are working on the Wolf Creek Dam and supporting the project. He said they have housing projects, and a solar project just south of Meeker. He also stated that they are doing all they can to support the 10J rule.

Tinker Duclou with CMC reported that they are training the local workforce, including teachers and healthcare, and that they continue to be ready for new economic development.

Just Transition Fund – Heidi Binko and Natalie Roper presented about their organization, which is not the Office of Just Transition, but a separate organization. The Just Transition Fund was started in 2015, working with coal communities effected by closures to access funding. They have three working points: access federal funds, advocate for state and federal policy grantmaking, convene peer to peer learning exchanges. They serve organizations supporting economic transition in any coal affected community regardless of state. Heidi presented the Federal Access Center, a one stop resource hub that provides both grants and technical assistance to help coal communities secure public funding for local economic solutions. She talked about the IWG rapid response teams in the regions. They are working closely with these response teams. Their services include application ready support including grants of up to \$100K and technical assistance, early-stage support includes grants of up to \$150K and deep technical assistance and informing and coordinating with federal agencies. She spoke about eligibility and process.

The process is on a 6-8 week rolling basis, with the ability for them to fast track as needed. The steps include: submit inquiry, introductory call, submit application, and receive decision. Eligibility now includes local governments. Early-stage support process is similar but will take place once a year, and this year the inquiry must be submitted by May 31st. This group is designed for those with little grant experience, but who want to be grant-ready. The current federal program priorities include community economic and workforce development, and broadband infrastructure. To date they have helped communities leverage \$393M in funding. They have partnered with AGNC to bring these services to our region. Their website is www.justtransitionfund.org. Chris Nichols said that he participated in the IWG call and had not heard of the JTF before this call. He asked about the rapid response teams and how to get set up with them. Heidi said that she would like him connected with her staff to assist with this in the future. She encouraged anyone to reach out and they are happy to provide assistance. They are funded philanthropically. She encouraged everyone to fill out the interest form on the website and said that is the best way to connect with them. Tiffany Dickenson asked them to send her all the information so that AGNC can send it out to our members. Jeff Comstock asked about the many organizations that are working to get access to these funds and stated his concern about competing entities providing assistance for all these funds. Heidi commented that they have been around for a long time and coordinate as much as possible with other groups. They are also unique because they give true grants to go after federal funding opportunities. Jeff Comstock asked if there is funding from JTF to match federal grants. Heidi said that that is correct, and they have many experts that can help navigate these grants including technical assistance and matching funds. She commented that there is so much funding available at the federal level and they would like people to think big and use them as a resource.

CRVEDP/Aspen Institute, Evan Zislis, Director of Community Engagement for the region with the Aspen Institute, presented on the CRVEDP. He stated that the Aspen Institute was created right after WWII. He has been working in the Roaring Fork Valley from Aspen to Parachute and learned that people want jobs closer to home, housing stability across the region, social and emotional resilience, and disaster prep and response. He talked about the CRVEDP and their website: www.crvedp.org. The organization was created to support economic development throughout the region. He said that the Rifle Airport may be western Garfield County's best asset. He said that they would like to attract investors and existing assets into further development of the airport and air industry. He said that the Garfield County commissioners asked them to get feedback from the community. He spoke about the different industries that could be of interest including professional rescuer training, tourism and civilian applications, equipment manufacturing and renewable propulsion research and development, and long-term community development. He spoke about the challenges to infrastructure, housing, changes to community values, etc. He said that if we can be clear about what this development looks like in our community, we can have more of a say in the outcome. He said the best way to do that at this point is to take the Regional Feasibility Study survey and asked that we fill it out for community feedback. He asked for those online to send him the survey. The link to the survey is found here: https://www.crvedp.org/files/ugd/970b0d_7b895c1db96a4f82aa66f5176c13e2ae.pdf. Mike Samson commented that he is in favor of seeing the economic development of the Rifle Airport. Evan spoke about the Regional Feasibility Study partners, including AGNC. Tiffany Dickenson spoke about AGNC working with the CRVEDP and applying for a \$100K grant from OREC. She asked for permission from the board for AGNC to support CRVEDP moving forward, including assisting with board development and grant requests. Evan asked if there were any concerns with the effort and support from AGNC. The discussion was that AGNC should support the CRVEDP in these efforts. Chris Nichols commented that it could be expanded to the entire Northwest region, he also said that Tiffany needs to be careful to not let this effort tax AGNC's capacity. Tinker Duclou spoke about the capacity restrictions from local leaders, and that Evan has been able to pull many people together, but that our next big step should be to find someone to fill this role as executive director of CRVEDP.

Federal Delegate Update –

Janeth Stancle with Sen. Hickenlooper reported that the Senator submitted public comment to fish and wildlife asking to uphold the 10J rule. The comment was shared with the AGNC membership via email earlier this week. The Senator was in southern Colorado as well as Mesa County holding conversations around water. CDS applications are being received and reviewed. She said that the Town of New Castle asked for a water conservation

project, and Silt requested for water plant renovations. Those projects are moving forward in the process and decisions will be made later in the summer.

Hilary Henry with Sen. Bennet reported on farm bill updates including a hearing held about forestry in the farm bill and meeting the needs of a warmer climate. They heard that small producers are having a hard time making USDA programs work. The Senator is focused on negotiations around the Colorado river and protecting the upper basin's water rights, as well as conservation and restoration efforts. He is continuing to work to find ways to get the infrastructure law working in the state. She also spoke about the IRA and clean energy funding for northwest Colorado.

McKenna Farley with Rep. Boebert reported that HR1 passed the house with bipartisan report, including some protections to current oil and gas drilling, and support of the Jordan Cove pipeline. The bill has now gone to the senate. The Congresswoman attended US Fish and Wildlife meetings and submitted comments supporting the 10J rule and NEPA process. She is active in committee hearings including the trust the science act, drought along the Colorado river and to protect the upper basin states, budget oversight hearings, and the withdrawal in Afghanistan. Mike Samson asked about the Jordan Cove amendment to HR1, and will it pull Jordan Cove back into a possibility. McKenna said she can get him in touch with the legislative director for Rep. Boebert who can give him more information.

Bill Carlson commented to all three representatives about changes to the IRS code from the IRA. He said that they need to stop passing bills that are changing tax codes all the time. Hilary Henry commented that they understand the frustrations around the changing tax codes, particularly around TABOR this year.

Ray Beck congratulated the new AGNC board, and thanked Mike Samson for his service on the board. He talked about Evan Zislis's presentation and commented on aerospace and the opportunities for northwest Colorado. He gave some statistics on how aerospace has positively impacted the economics of the state of Colorado. He commented that most of this impact has been east of the divide, but there are opportunities to bring the impact west of the divide.

Administrative Update – Tiffany Dickenson read an email from Natural Soda with an update on the GEMM2 Rule making. The rule will be released in May and Tiffany continues to monitor the process. She reported on a meeting with the state CEDS. They asked for feedback from the COGS and she brought up the Natural Soda issue with the GEMM2 Rule at the meeting. She talked about Jeff Tripp's contract expiring and that he is moving on, we are seeking a full-time permanent job position for an ED Coordinator. July 19 is a regional summit for IJIA and IRA put on by the state of Colorado, which is already on the calendar for an AGNC board meeting in Craig. This will now take the place of the board meeting. We will need to find a space large enough for this meeting to take place, most likely in Grand Junction. She asked for help finding a space for this meeting. She talked about tech hubs and that it is an EDA opportunity and to let her know if there is interest from the local communities. She said that we are looking at designing a new AGNC EDD logo to differentiate the EDD from AGNC and separate the work focus of the different groups. We will be working with our graphic designer on the new logo.

Jeff Comstock commented on the great work that Jeff Tripp has done and gave him best wishes. Others also commented that they will miss him and all the good work that he has done. Jeff commented on the bureaucracy and how taxing that is on economic development in the region.

New Business –

Next meeting May 24, 2023, Garfield County Admin Bldg, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 195 W. 14th St, Rifle, CO 81650

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Tiffany Dickenson	Caitlin Carey
Jeff Tripp	Ray Beck
Toni Barrett	Lisa Piering
Bill Carlson	Bobbie Daniel
Mike Samson	Ron Winterton
Doug Overton	Sarah Carlisle
Heather Jones	Janeth Stancle
Tinker Duclo	Crystal Mariscal
Margie Joy	Betsy Bair
Cody Davis	Dana Hlavac
Jeff Comstock	Jeannie Caldwell
Heather Jones	Christina Oxley
Dave Reynolds	Keely Ellis
Evan Zislis	Jeff Layman
	Kirby Wynn
	McKenna Farley
	Natalie Roper
	Heidi Binko
	Hilary Henry
	970-783-8020

APPENDIX A



Updates from AAA 04/19/2023:

- At the beginning of March, I did step down from being a Long-Term Care Ombudsman.
- The AAA submitted the four-year area plan to the State Unit on Aging (SUA) 3/15/2023.
- The AAA grant review committee met 3/30/2023, 4/6/2023, and will meet again the last week of April to discuss the requests for proposals and contract renewals. For SFY24 the AAA received \$3.3 million in requests for funding, but there is only \$2.5 million available.
- At the end of March, the AAA received performance measure surveys from providers that were given out to participants in February. I am working on entering the data into the SUA's Google forms. I hope to have a summary of the results by May or June. The AAA and the SUA look for a 90% rating of either "good" or "excellent" in the provider contracted services.
- The AAA was selected by the Colorado Department of Human Services for an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) audit.
- The AAA and the Alzheimer's Association held a Community Forum at the Glenwood Springs Library April 17, 2023.
- The AAA did a presentation for the AARP Western Region on 4/5/2023.
- The AAA will be posting a Request for Proposals on some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Health (PH) funding (\$102,193) to expand the Public Health Workforce within the Aging Network. The funds will need to be spent by 09/30/2024.
- Colorado Legal Services, AAA NW Colorado and Region 10 AAA are hosting a Virtual Senior Law Day (flyer attached).

Legislative:

- **SB23-031:** The bill creates the Colorado multidisciplinary health-care provider access training program (Through Colorado Anschutz Medical) to improve the health care of medically complex, costly, compromised, and vulnerable older Coloradans.
- **SB23-040:** The bill would require staffing agencies to perform Colorado Adult Protection Services (CAPS) check when providing employees who will work with at-risk adults.
- **SB23-058:** The bill prohibits employers from inquiring about a prospective employee's age, date of birth, and dates of attendance at or date of graduation from an educational institution on an employment application.
- **SB23-064:** Under existing law, the office of public guardianship is authorized to serve indigent and incapacitated adults in need of guardianship in 3 judicial districts and is scheduled to repeal on June 30, 2024. The bill extends the office indefinitely and requires the office to operate in every judicial district in the state by December 31, 2027.