



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS  
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

**AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING**

**April 21, 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 9:10 am. Mike introduced himself and asked everyone in the room and on the Zoom call to do the same. AGNC Administrative personnel, Tiffany Pehl and Laura Kay Houser, were recognized and thanked for the great job that they do.

Brian Condie will serve as alternate board member representing Garfield County municipalities. Jeff Comstock will serve as alternate board member representing Moffat County.

**Approval of Minutes** – Keely Ellis made a motion to approve the March minutes. Brian Condie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Financial report:** Mike Samson began by saying how invaluable AGNC is for Northwest Colorado. He mentioned that Routt County is requesting a realignment so that they can join Region 12, who they believe they are more closely aligned with. He said that Delta, Montrose, and Grand Counties are Associate Members. He said that he has watched AGNC come through some tough times, and it is now in the best financial situation it has been in since he became involved 12 ½ years ago. He further stated that AGNC is a formidable organization. He said that the legislature knows AGNC and what we stand for.

Bonnie Petersen provided an overview of the financials for March. Income for March was \$110,122.53, ahead of the budget for the month. YTD revenue exceeds budget. We invoiced entities, such as the EDA, for grants in excess of \$100,000. Expenses for the month were \$50,304.68 which was right on budget. Net income is ahead of budget.

Chis Nichols moved to approve the financial report; Jeff Comstock seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**Project and Committee Reports:**

AAoA - Heather Jones

Heather provided an update that is found as Attachment A to this document. Heather gave an overview of AAoA services in our region. She said they exceeded the standard of 90% of positive responses on a survey of service providers. The survey indicated that they need to do more outreach, so she is working on rebranding and modernizing. She is hoping to have a new logo and is putting together a Facebook page that will link current providers. She is also putting together a new brochure to advertise their services. She has received funding due to COVID and is concerned that there is going to be a future funding cliff when COVID funds stop coming. Heather announced a Virtual Senior Law Series and distributed flyers about the event. She said they received some of the federal stimulus funds in December and anticipate another \$1 million. She will have until September 30, 2022, to spend the money. Heather

explained that she has \$82,000 carryover funds and distributed a budget specifying how she intends to spend the money.

Chris Nichols asked about the impact to our region if Routt County moves AAOA services to Region 12. Heather said that about \$279,000 will go to Region 12 which will leave approximately \$75,000 to be shared across the 4 other counties in our region. Heather explained that Routt County was originally in Region 12 and moved to Region 11 in 1998. Chris made a motion to approve Heather's budget for fund distribution; Jeff Comstock seconded the motion; the motion passed.

#### Chairman Update/Officer Elections

Treasurer: Mike Samson asked for nominations for Treasurer. Chris Nichols nominated Keely Ellis for Treasurer Jeff Comstock seconded the nomination. Chris moved that nominations cease, and that Keely be elected by acclamation. Jeff Comstock seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Vice Chair: Mike Samson asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Jeff Comstock nominated Chris Nichols. Keely Ellis seconded the nomination. Jeff Comstock made a motion that nominations cease, and Chris be elected by acclamation. Keely seconded. The motion passed.

Chair: Jeff Comstock nominated Mike Samson for Chairman. Keely Ellis seconded. Chris Nichols moved to close the nominations and that Mike be elected by acclamation. Jeff Comstock seconded. The motion passed.

#### Legislative Update – Orf & Orf

Dianna Orf reported that it had been quiet at the legislature because of the work on the budget. The budget was adopted with an emphasis on wildfire recovery and watersheds. Some bills that have been anticipated have not been introduced: Just Transition funding, transportation bill, worker's rights bill, bill transporting animals for entertainment. SB-200, accelerating reduction of greenhouse gases, passed but a number of amendments are being considered.

#### **Colorado Attorney General – Phil Weiser**

The Attorney General shared his concern about the Opioid Crisis and said it is a statewide issue. He wants to see regional patient treatment centers established and wants each region to set their own course. He believes that this will be a good use for pandemic recovery funds. He would like to see transportation services added so patients do not have to struggle to get to treatment. The AG is concerned about water rights and what is best for all of Colorado. He also brought attention to Just Transition and wants to pull resources together to be strategic and effective. He would like to see all communities get as much money as possible. He said the American Rescue Plan is the largest interment that local governments will see in their lifetime. He said there will never be a better chance to make transformational investments and he wants to support communities as they move forward.

#### **Census Apportionment Count Info Resources and Census Data Training – Brian Meinhart, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census**

Brian provided a presentation regarding data tools available through the Census Bureau. He said that he would be happy to schedule individual meetings with anyone who is interested in learning more about Census data. There are also online training tools and webinars for interested users. A useful link is <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts>. The final numbers for the 2020 Census are not published yet. There was a delay because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Colorado Congressional Redistricting Process – Former Colorado Senator Greg Brophy**

Senator Brophy discussed the Redistricting Process. Based on the ballot measures passed two years ago, Reapportionment Commissions have been appointed to do Congressional and State redistricting. We are supposed to have equal population in each Congressional district. State Senate and House seats can have up to a 2.5% variance. The intent is to preserve communities of interest and political subdivisions. They want public input, and it can be submitted on their website. Commissions will have 21 public hearings. It is important to advocate that the Western Slope is a community of interest, including Jackson and Grand Counties. All of the decisions must be made by December 15 and precincts lined up by January 19.

AGNC presented a Redistricting Resolution to the group following Senator Brophy's presentation. Chris Nichols made a motion to adopt the Redistricting Resolution. Keely Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **CHFA Update – Margie Joy, Northwest Colorado CHFA Representative**

Margie Joy introduced herself as the new face at CHFA in Northwest Colorado. She said CHFA was established through the State Legislature but is not a state agency. CHFA distributes capital investments in Colorado. They bridge the gap when potential new homeowners cannot get a loan. They also finance multi-family units and low-income housing. They are trying to provide more assistance in rural areas.

## **Federal Delegation Updates**

Sarah McCarthy, Western Colorado Regional Director for Senator Hickenlooper, said they are having town halls and the first was attended by 1000. Working hard to keep the Space Command in Colorado. Also support BLM HQ remaining in Grand Junction. He is working on the American Rescue Plan efforts helping farmer and ranchers. Also, working to get venues open and restaurant aid.

Matthew Kireker, with Senator Bennet's office, said Sen. Bennet appreciates the partnerships with AGNC, CML and CCI. He has been working on the Outdoor Restorations Partnership Act. He is accepting requests from students who are applying to the US Service Academies. The deadline for those is 10/16. He is interested in increasing constituent outreach.

Hogan Peterson, with Rep. Boebert's office, mentioned concerns with affordable housing in our area. They are also very opposed to the 30 x 30 initiative. She is also working to keep the BLM HQ in Grand Junction. She introduced the Western Water Security Act. She wants to coordinate student nominations to service academies so there is no overlap.

Mike Samson mentioned the Energy Strong conference and encouraged everyone to attend the next one. We need to work with Utah and Wyoming concerning issues related to energy development.

## **Administrative Update**

Bonnie Petersen provided an Administrative Update on the following topics:

- Bonnie gave an update on the search for an Economic Development Coordinator.
- Bonnie updated the group regarding a letter AGNC sent to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and the corresponding request from Senator Rankin.
- Bonnie announced that we are having a Broadband Regional meeting on Friday, June 11, in Grand Junction at the Old Mesa County Courthouse Building.
- Bonnie said we are pursuing a REDI grant to get assistance with grant writing.

**New Business:** *Next Meeting May 19, 2021, CNCC, 2801 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Library, Craig, CO 8*

**Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.**

**Attendance:**

Kevin Batchelder, Garfield County	Crystal Mariscal, Town of New Castle
Ray Beck, Moffat County	Sarah McCarthy, Sen. Hickenlooper's office
Kent Borchard, Town of Meeker	Brian Meinhart, Census Bureau
John Bristol, Steamboat Springs Chamber of Commerce	Ana Mostaccero, Colorado Attorney General's office
Greg Brophy, Redistricting Speaker	Gary Moyer, Rio Blanco County
Keith Caddy, Montrose County	Chris Nichols, City of Craig
Jeannie Caldwell, Town of Rangely	Dianna Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Bill Carlson, Town of Palisade	Richard Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County	Ted Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Brian Condie, City of Rifle	Christina Oxley, CWF
Lisa Cook, Town of Meeker	Tiffany Pehl, AGNC
Scott Creecy, Town of Meeker	Bonnie Peterson, AGNC
Cindy Dozier, Club 20	Hogan Peterson, Rep. Boebert's office
Keely Ellis, Town of Rangely	Lisa Piering, Town of Rangely
Vicky Edwards, RBC - Legal	Mike Samson, Garfield County
Ty Gates, Rio Blanco County	John Swartout, CCI
Ron Granger, CNCC	Carly Thomson, Rio Blanco County
Grady Hazelton, Town of New Castle	Carolyn Tucker, CWF
Laura Kay Houser, AGNC	Lucas Turner, The Herald Times
Fred Jarman, Garfield County	Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General
Heather Jones, AAoA	
Margie Joy, CHFA	
Drew Kramer, Tri-State Energy Co-op	

ATTACHMENT A



**Updates from AAA:**

- Received Performance Measure Surveys from Providers
  - Met the Standard for 90% of positive responses of service providers
- Working on new AAA brochures, potential new logo as well
- AAA Grant Review Committee meeting 4/20
- AAA is looking to create a Facebook page
- Mesa/Moffat/Rio Blanco/Routt Counties Virtual Senior Law Day 5/7-6/25
- Roaring Fork Valley Senior Law Day tentatively October 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Replay event in Rifle
- AAA received stimulus funds (\$137,000+) from December 2020
  - Use funds to support providers/services the next fiscal year
  - These funds need to be spent by September 30, 2022
- AAA did receive our federal carryover dollars, once approved by the AGNC board the AAA will work to get those out to providers.