



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

April 24, 2019

CNCC Campus, 500 Kennedy Dr., Rangely, CO 81648

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Pledge of allegiance

Call to order – Ray Beck, Chairman:

Introductions were made. Gary Moyer will be the alternate for Rio Blanco County at this meeting.

Approval of Minutes – Mike Samson moved to approve the minutes; Tim Redmond seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial report – Bonnie Petersen reviewed financials for March 2019. Revenues for the month are ahead of budget for the month; AGNC received outstanding contribution project administration fees totaling \$6,729.76; we continue to remain ahead of budgeted revenues year to date. Expenses are under budget for the month as well as year to date. Net income for March was better than the projected budget ending the month at a positive \$4,484.87 and year to date net income is ahead of budget at \$184.72 vs. a budget projection of (\$13,907.81). Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the financial report; Mike Samson seconded the motion; motion passed.

Project and Committee Reports:

Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones – provided an update on the AAoA grants. The organization expects funding to be \$2,274,126.00 for this year. The grant review committee was convened to review requests. AAoA is pushing to increase nutrition services this year and saw increases in requests for funding from Mesa and Garfield counties. Memorial Regional hospital submitted a new request for senior follow-up services and AAoA was able to provide partial funding. AAoA will also receive about \$144,000.00 from the unused homestead exemption budget over the next 5 years which will support nutrition programs. Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the AAoA plan as outlined by Heather; John Justman seconded the motion, motion passed.

The AAoA four-year plan was presented at the March AGNC board meeting and the board voted unanimously to approve the plan via email on March 27, 2019.

Dinosaur Welcome Center – Cheryl McDonald (Cheryl's full written report can be found as Attachment A at the end of these minutes.) The DWC has been open for a month; Tom Kleinschnitz with Moffat County Tourism and Cheryl hosted a family from England as they were doing a media tour of the region. Cheryl is hopeful that they will do a write up on the area when they get back to England. May 4th through the 11th is National Tourism week; Cheryl is reaching out to counties to get information on events. Bonnie told the group about a conversation with Senator Rankin regarding his efforts to provide additional funds for Colorado

Welcome Centers. He had made provision for an additional \$1 million for welcome centers but through the budget process, the JBC ended up with a shortfall of \$250 million so the funding for the welcome centers could not be sustained. Cheryl noted that while she was at the welcome center manager's meeting, some managers indicated that they are thinking of leaving due to the lack of raises. Betsy Bair noted that the National Park Foundation has an initiative for Gateway communities and that she will get some information for a grant application.

AGNC Election of Officers. Mike Samson asked the membership if AGNC should change its election of officers to January rather than April noting that when someone is not re-elected it can leave a gap in leadership of the organization. After discussion about the meeting schedule and similar concerns related to municipal elections, the consensus was that the elections should remain the same. At this time the floor was opened to nominations for Chairman. Mike Samson nominated Ray Beck as Chairman; Chris Nichols seconded the motion. John Justman moved that nominations cease, and Ray be elected by acclamation; Duncan McArthur seconded the motion, motion passed. Nominations were opened for Vice-Chair – Mike Samson nominated Andy Key as Vice-Chairman; Grady Hazelton seconded the nomination. Chairman Beck called for other nominations, there were none; the board voted affirmatively on the nomination. Nominations were opened for Treasurer – Ray Beck nominated Mike Samson as Treasurer; Tim Redmond seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations for Treasurer, the nomination was affirmed by the board.

Coal to Products Feasibility Grant – Jeremiah Riley is an attorney with the Uinta Group in Utah and works on congressional relations efforts for the University of Utah and Dixie State University on the coal to products research being conducted by Professor Eddings. They work with several states including Alaska, Utah, Kentucky and West Virginia and through that group is working on two federal level programs. They are working to identify what the challenges are and what are the lowest hanging fruit as they answer questions related to whether commercialization is viable for coal to products. Utah has approved several hundreds of thousands of dollars to work on the issue. Other sources of funding need to be identified as the group moves forward in applying for an EDA grant; EDA requires and one to one match for grant funds. Jeremiah is also building a program that funds work with Native American communities. Significant capital will be needed to create a pilot plant likely in the range of \$5 to \$10 million. There may be some DOI program funding and the plant is likely to be a public supported utility, or the tribe may own it. Pattie Snidow indicated that USDA is working on an Innovation program that is to be a jobs accelerator program but is basically an incubator. The rules are being written now as the program is evolving. Betsy Bair asked why Colorado wasn't involved in the work; it was noted that it appears there are no researchers working on coal products in Colorado. Jeremiah, Dixie University and NW Colorado are looking at a joint EDA grant application to explore using coal to create carbon fiber (CF); the best application for this type of CF is in the automotive industry. The federal government is interested in providing funding and are trying to set up a pipeline to drive down the cost. The grant request would be made to do a deep data driven analysis on what each county has and what is the low hanging fruit. Current CF is high end and pricey; the research being done and the analysis to be done through this grant would help to determine if we can make it more price appropriate. The gap we need to study is how to recycle the CF. Products like CF sequester carbon dioxide since we are not burning coal for electricity. The amount of coal is less for creating these products but the value to the community is that the worker's have a highly transferrable skill set. The group want to drive the narrative around products early in the process.

Rural Infrastructure legislation – Matthew Kireker and Erin Minks (via conference call), from Senator Bennet's provided an overview of the Rural Infrastructure legislation the Senator is working on. They were looking for input from members regarding the components of the bill; the issue of matching funds was brought up as was the onerous rules and regulations related to infrastructure projects – all these things impede implementation of projects in rural communities. The technical assistance component of the bill was discussed; the objective with that is to consolidate other agencies to streamline the process for rural infrastructure project planning and permitting. Erin noted that assistance component would likely be housed in USDA.

AGNC Member Roundtable

Pattie Snidow with USDA was in attendance and provided an overview of her new position. She is now working for the National USDA Office in the Innovation Center. The Innovation Center staff streamlines regulations and making one application – the center is evolving and is a strategic economic development set aside. Pattie's job in this new position is outreach, technical assistance and community planning for Colorado and Utah. Pattie and her counterparts will work with EDA and other federal agencies to streamline processes and applications; she has a call with Trent Thompson at EDA once a month.

Duncan McArthur noted that the census is coming up and asked that Brian Meinhart's business information be sent to members to plan for a complete count. We noted that Brian was at the meeting in February and provided information there and we also sent information to members after that meeting. This is a very important matter for all local governments and communities; we can resend the information and remind everyone to talk with Brian.

Mike Samson talked about the Western States and Tribal Nations Natural Gas Initiative (WSTN) that many of the AGNC counties have joined, along with Utah's Energy Office and the Ute Indian Tribe for the development of domestic and global markets for natural gas produced in the western United States. Many will attend the Utah Energy Conference, DOE Secretary, Rick Perry will be at the conference. Chairman Chatterjee at FERC has indicated he is trying to speed the Jordan Cove project approval up.

Chris Nichols asked for additional help with the process on opportunity zones as Craig would like more information on how to take advantage of the OZ in their community.

Federal Delegation Updates

George Rossman from Congressman Tipton's office indicated that the Farm Bill regulations are still being develop and that there is not a lot we can do until that is done. An H2A issue increasing that wage to \$13 per hour has raised some concerns; labor is trying to make that more attractive. H2B's are not getting issues but more have been authorized in a second round. The Congressman would like to know if the tariffs are causing a problem for people in the AGNC region; please let staff know. The Congressman has been working on VA issues like hiring staff at VA hospitals, and a dental bill for low income veterans. He has been working on a headstone bill so VA headstones can be used in non-VA cemeteries. Congressman Tipton was recently voted as one of the top 10 representatives in Congress.

Betsy Bair with Senator Gardner's office noted that he was in Grand Junction last week and participated in a round table on teen suicide rates; he is looking at legislation that will allow sharing of information across agencies. Now, concerns about suicide concerns cannot be shared with schools so there is no follow through; safe to tell can't call for assistance. The Senator is looking at a pilot on the West Slope using color coded identifiers without personal information to help agencies intervene and help prevent suicides. During a meeting with Grand Junction businesses the Senator was asked about the BLM headquarters move; Secretary Bernhardt is making the case for the BLM move and Susan Combs with DOI has contacted the Grand Junction working group to ask for specific information. Governor Polis has publicly said he is working on the transfer. Senator Gardner is working on a VA readiness bill; we expect our soldiers to be ready to move on a moment's notice and do what is necessary for the country but when they come home, we are not ready to help them integrate into their communities. There are six pieces of legislation in this effort to address hiring, STEM education and other matters that will help veterans to become part of the community. Russian sanctions are back, and the Senator is working on those as well. A bill is being re-introduced regarding the death tax going away and a bill to address landslide mitigation is also being introduced. The bill allows GIS

mapping and provides resources for community clean-up. It requires new mapping by USGS for post disaster assistance – it was introduced April 9th.

Matthew Kireker from Senator Bennet’s office reported that the Senator is putting together a letter supporting the reauthorization of PILT as there is no permanent long-term funding for PILT. The Senator’s cancer surgery was successful and he sends his “thanks” for the outpouring of support he received. A cost of drugs bill was introduced that attempts to lower the cost of drugs through competition. The LWCF was re-authorized in the Farm Bill and a bill was just introduced to permanently fund the LWCF.

Administrative Update - Bonnie Petersen provided an Administrative Update on the following:

- LMD grant/Senator Rankin conversation
- HB1314 – passed House on party line vote – got some amendments
- Still working on 2019 mini-grants; DOLA is more involved and added to the process
- Applied for DOLA grant to provide matching funds for EDA grant
- Building Better Colorado meeting in GJ (3-27-2019)
- Started conversation about wolves in Colorado
- Attended Energy and Environment Symposium in Rifle
- Trying to get a meeting with Vice-President Pence
- Will attend CLUB20 DC fly-in May 21 through 23.

New Business:

Next Meeting will be May 29, 2019, Colorado Northwestern Community College, 2801 W 9th St., Craig, CO 81625

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Attendance:

Ray Beck, Moffat County	Andy Key, Town of Rangely
Chris Nichols, City of Craig	Grady Hazelton, Town of New Castle
Heather Jones, AAoA	Duncan McArthur, City of Grand Junction
Pattie Snidow, USDA	Betsy Bair, Senator Gardner’s Office
Matthew Kireker, Senator Bennet’s Ofc.	Cheryl McDonald, DWC
Jeremiah Riley, Uintah Group	Amy Provstgaard, Battlement Mesa
Roger Granat, Town of Palisade	Marie Granat, Palisade
Konnie Billgren, Rangely Area Chamber	Keely Winger, CNCC
Mike Samson, Garfield County	Keith Peterson, CNCC
George Rossman, Congressman Tipton’s Ofc.	Bonnie Petersen, AGNC
Tiffany Pehl, AGNC	Gary Moyer, Rio Blanco County
John Justman, Mesa County	Tim Redmond, Town of Hayden
Doug Monger, Routt County (via conference)	

ATTACHMENT A

AGNC REPORT APRIL 2019

Visitation up 1.37% for March. Greeting 1773 visitors.

Spring managers meeting in Cannon City April 16th & 17th. Our new regional map was shown to us. It is not completely done. The proposed completion is slated for mid-summer.

May 4th thru May 11th is National Tourism week. Moffat County will have Colorado's Great Northwest summer kick off week during this time starting with a 2-day celebration in Maybell, Co.

The Center hosted a family from England on a Media FAM trip.

The town of Walden will host our volunteers for our spring FAM trip.

Cheryl McDonald