



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

April 26, 2017

9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Craig Memorial Hospital, Craig, CO, 750 Hospital Loop, Craig, CO 81625

Call to order and introductions – Marty Chazen, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:04 am; after the pledge of allegiance, introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: Ray Beck made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Jeff Rector seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Financial report - Bonnie Petersen presented the financial report noting that we are ahead in income this month due to collecting EZ administrative fees, Glenwood Springs' 2017 member dues were received and Mesa County's first quarter dues were received. The Accounts Receivable report contains fees for Contribution Projects administrative fees and reimbursements for which we are now creating invoices. Cari Hermacinski made a motion to approve the financials as presented, Grady Hazleton seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Request for budget supplement: Marty Chazen advised the board of a stellar review from the executive committee for Bonnie Petersen. Some of Petersen's accomplishments include:

- In 2015 AGNC had budgeted for a loss of \$61,000, obtaining an actual loss of only \$2,000.
- In 2016 AGNC had budgeted a loss of \$11,700, Bonnie ended the year with a \$49,000 gain.
- A projected small loss has been budgeted this year, but year-to-date she is beating the budget.
- She has brought in additional income in sponsorship and registration fees for 2017 with associate members paying \$11,000 in dues and Contribution Project administration fees of \$12,000.
- She obtained grants for Sage Grouse mapping, the DOLA mini-grant project, and a planning grant from EDA.
- She has increased the visibility and influence of AGNC.
- She has arranged AGNC specific meetings with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the director of CDHPE, and Attorney General.

In addition to a good performance review, it is the recommendation of the Executive Committee to increase her wage effective May 1, 2017. She has been with AGNC for 2 years and has not had a salary adjustment in that time.

Bonnie discussed that she brought Tiffany Pehl in last year on an emergency basis, as the previous person had resigned. Tiffany had to deal with numerous concerns and deadlines when she began work, including quarterly reports due to OEDIT for the Enterprise Zone, which were nowhere near complete. The AGNC ED Summit was coming up in 6 weeks and the invitation database had not been completed and invitations had not been issued; the website had not been

updated, credit card payments had not been set up and nothing had been done to develop an on-going communication methodology for the event. Tiffany worked hard to compile the quarterly reports for on-time submission and cleared up significant misinformation that had been provide to managers of the Contribution Projects. She got things lined out and arrangements made for the ED Summit, collected information for and created the event program on her own and through her efforts turned out to be a really good event. Since then, she has become very familiar with the EZ. We had some boundary adjustments to do and she led the way for those adjustments. She now has the Contribution Projects paying the right amount and reporting when they need to. She is working closely with businesses that are looking at the EZ and has become a part of the EZ Administrators team. Tiffany attended a grant-writing class last year, a skill that will be valuable, as we are working to become an EDD; she has picked up on the economic development tasks so well we plan to have her lead the effort in the process of applying for that grant. We will have to backfill her position with a temp person as there will be some lag time. She started at lower wage than our previous assistant and the Executive Committee agreed that it would be appropriate to bring her up to par with that wage, and recommend the increase to the board.

Marty disclosed the total additional funding request is \$8474 and would be effective May 1, 2017, the floor was opened for discussion. Mike Samson said we all agree with what has been said here today. We were on the ropes when I came into the organization in 2008, hats off to McInnis and Bonnie and Tiffany, we have come a very long way. People are taking notice of AGNC, now. Hats off to Orf & Orf, as well. We have been able to increase our membership and get dropped members to re-join; he fully supports the request. Ray Beck stated he echoes those sentiments exactly and moved to approve the additional funding requested. The motion was seconded by Jeff Rector. Doug Monger expressed that he agrees with Samson's comments. The entity has come a long way and he commends Bonnie and staff, especially all of the tools that Bonnie is researching and bringing back to us. The motion passed unanimously.

DWC Report – Cheryl McDonald prepared and presented an update for the DWC. See attached report. Visitation for March is good again this year because of the snow. There has been a lot of traffic going up to Steamboat and they are also getting summer information to come back. Typically, April is slower because we are in the shoulder season, but we are seeing more today. Yellowstone is still 80% closed so more are coming here. Extra traffic is going up Highway 40 and people are saying there's too much traffic at the Mighty 5. Utah can't get into their own parks, to our benefit. Senior park passes are going up to \$80 from \$10. The Moffat Local Marketing District has granted DWC funding for a new sign at the corner of Highway 64 & 40. It will be electronic and can feature ads for local communities. The Center has a wish list for county money in the budget: would like to hold on to some of the money in case we go over on the sign; bathroom stalls need to be replaced; bike rack; flowers for planters.

Government Relations – Dianna, Richard and Ted Orf. SB267 has been laid over twice in appropriations. There is concern that certain portions will be hijacked as it goes through the process with it being eyed as a fix for the budget. HB 1338, the municipal court bonding bill – the ACLU had terse negotiations on this. Heads up to the municipalities, the ACLU is targeting outliers on court issues on what they see to be civil rights violations; expect to see a lot more ACLU pushes against municipal courts. Large Environmental groups pushed the bill to retire coal plants early. Local governments and job training will testify this afternoon, but we may be the only ones. (Orf & Orf) will be also representing the mining association. This bill is coming from an out of state climate group. SB40, the CORA bill, had a lengthy meeting on Monday, AGNC was a major witness in opposition. They are still looking for middle ground language and it is still moving thru the process; we are still trying to kill it, but it may be difficult. A few state agencies came and testified against the bill on Monday; Richard spent an hour on the stand

taking questions on that bill. We are cautiously optimistic that the bill will die or there will be so many restrictions added that there won't be concern on compliance. This will probably continue until last day of session. HB1338 – the Rifle amendment was added; their specific language was forced into the bill to neutralize it with the agreement of ACLU. The original language forced municipal courts to pick up and drive suspects to their actual hearing. Kudos to Rifle and Kimberly Bullen, she sent an e-mail to the staffer that was read across the desk, it was kind of testifying remotely by email. HB1313 - civil asset forfeiture - CCI has taken a position of opposition. Every PD in local, state, and county level oppose this bill because of the \$50,000 threshold.

Election of AGNC offices for 2017 – Chairman opens nominations: Treasurer – Mike Samson nominates Cari Hermacinski, nomination was seconded by Ray Beck. There were no other nominations, nomination seconded by John Justman, unanimously elected -- open for vice-chair – Mike Samson nominated Andy Key, second by Jeff Rector, no other nominations - Ray Beck moved to close nominations and accept by acclamation, second by Cari Hermacinski, motion passed. Nominations for chairman opened; Mike Samson nominated Ray Beck, seconded by Cari Hermacinski. Jeff Rector nominated John Justman, seconded by Tim Redmond. Floor closed to nominations. Municipal representatives from Routt and Moffat counties need to be seated. Mike Foreman will represent Craig on the Board for Moffat County and Tim Redmond will represent Haydon on the Board from Routt County. Jeff Comstock agreed to act as teller for the vote for Chairman. The two candidates shared their thoughts regarding Chairmanship; ballots were cast by voters and Ray Beck was elected as AGNC Chair.

CDOT Update -

Kathy Connell - here to hear from you

- Working to be proactive to work on I70,
- Need to create funding for rural highways and emergency routes
- Commission has taken a stance that we have limited funds is looking at how to get maximum bang for the buck
- This year 24% increase in fatalities on highways,
- Saw a 90% reduction in animal collisions on highway 9 after work was completed. A few ranchers did not want the gates and insisted on cattle guards but CDOT has footage of animals going across and getting stuck and scared; they don't take escape routes so they get hit,
- Highway 13 is a vital highway to connect highway 70 and 80, that's a huge kill road too, need to improve highways and cut down accidents,
- Rural areas face the issue of getting people to medical care and is a growing issue - CDOT cannot provide bus transportation through the state.

Kathy hall - AGNC doing a great job and appreciates the work being done.

- It has been very interesting to serve on the CDOT board – funding is a critical issue and it is important that a vote on increased taxes should be decided by the people – it should not be denied because someone is personally against taxes. We are neglectful when we don't allow the voters to make the decisions on these issues
- We know maintenance and shoulders are important to rural Colorado
- The state has doubled in size since the last gas tax increase
- We only have 2 arteries, I70 and I25 - people say you have more lanes you have more people, but we have more people anyway, you can't stop this, there is no gate to be put up, people will continue to come to the state.

Shailen Bhatt – (See Presentation) Director Bhatt reviewed the state of CDOT with the Board. More than \$9 billion in transportation projects have been identified as needs across the state. CDOT faces significant challenges in road maintenance given that revenues for roads are dwindling, population is growing and continued growth is expected. Colorado has 35 mountain passes to maintain during the winter – more than any other state and it is costly to provide the level of service needed just to plow the roads. CDOT is advocating for new technology that will help drivers know when there are delays so they can choose alternate routes in an effort to address congestion. Director Bhatt was responsible for the driverless truck trial from Denver to Colorado Springs which was very successful; this dynamic will continue to change the transportation landscape of the future. The hope is that SB17-1242 will get through the legislature and go to Colorado citizens for a vote to address these issues; there is not enough money being generated in the state to address the billions of dollars of deferred needs, a new revenue stream is critical. AGNC members pointed out that should a measure be sent to the voters, it is important that local communities be involved in the decisions regarding projects for their areas so the right projects that will support economic development are done first. Additionally, AGNC members believe that any new revenue streams need to have a component identified for rural roads – 50% of the lane miles in Colorado are in Western Colorado and, as an asset of the state, need to be maintained. The Western part of Colorado is where the majority of tourists want to go, even if they begin on the Front Range, they don't stay there and it is very important that we be able to get them home safely.

Legislative Update

Betsy Bair with Senator Gardner's office gave an update.

- The Senate is coming off their April recess.
- There were 150 protestors at Lincoln Day dinner last Friday
- Yesterday Secretary of Ag was confirmed,
- Secretary of Interior is moving forward but there are no names being put forward for the head of forest service or BLM
- We know work needs to get done but not having key positions filled is hamstringing Washington,
- CRA on methane rule, still weighing in, hearing a lot from the supporters of the rule, demanding that we do not support the CRA reversal but Senator Gardner still has not said how he will vote. There was supposed to be a vote this week but it's not on the schedule. The Senator needs letters from the opponent of the rule to offset the supporters of the rule
- Today there was a big meeting at the white house to talk about North Korea, Gardner was first senator to put sanctions on North Korea; it's the first time since the cold war that they've been put on
- Senator Gardner is actively working on moving BLM headquarters to the west, 99.9% of the public land is west of the Mississippi
- The Senator sits on energy and natural resources committee and was asked to be chair of the subcommittee on energy
- Colorado ag producers have been hammered by BLM and forest service, we drafted a letter to go to secretary Purdue and Zinke to review this - permits are handled differently because land backing up to forest, they aren't using their own science, they are not doing the surveying, they are arbitrarily pulling grazing permits - \$65 million of Colorado economy is from livestock –

Brandon with Congressman Tipton's office provided an update.

- Congressman has hearing on financial choice act will draw back some regulations from Dodd-frank
- Congressman has raised concerns that the CFBP is not regulated by congress, this act would rein it in to get appropriations from Congress instead of a single director who has the most power out of any person save for the president
- Commissioner Beck we got a call about one of your constituents getting a helicopter from an academy in Georgia named after Major Adams, sent the draft letter yesterday, will send to the army to help you get that
- State of Colorado found out Secretary Price identified \$475million for fighting opioid use, \$7.8 million is expected to be coming to Colorado
- Healthcare is coming back up – it seems Congress has no intention on rushing this through like they did last time –
- Congressman Tipton is back on the Natural Resources Committee and is thrilled to be back on that committee

Administrative Update – Bonnie Petersen gave the administrative update. There are a few things going on: next week we will be going to Central City for the Economic Development Opportunities meeting. Sonya Guram with OEDIT for the Enterprise Zone, Ken Jensen with OEDIT for Rural Jumpstart and Historic Building Preservation, Meredith Marshal for Blueprint 2.0, Alison with USDA. The meeting is at 10 a.m., May 3. Tomorrow is the last legislative call for this session. The last 2 weeks are just crazy for the government relations team. If you have any questions, bring them tomorrow. Please watch your e-mails and send feedback as soon as possible when requests regarding legislation are sent out. Bonnie thanked Marty for his leadership and support, it truly has been a pleasure. Elyse Ackerman is leaving DOLA and is taking an ED position with Delta County. She might have a little capacity for help with our EDD application. We had the Mini-Grant presentations yesterday and we expect to send our responses late this week or early next week. We are going to DC with CLUB20 in May. Bonnie has been in touch with Vereson's government communications contact in DC and he is working with us to set up meetings to advocate for support of the Jordan Cove project. Jeff Rector will go along, Tom Jankovsky will be there, Ray will be there, and if any of you would like to come, sign up! We are hoping to get to speak to 3-4 different entities while we are there in support of Jordan Cove. Roger Granat brought some Palisade posters, please take and post. Cheryl and I will be pulling together the budget for the DWC for the fiscal year 2018. We will have to include a raise to Linda's wages as her current pay will not meet the minimum wage requirement as of January 1, 2018. I will ask for a raise for Cheryl, as she hasn't had one for 3 years. The ED Summit will be on September 15, 2017, in Craig at the Clarion Inn.

New Business: *Next Meeting is on May 17, 2017 at*

Adjournment – Meeting Adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Attendance:

Ted, Richard, Diana Orf – Orf&Orf – Called in Update

Ray Beck – Moffat County

Andy Key – Town of Rangely

Cheryl McDonald – Dinosaur Welcome Center

Jeff Rector – Rio Blanco County

Mathew Mendisco – Town of Hayden

Mark King - Town of Parachute

Mike Foreman – City of Craig

Roger Granat – Town of Parachute
Marie Granat – Private Citizen
Doug Monger – Routt County
Grady Hazelton – Town of New Castle
Cari Hermacinski – Routt County
Janell Oberlander – CNCC
Katelin Cook – Rio Blanco County
Brandon Bainer – Office of Congressman Scott Tipton
John Justman – Mesa County
Jeff Comstock – Moffat County
Betsy Bair – Office of Senator Gardner
Tim Redmond – Town of Hayden
Kathy Hall – CDOT, District 7
Kathy Connell – CDOT, District 6
Tiffany Pehl – AGNC
Bonnie Petersen – AGNC
Shailen Bhatt – CDOT Director