



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

April 29, 2020

Conducted via Zoom Link, Conference Call

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Call to order – Ray Beck, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes – Mike Samson moved to approve the minutes from the February 2020 meeting; John Justman seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Doug Monger moved to approve the minutes from the March 2020 meeting; Mike Samson seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Financial report: Bonnie Petersen provided an overview of the financials for February 2020. Income for the month was ahead of budget for the month as well as year to date; total expenses are less than budgeted for the month as well as year to date and net income for the month came in at a negative \$1,685.33 versus the budgeted amount of negative \$16,954.05. Net income is ahead of budget year to date as well. Mike Samson moved to approve the February 2020 financial report; Doug Monger seconded the motion, motion passed.

The March 2020 financials were then presented; March income was on track with budget for the month and, year to date, remains ahead of budget. Expenses for the month were less than budgeted and year to date expenses continue to be less than budgeted. Doug Monger moved to approve the March financial report; Chris Nichols seconded the motion, motion passed.

Project and Committee Reports:

AAoA - Heather Jones provided a report highlighting services provided for seniors through AAoA. Updated funding provisions including additional family first funds and CARES Act funding. Next year's funding is uncertain pending the state legislature and federal Older Americans Act Funding. Heather's written report can be found at the end of these minutes as Exhibit B. AAoA is reaching older adults not reached in the past. The Family first funds budget was provided to Executive Committee for approval to be ratified by the full board so the funds could be used without delay in providing services to vulnerable populations in the region. Doug Monger moved to ratify the Executive Committee's approval of the Family first budget; motion was seconded by Mike Samson, motion passed. Heather noted that AAoA wants to set aside some CARES Act funding to form new partnerships with food banks and other meals on wheels programs that typically are not partners. There will be 2-month minimum delay for state funds. There is no word on federal funding, it is hoped that by mid-May AAoA will have an idea of what funding will look like. It's hard to develop a budget for next year when funding levels are unknown. One more thing - ADRC's are getting emergency funding of about \$50K for region. These funds are geared towards helping seniors or people with disabilities to have access to technology to help with tele-health and reaching out to family, etc. AAoA hopes to purchase some equipment to help people without access to equipment or internet.

Dinosaur Welcome Center – Cheryl McDonald reported on the activities at the DWC, her written report is included at the end of these minutes as Exhibit A. Since the center has been closed due to COVID-19, Cheryl and Linda have been sprucing up the inside of the center and are now working on the outside. Brochure shipments have been halted in some places, if anyone has material they would like displayed,

send them to Cheryl and she will get them on the shelves in the center. There is no new information on the national monument opening; DWC has received lots of phone calls about going into park. An email was received this morning from Taren proposing a plan for volunteer training upon reopening. DWC can still put events on the sign board. Ray Beck noted that the Dinosaur National Monument manager requested the Moffat County Commissioners support closing 14 north and county road 153 – the monument is closed on both sides.

Legislative report –Diana Orf reported on the status of the legislature. The JBC starts work next Monday to review previous budget work with an eye toward budget reductions. The Governor has asked all departments to look at reductions and identify ways to reduce their current year budgets. Some reduction suggestions are pretty stringent. Energy and mineral impact fund have not been included yet; they are holding off until they get the forecast. Staff will issue separate recommendations when they get that. Staff is analyzing impact to programs and where funding may come from. The loss of revenue may impact the state’s ability to implement SB181. The JBC starts working May 4th to go through the staff recommendations and discuss options; they will physically meet, only staff and legislative members can be in the room. They will have audio and video options available. May 12th, the JBC will get the latest economic forecast and then will move forward with developing the budget for next year. They have several scenarios being outlined and are looking at a 10% cut and a 20% cut in the budget. When the legislature goes back on the 18th, the JBC plans to have a draft budget for the house to consider - if all goes well, they will take the budget to the Senate the following week. While it’s not known what the budget impact will be in terms of severance and mineral lease being swept to budget, Diana noted that one recommendation is to do a 50% transfer of those funds to the general fund. Regarding the CARES Act funding and whether the Governor or the legislature will keep the funds is unresolved. The Act outlines who gets funding; it says communities with populations of 500,000 and more will get direct funding. There is education money and funds going to the state are supposed to be used for COVID-19 relief and response made to the virus. The federal act directs how the funds are to be spent. Representative Perry Will noted that his caucus has been talking about the funding and if it is in the Governor’s hands or not; the caucus has been fighting for the legislature not the Governor to have the final say about the expenditure of the CARES Act funds.

EDA/EDD Update – Tiffany Pehl noted that the first coal to products report for the EDA grant is due tomorrow; she reviewed the report analysis. It is anticipated that work on the project could experience a potential slow down due to COVID-19. AGNC received an EDD partnership planning grant from EDA for one year. The grant has been accepted and funding is ready for us to get started but it is pending. Staff is engaged in COVID-19 conversations with EDA about CARES Act money. As the EDD for the region, EDA would like us to be involved and know about any applications being made so be sure if you are planning to request a grant; please include AGNC staff. Staff has been discussing doing a revolving loan fund (RLF) with EDA funds with Trent. AGNC will need to do an EDD board meeting in; since the AGNC Board is also the EDD board, it is important that in May board members stay for entire meeting. A request was made that staff send the coal to products report to AGNC members.

Tiffany noted that last month staff talked about OEDIT supporting organizations, like AGNC, doing contribution projects to benefit small businesses in the region; there was not a lot of support for the concept. If individual communities are interested in doing it, we can get it set up on an expedited basis. Communities can come separately to be a contribution project in support of businesses; donors will receive the additional tax credit for contributions to the project. Chambers or other non-profits can set up the contribution project. Also, mini-grant applications have been distributed; Parachute is one of the two mini-grants for 2020 that will be accepted. DOLA has added a lot of restrictions so talk to Tiffany about grant ideas and she will run them by Kimberly before applicants spend a great deal of time on applications. The 2019 mini-grant program is officially closed; reimbursements have been sent as of Monday last. Doug Monger raised a concern about the administrative load for the mini-grant program and asked about AGNC being paid for administration. Tiffany noted that, for right now, we are doing OK – the EDA partnership planning grant will allow us to hire an administrative assistant, but we can’t really interview and train under the COVID-19 restrictions. DOLA allows no funding for administration of the

mini-grant program so AGNC is not paid for that; it has been a valuable program for AGNC members, so we continue to support it.

Transportation Update – Shoshana Lew, CDOT Director introduced transportation commissioner, Kathy Hall. Director Lew provided an overview of CDOT’s strategic planning efforts and about issues with the economy and implementing the transportation plan under a more difficult set of circumstances. Slide presentation is available upon request. Statewide, the latest forecast is a shortfall of about \$7 billion over the next three years. Gas tax revenues are declining due to less driving as people stay home due to COVID-19. There is a lot of uncertainty about the future funding CDOT was supposed to have. The state should be moving forward with the second year of SB267 funding, but there is uncertainty around that money. Director Lew is working with the commission on how to execute a significantly scaled down program. It is being assumed that CDOT will take hit of \$250 million this year and funding beyond is uncertain. The department is trying to prioritize what it would do if they got \$500 million, as well as, how would they quickly scale up if more funds were available. CDOT will keep the list of projects they currently have. CDOT had prioritized \$1.6 billion in projects highly focused on rural roads. CDOT is looking at maintaining the priorities of plan developed together to make sure the first \$500 million reflects the priorities of the plan and protect priorities of the plan. Kathy Hall noted that she is pleased that Shoshana has worked to get a lot of money on rural roads for safety. The funding situation is disappointing as CDOT was on track for doing some really good things for rural roads. Although the plan hasn’t changed, CDOT will just have to modify how it is implemented. Safety has to be the number one consideration and construction after that.

When asked about reports that CDOT funding had been impacted by the current crisis, Director Lew noted that the State hasn’t cut anything to date. The expectation is that when the legislature is back in session, there will have to be a reduction in funding due to less revenue. The \$500 million referenced in reports is second tranche of bond issues. The bond market froze up with the COVID crisis and there was not a lot of activity in March. Credit rating agencies said that the legislature will get an updated forecast; the state treasurer wants to see that before moving forward with the next bond issue. The Treasurer’s office is moving forward to try to issue the bonds in May once the rating agencies have the update - doesn’t have to be a good update. It should not stop the COP’s from moving forward. California did major a bond issue for \$1.4 billion which sends a powerful signal to the market that bond issues can happen. It was noted that hits to user fees CDOT relies on will result in a big hit to the budget. Across the country there is a projected 30% reduction in revenues. Two more after the May bond issue. Rates are really low so right now can tell more in a couple of weeks.

Regional Discussion on Impacts of COVID-19 - Chairman Beck raised the need for local governments to be more proactive on taking back local control. Under the current circumstances, the Governor’s executive orders are the law of the land and those infringe on local control. The question is, can the Governor take our local control at any given time? We are working with state mandates, but the local control is a concern for Moffat County. Representative Will agrees with the thought, a lot of counties don’t have a single case of the virus – the Republican caucus sent letters to the Governor to get state opened. Conversation with Commissioner Linke was going to mention local control - would like CCI to help move this forward. Gary Moyer - Rio Blanco is sending a letter telling Governor the county plan for reopening. It was suggested that AGNC send very strong letter to the Governor stating that one size doesn’t fit all when it comes to regulation and that the organization and its members support local control. Think it is all organizations - AGNC take the lead. Doug Monger, playing devil’s advocate, noted that our community is pretty healthy. Routt County had 51 cases, 4 deaths. There is no problem with counties moving among region, but the county has banned short term rentals till June. There is a need to keep people from outside coming in and there needs to be a way to determine if visitors are healthy or not; two people came from Denver; both were sick - how many did they expose. It was noted that, for some communities, a bigger regional restriction has helped to keep tourist communities from having too many cases of the virus. Entire communities are scrambling to determine how to educate children. Local government hands are tied under state directives. During further discussion, it was suggested that AGNC hire a constitutional lawyer to see where local governments stand on this. The question was raised as to

why healthy people are being quarantined rather than sick people. Communities are suffering with schools online and no broadband to help with online education. Gary Moyer reported that an Illinois court ruled that the state orders there are unconstitutional - there are constitutional questions here as well. AGNC should take a position and send it to the Governor expressing desire for local control - we have local expertise locally, the state does not. Gary Moyer made a motion that AGNC notice the Governor that we feel decisions should be made at local level as local government have expertise not Governor; John Justman seconded the motion. Local governments have to monitor the situation; they may have to rethink it, while we may be heading in right direction, we have to make adjustments if we have a flare up. Some members felt a little bit uneasy about blanket local control without some stipulations. Staff will put together a draft letter for agreement before sending it out. There is risk no matter what we do in life; local governments can always change if there is a flare up. Drew Kramer noted that one concern raised in other groups is that people want to know there will be communications between counties so that counties with disparate approaches know to communicate and respect each other. Need to have a point about how communities communicate with each other so as not to create "border wars". Emphasize point to lessen concerns about intra-county disputes. Doug Monger noted that we are communicating, half of community would like to be in Moffat's shoes - some believe that the current situation allows for local control other than the fact that you have to ask permission rather than do what's right. Counties and cities communicate and need to be sure that is communicated. A vote on the motion was taken, the motion passed with two in opposition. Staff will work with the Executive Committee to create a letter then share it with the full board before sending it to the Governor.

Federal Delegation Updates

George Rossman with Congressman Tipton's office provided an update. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was refurbished last week and \$350 billion went back into that fund. SBA started making loans yesterday 40,000 businesses just in Colorado have gotten \$7 billion across the state. Questions about hospital guidance - Craig hospital was eligible for PPP as well as one in SW COLORADO. SBA adjusted some guidance for seasonal employees, so they backed up qualifications to 2019. Some funding was passed to aid some agricultural entities - purchasing \$3 billion in meat and dairy. Today several congressmen and senators wrote a letter to USDA asking that cattle people have restrictions lessened to give farmers the ability to have cattle processed. The House is not in session next week due to the virus; the plan is to go back week after next. There is no news about any future relief bills at this time. The Congressman held round table meetings in the district, area chambers were on the calls and raised questions and shared frustrations. The Congressman will do round tables with farmers and ranchers.

Betsy Bair with Senator Gardner's also noted that \$7 billion has come to Colorado in support of businesses. Individual stimulus checks have been moving forward; if you need to find out the status of a check, go to IRS.gov; then select the button to check payment to verify where the check is. Every single hospital received a large check from the CARES Act last week; those funds do not have to be paid back. Every single airport in Colorado received funds as well; Yampa Valley received more than any others in Western Colorado; \$18 million, it was one of the largest grants in the state. Senator Gardner and Bennet have sent a letter about the funds coming to state. They have heard from the Governor that the funds from the CARES Act will be allowed to go through legislature for appropriate. It is hoped that local government funding will be identified in the fourth bill. The Senate is back in session next week. The Great American outdoors act - was up for hearing before COVID-19 - provides funding for deferred maintenance on public lands. The provisions of that bill could go onto the phase four relief funding bill - Senator McConnell said he would allow it to go through.

Alyssa Logan with Senator Bennet's office provided an update. Both senators are working to push for local government stabilization funds and are also working on a letter to call for long term solutions for PILT and SRS which will be positive for the long-term recovery of rural communities. Priorities for the next phase of relief are being developed; hoping negotiations will start when the Senate is back in session next week. Rural hospital stabilization funding is a priority including an increase in support for mental and behavioral health services. PPP was recharged by the last legislation; the Senator is hearing from

chambers that a policy change needs to be made so non-profits can be eligible. The delegation provided a support letter for disaster designation of west slope due to the freeze and crop damage. The Yampa airport received the largest funding amount for small airports in Colorado, \$18.5 million. The FAA based that on a metric including debt ratio for small airports; Yampa does not service a lot of debt which helped them receive funding.

Food supply concerns were shared; members support country of origin labeling efforts. US citizens can know where merchandise comes from but not food. Dumping of food - good food – is taking place, is there an opportunity for USDA to lessen rules to allow that food being dumped to be distributed to those that don't have food. LWCF comment being pushed, would not support new land - deferred maintenance is one thing but the country doesn't need to be buying land with emergency money. Betsy noted that regarding the food supply chain, Cory is working with USDA and the White House to address issues. There are some chinks in the supply chain, but the Senator will continue to work on those. Country of origin legislation previously introduced, would have put the US out of compliance on trade agreements so that needs to be worked through. Regarding LWCF funds, there are certain areas that management agencies would like to purchase but the Senator will not support purchases without local support.

Gary Moyer has reached out to the council on environmental quality about the proposed rules for NEPA and asked to add one question to the NEPA evaluation, “Will this action make our country more self-reliant?” We need a big focus put on that question; he has already reached out to ask for inclusion of the question in the new rules. Betsy said that Senator Gardner sent a letter to the Dept. of Defense to support development of rare earths in US as a result of our work on coal to products.

Representative Perry Will provided a state legislative update – the legislature will be going back into session May 18th; budget will be biggest issue. Many things will lose funding given a projected revenue shortfall of approximately \$3 billion for this year. He has witnessed along the I-70 corridor out of state plates traveling through using resources he sees little control happening as people all over the country are still traveling. Understand containment agree with local control. He has gotten many emails from constituents saying that they need to get back to work - people understand they why and what, and that stay at home was for the good of all but now he is getting calls to allow people to get back to work.

Administrative Update

Bonnie Petersen provided an Administrative Update on the following topics:

- EDA Planning Partnership Grant has been accepted and AGNC can begin using funds, this will enable AGNC to hire an Executive Assistant who will be located at the Rifle office. Need to wait for orders to be modified to allow a person to work at the office and for staff to spend time with the assistant for training. Have provided updated job description to workforce center to find a candidate.
- The CARES Act will provide EDA \$1.5 billion to help with economic recovery; one item that could be beneficial for the region is the establishment of an EDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Several communities in the region have been talking about doing an RLF on their own but EDA is encouraging them to take a more regional approach like would be the case if AGNC established an RLF. We have had some conversation about this concept and would like to have a larger discussion at the May EDD meeting. It is important that board members stay for both the board meeting and the EDD meeting to consider this opportunity and decide if it is something AGNC may want to pursue.
- EDA Coal to Products report – Tiffany reported about this item earlier in the meeting; we will send the report to members.
- EDD Board meetings are to be held quarterly, the AGNC Board of Directors is also the AGNC EDD Board of directors. The quarterly meetings will begin in May; we will adjourn the AGNC board meeting and then resume the meeting as the AGNC EDD Board. Please be sure you plan to stay for both meetings as we will have items that will require board action.

New Business: Next Meeting May 20, 2020, CNCC Campus, 2801 W. 9th St., Room 185, Craig, CO 81625

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.

Attendance all via Conference Call due to COVID-19 Pandemic:

Ray Beck, Moffat County	Bonnie Petersen, AGNC
Mike Samson, Garfield County	Betsy Bair, Senator Gardner’s Office
Tiffany Pehl, AGNC	John Justman, Mesa County
George Rossman, Congressman Tipton’s Ofc.	Doug Monger, Routt County
Heather Jones, AAoA	Diana Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Grady Hazelton, Town of New Castle	Alyssa Logan, Senator Bennet’s Office
Chris Nichols, City of Craig	Ted Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Keely Ellis, Town of Rangely	Richard Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Tom Kleinschnitz, Moffat County Tourism	Cheryl McDonald, Dinosaur Welcome Cntr.
Matt Nunez, City of Glenwood Springs	Carolyn Tucker, Colorado Workforce Cntr.
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County	Gary Moyer, Rio Blanco County
Makala Barton, Rio Blanco ED	Drew Kramer, Tri-State
Lisa Piering, Town of Rangely	Lisa Cook, Town of Meeker
Christina Oxley, Colorado Workforce Cntr.	Jon Bristol, Routt Chamber ED
Kris Melnikopf, Town of Collbran	Melanie Matarozzo, Town of Collbran
Stuart McArthur, Town of Parachute	Mark Rogers
Kathy Hall, CO Transportation Commissioner	Paula Stepp, City of Glenwood Springs
Shoshana Lew, CDOT Director	

EXHIBIT A

AGNC REPORT
April 2020

Due to the center closure there are no visitor numbers to report.

We have accomplished quite a few center projects that needed to be done. The center has been cleaned and disinfected. The main wall has been scrubbed down and repainted. Purchased and installed electric hand dryers for both bathrooms. This will save money as we will not have to purchase paper towels which have become very expensive.

I have purchased extra cleaning supplies for the bathrooms and the front counter area.

The State office has a plan for tourism starting with an advertising campaign for in state residents and then beyond that. No dates have been set as to when this will start and when we can open the centers. There are still a lot of decisions to make as to whether or not letting the volunteers come back at first. Limitations on how many can come in at a time, hours of operation etc. The state will supply masks for all center workers. Hopefully, we can be back in business soon.

As restrictions are lifted and things open please let me know if there is anything, I can post on the sign board as we move forward. Please feel free to call with any questions.

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY

Cheryl McDonald

EXHIBIT B

Highlights for AAA of Northwest Colorado for July 1, 2019-March 31, 2020:

- 1,825 hours of case management
- 6,953 meals to caregivers caring for homebound older adults
- 48,809 meals at dining sites across the region
- 4500 hours of Evidence-Based Disease Prevention & Health Promotion programs
- 75,381 home delivered meals
- 2,229 contacts for Information and assistance
- 1,547 hours in legal services
- 14,028 contacts were made either with a lifeline, telephone, or visits for reassurance
- 3,779 hours of respite for caregivers
- 22,700 one-way rides to get older adults to essential places
- 282 older adults received a voucher to assist with dental, eyeglasses, health equipment, hearing aids or homemaker
- 3386 unduplicated consumers

Updates on AAA Funding:

- \$194,703.70 COVID-19 Family First Funds
 - Meals on Wheels of Mesa County \$105,960.51 (+\$20,000 from State Funds)
 - Garfield Nutrition Programs \$39,470.37

- Rio Blanco White River Roundup \$24,636.41
 - Routt County Council on Aging \$24,636.41
- \$634,875 COVID-19 CARES ACT Funds
- Unsure of our State Funds for Senior Services (SFSS) until the Colorado General Assembly resumes mid-May.
 - 2-month delay
- Unsure of our Federal Older Americans Act Funds as well