



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

May 29, 2019

*Colorado Northwestern Community College,
2801 W 9th St., Craig, CO 81625*

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Pledge of allegiance

Call to order – Ray Beck, Chairman:

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am. John Anderson, the new Vice President of Student Affairs and the Craig campus was introduced. John began his new position in Craig in April and he provided an overview of his background and experience leading to this position. He noted plans underway to expand the campus medical programs in partnership with the hospital as well as some new adult education and summer programs. He is working to expand partnerships with businesses, community groups and the high schools.

Attendee introductions were made. Roger Granat is now the municipal representative for Mesa County as Duncan McArthur has resigned from the Grand Junction City Council and will be moving out of state. Chairman Beck noted Duncan's commitment and contribution to his position at AGNC and expressed his appreciation and that of the board for Duncan's contribution to the organization. We will miss his participation.

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD MEETING SPONSOR: MOFFAT COUNTY

Approval of Minutes – Andy Key moved to approve the minutes; Chris Nichols seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial report – Bonnie Petersen reviewed financials for April 2019. Revenues for the month are ahead of budget for the month, we continue to remain ahead of budgeted revenues year to date. Expenses were over budget for the month due to the timing of the local share payment to AAoA but remain under budget year to date. Net income for April was better than the projected budget ending the month at a negative \$180.86; year to date net income is ahead of budget at \$3.87 vs. a budget projection of (\$9,596.79). Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the financial report; Roger Grant seconded the motion; motion passed.

Project and Committee Reports:

Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones – provided an update on the AAoA matters. The state unit on agency visited the region; they visited all agencies in the region and Heather anticipates there will be a couple of compliance issues to work on but overall the visit went well. Heather will be doing more financial monitoring and review the financials of the organizations in the region. AAoA is rolling out new software next week and will work with those vendors next week. With the new software, providers will enter expenses electronically which will help with financial monitoring. Providers will be able to see how much has been spent on their grant and will be able to share documents through the system as well. The software system is being implement within the region; seven other AAA's are currently using the software successfully. Oasis is the system and it will allow for the grant application system as it will

create contracts and set up reimbursements which will streamline work and save about a week of physical accounting work. Some issues of concern raised during the SUA visit had to do with menu analysis; groups have to meet certain nutritional requirements and for a couple of days in some areas they may have missed a B12 requirement. Heather expects to have report in the next few days. Heather has been encouraging programs to reach out to people to be sure they are aware of services available. There has been an increase in home delivered meals and they have seen a reduction in dining sites.

Dinosaur Welcome Center – Cheryl McDonald (Cheryl's full written report can be found as Attachment A at the end of these minutes.) Chairman Beck noted that the Commissioners in Moffat county are putting together a proposal for an electric car charging station at the DWC. They anticipate that the stations will generate revenue and offset costs; there are 33 sites planned across the state. The station would be a Tier 2 charging station; Charge Ahead Colorado is the organization funding the stations. The bottom line is there will be a charging station in Dinosaur. Moon Lake will change metering of the electricity to accommodate the station.

Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs – Rick Garcia, Executive Director provided an overview of his experience and background. He also provided an overview of DOLA's several divisions. In considering the economic development side of a community, he likes to be sure there are housing opportunities. He wants to bring assurances that we are collaborating and working in tandem to be sure that both are being considered. He also wants to be sure there are assurances of support for broadband in rural Colorado; it is essential to everyday life. There are 6 or 7 middle mile projects that need assistance; \$5 million per year is committed for the next 5 years to complete projects. The PUC and OIT have roles in providing middle mile loops. OIT hired an employee to look at federal funds. Another set aside DOLA has committed to is to provide \$12 million to support renewable, clean energy projects in communities. That set aside was approved by Governor in addition to the regular funding cycle established by DOLA. There has been roughly \$60 million per year for projects like road and bridges; the set aside proposed is to help local governments do renewable projects. Begins August 1st. Main Street programs are designed to help downtown communities; the Best and Brightest program partially funds the salary for an intern from University of Colorado to work in a local government office and to get experience in rural Colorado. For post disaster recovery, the Colorado resiliency office is funded and is part of DOLA; it was previously only funded through federal government but is now permanently funded. A bill regarding the 2020 census was passed – Colorado received about \$2300 per resident for 10 years as a result of the census and that is the impact of someone being counted or not. The census will officially be done April of next year, but we want to be sure Colorado receives a full count. The state has set aside \$6 million of support which is available for local governments that may want to apply for support with getting an accurate census count; the money must be awarded by November of this year. The goal is that organizations will put together proposals and ideas to be sure hard to count populations are counted. Questions were raised regarding the \$12 million set aside for renewable energy noting that reductions in traditional energy resources will reduce the funding available – Director Garcia said he doesn't see it that way and equated he set aside to the broadband set aside previously. It was further mentioned that severance tax is dying with war on carbon and Director Garcia was asked what the Governor's direction has been on how we fill the buckets for these programs with the loss of severance tax. The state needs to have a funding mechanism for water and natural resources; as a state, we don't tax renewables, so the questions remains about how we move forward. Director Garcia indicated that he has not been privy to discussions about how to replace severance but noted that he has to believe that, in the future, organizations can start conversations on what is an accurate tax basis for renewables. Other offsets like TABOR, Gallagher that offset revenues. Concerns were raised about NW Colorado representation on the Energy Impact Advisory committee; Director Garcia said two positions will be open in August; provide some candidates for consideration and that he would accommodate NW Colorado representation. The Best and Brightest program is administered through CU – Denver and the question was raised as to why Western Slope education institutions are not involved in that internship program; Director Garcia said DOLA can work with CMU to see if there is a way to include them in the program. Concerns were also raised about the mini-grant program and the additional work associated with that program which takes limited staff time without any remuneration; the request was made that we sit down with DOLA and talk about the

program. Director Garcia indicated this is a similar concern raised at the CARO meeting in Denver and requested a letter, preferably from the entire CARO organization, about the administration question and the mini-grant program.

2019 Session Summary - Richard Orf thanked AGNC members who traveled to Denver as well as to provide remote testimony on bills and waited for hours and hours to be heard. He provided an overview of the 2019 session indicating the number of bills AGNC had reviewed and taken positions on as well as the final disposition of those bills. He outlined the summer committees that would be working on committees set up by legislation and noted those that Orf and Orf would be closely monitoring including the AQCC hearings related to HB1261 as well as the hearings on ZEV's as a result of the Governor's executive order.

Colorado Bureau of Land Management – Jamie Connell, State BLM Director, provided background and update on personnel changes. Noted that Casey Hammond is the acting director at the national level. Excited to move from planning to implementing plans and moving forward. Concerned about fire season it only takes 2 days to dry out and increase fire hazard. Need to attack fires in the winter - deal with vegetation and plant the right kind of vegetation. She noted that it is important to showcase instances like Summit county to show how the firebreak works. Concerns were raised about the sage grouse mapping - Jeff, Ray, and Bonnie met with Bernhardt and Hammond and raised concerns about the mapping. NW Colorado wants to be sure maps are incorporated with statewide plan and Moffat County is interested in what is going on with LWC's. Jamie noted that the sage grouse plan was completed several years ago to avert the listing of greater sage grouse; BLM is proud of that, but it wasn't perfect, and many did not think the Colorado plan was perfect. The BLM has amended the Colorado plan and it is completed and the agency is now working to implement it. BLM is looking for a simple way to get new mapping incorporated and what the process will be; they are working through the solicitor's office to make sure it is done appropriately. Jamie asked that we send data to BLM again we don't want to do anything that will end up in court. Other states doing mapping changes need plan amendments - if the agency can do the mapping as part of a management process, they would like to accomplish in that manner. Part of problem related to LWC's is that we don't have maps of existing routes and inventoried have to be done - Criag and Meeker offices are having the most extensive conversation about routes. Andy - very specific reason we won't go to tables with that information because access gets taken away from us. Keeley noted that it took 5 years to get a permit to go on a county road. Jamie will meet with the offices about where they are headed with travel management. In most cases, it's important to find where the trails are. A number of matters related to trails and access to the trails were discussed. It was noted that the counties are up against a time frame for filing any challenges; they were allowed 12 years to file and 8 of them have already gone by without any resolution. Funding is an issue in the completion of the inventory and that has to be done to include all potential alternatives. There are areas being closed that will restrict significant areas of recreation, hunting, snowmobiling, etc. which is contrary to local input. Jamie will work with field offices and counties to assist in addressing these concerns. going to restrict 129 miles, closing off 5 miles in Pinto Gulch that will be off limits to recreation - hunting, snowmobiling, etc. will limit mountain lion hunting.

Lunch speaker Jim Stoddard provided an overview of his business and the products he holds patents on as well as the uses for the items he has developed.

Federal Delegation Updates

George Rossman from Congressman Tipton's office provided the news that Secretary Purdue has decided to terminate cooperation with the forest service and that will impact the Job Corps in Collbran. Nine of the Job Corps locations will close but not Collbran – the employees there will have to reapply for their jobs. Congress representatives Tipton, Custer, Lamborn and DeGette introduced a bill that will keep revenue at the forest service where ski resorts exist in that forest to help with improvements.

Congressman Tipton Co-sponsored the resilient forests act which will assist BLM mitigate disease and infestation in our forests. He is also working on a couple of veteran's issues as well as broadband issues. It was noted that the White River forest is the number one visited forest in US; NEPA is taking 8 to 10

years with millions of visitors coming to forests. The fees that come in specifically for skiing frees up time money resources but then ties hands of land managers to one purpose only.

Betsy Bair with Senator Gardner's office noted that NWCCOG sent a letter on the issue about the ski area retention act. So have ski areas. The best news for today is that the robo dial bill passed the Senate 98-1; there are two bills dealing with it in the house but there is overwhelming support for the bill. Simplifying outdoor recreation act changes permitting process on public lands and streamlines the process. Senator Gardner is working on VA readiness initiative; we ask them to be ready to serve the country, but we are not ready when they come home - sometimes veterans get a half day counseling for transition back to civilian life which is not nearly enough. Gardner introduced a bill to improve broadband coverage maps. The Senator is Chairman on east Asia Pacific and cyber security - Korea was the number one importer of US beef now Japan is opened as a market for Colorado livestock producers. The Senator supported the bullet proof vest partnership grant - every law enforcement person killed has been shot with rifle; they need type 3 vests for greater safety so now agencies can get grants to upgrade vests.

Matthew Kireker from Senator Bennet's office reported that the Senator is working with complete count committees to get an accurate census count. The Senator is pushing back on the impact of the Purdue decision that impacts the job corps. He has co-sponsored the bill the streamline permitting on public lands. Trying to get a meeting set up on coal to products, the Senator is interested to see more discussion and the potential development of carbon fiber. The Senator has introduced the coal communities act in the past and they may have to re-write it but the idea of helping coal communities looks promising. Bennet's office has opened the application process for nominations to service academies. The disaster relief bill passed in senate and would provide \$19 billion to address fire borrowing if we don't rebuild coffers to bridge the time till funding is appropriated. Senator Bennet is supporting the surprise medical bills act to alleviate some of the financial burdens incurred for out of network providers who bill for services when the patient didn't know that was the situation.

New Business:

Resolution 19-1 Presented by Kent Holsinger to voice support for the oil and gas industry and to request permit streamlining and encourage development of natural resources. The concept is to utilize this resolution to speak with one voice about these issues. Gary Moyer moved to adopt the resolution as presented; John Justman second the motion. Doug Monger stated that Routt County will vote against the resolution as it is written in the negative rather than being more positive. Tim Redmond discussed the resolution with the town board and manager and indicated that the feeling was that this resolution will close doors to AGNC. Gary noted that given what has happened in the last session he sees nothing wrong with adopting the resolution as a position statement. Andy noted that constituents are frustrated with the lack of consideration for economies in NW Colorado and that his community would support the resolution. Kent noted that the goal is to get as many local governments as possible to join in adopting the resolution - he would love to see it passed from county to county around the state. Upon taking a vote, the motion passed with two opposed. A request was made that members pass the resolution on to individual counties and cities and, if adopted or supported, to notify Bonnie.

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

- CSBR road trip to NW Colorado; they will visit Meeker and Rangely, July 8 and 9th, encouraged participation
- Thanks to Orf and Orf who guided AGNC through a very intense legislative session

- Overview of meeting in D.C. with USDA representatives regarding the coal to products initiative
- AGNC signed on as a party to the COGCC regulatory rulemaking to take place as a result of the passage of SB19-181
- COGCC has appointed a new board and NW Colorado is not represented despite the fact that it is home to the second largest natural gas resource in the country.

Next Meeting will be June 26, 2019, Stocker Stadium Hospitality Suite, 1313 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:39 pm.

Attendance:

Ray Beck, Moffat County	Andy Key, Town of Rangely
Chris Nichols, City of Craig	Jennifer Holloway, Craig Chamber
Heather Jones, AAoA	Keely Winger, CNCC
Pattie Snidow, USDA	Betsy Bair, Senator Gardner’s Office
Matthew Kireker, Senator Bennet’s Ofc.	Lisa Piering, Town of Rangely
Konnie Bilgren, Rangely Chamber	Kathy Hall, Transportation Commission
Roger Granat, Town of Palisade	Marie Granat, Palisade
Konnie Billgren, Rangely Area Chamber	Keely Winger, CNCC
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County	Si Woodruff, Rio Blanco County
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	John Anderson, CNCC, Craig
Don Cook, Moffat County	Paula Stepp, City of Glenwood Springs
John Bristol, Steamboat Chamber	Richard Orf, Orf & Orf
Ted Orf, Orf & Orf	Makala Barton, Rio Blanco ED
Christina Oxley, Colorado Workforce	Rick Garcia, DOLA
Kimberly Bullen, DOLA	Don Broom, Moffat County
Jim Stoddard, West Portal Industries	Kent Holsinger, Holsinger Law, LLC

ATTACHMENT A

AGNC REPORT
MAY 2019

Due to the weather and most attractions in our area are not open. Our numbers were slightly down for April. We greeted 2109 visitors down 300 from last year. Our new regions wall map will be installed the week of June 18th. We will have to redo all our brochure displays in the front visitor area and also the back-storage room will need to be redone.

I have installed a new parking sign for Veterans parking. I am trying to get all centers to do the same. Photo attached.

Dinosaur national Monument is now completely open. On summer hours 8AM – 5Pm seven days a week. On June 17th and 18th there will be a celebration for the anniversary of John Wesley Powell in Echo Park.

Cheryl McDonald

