



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

August 18, 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 9:04 am. Mike introduced himself and asked everyone in the room and on the Zoom call to do the same. Bill Carlson is filling in as alternate representative from Mesa County Communities for Ken Kreie and Lisa Piering is filling in as alternate representative from Rio Blanco Communities for Keely Ellis.

Approval of Minutes – Cody Davis made a motion to approve the July minutes. Chis Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Financial report: Bonnie Petersen provided an overview of the financials for July. Gross profit was higher than budgeted because of the Contribution Project fees. Revenues exceeded budget for June largely due to invoicing in June for non-member EZ administration fees. Balance Sheet figures were unremarkable. Check register consisted of normal expenses and large checks to AAoA. A/R Aging Summary consists of outstanding invoices to Routt County, the EDA, and Economic Summit sponsors.

Tony Bohrer moved to approve the financial report; Chris Nichols seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Project and Committee Reports:

Area Agency on Aging -- Heather Jones

Heather provided an update for AAoA which can be found as Attachment A to this document. Heather stated that she learned at a meeting with SUA at the end of July that ARPA funds would not be received any time soon, so she had to cut \$500,000 from her providers' budget. There was a \$290M clerical error where the federal government forgot to remove the match. Heather submitted a new budget, and she hopes that she will receive funds after the first of the year. She may have more than \$400,000 in carryover funds to allocate. Heather's new budget was approved via email by the AGNC Board of Directors.

SB290 involves distribution of \$15M which targets capacity building. They want to support lower-funded AAoA's. Ours is 4th largest of 16 funds. One-time services include hearing aids, dentures, and eyeglasses. We have about 63,000 older adults in our region and served 1000 non-duplicate meals. Meals on Wheels is at capacity now, and they are building a new facility in Palisade. They provided 170,000 meals in Mesa County last year.

Legislative Update – Dianna, Richard, and Ted Orf, Orf & Orf

Dianna, Richard, and Ted provided an update on the latest going on with the legislature. Dianna reviewed several ballot initiatives that will be on the ballot: custodial funds received by the state must go through the legislative process, not just the governor; residential property tax reduction; marijuana sales tax consideration. 3 or 4 Wildfire Review Committees have started work. They are focusing on the best technologies for firefighting. The Water Committee Meetings start next week, and they are looking at a water speculation task force. The Dredge and Fill Permitting Process is being considering

by AQCC with changes in WOTUS. AQCC canceled hearings on employer trip reporting and are coming up with a plan to reduce employer trip reporting by 40% in the next few years. They are also watching the drought situation closely because of concern for the Colorado River going into a shortage situation. Public Option Health Insurance Division has started meetings and they need a rule in place by January. They are developing a standardized plan to reduce premiums by 5% over the next 3 years. The Orfs are working with CCI about Greenhouse legislation negotiations. There are a bundle of rules coming out concerning greenhouse gases. Carbon emissions from vehicles have been identified as the primary source of carbon. GHG ozone non-attainment is being used to set boundaries for trip reduction. Need to keep GHG level at 1261 so they are still encouraging move a from natural gas for heating and a reduction in trips.

State Legislator Discussion

Colorado State Senator Ray Scott said that roads and bridges have morphed into social and environmental justice issues. Mike Samson mentioned the joint county meeting that was held regarding the I-70 Glenwood Canyon issue. An alternate is Cottonwood Pass which is a county road. Making this a state road will receive a great deal of opposition. This will require public hearings. It will take \$50M just to improve Cottonwood Pass to handle the traffic increase. They are pressing CDOT to get funds designated for roads and bridges. They are seeing waste and abuse of funding. Maintenance of roads is a use issue on the Western Slope – we need resurfacing, widening, drainage.

Colorado State Senator Don Coram is concerned that the majority of funds go to a few contractors. He is frustrated that the AG cannot investigate CDOT. He said there is tremendous disruption of supply chains due to the interstate closure. Sen. Coram said he is on 4 interim committees. One of them is the Water Resource Review Committee which deals with water speculation. Another is the Wildfire Committee. He is concerned that they only talk about the cost of fire fighting and not about prevention or follow up.

Senator Coram is concerned about how the wolf reintroduction is being funded and how the state is going to address stock depredation. He also mentioned bills for next session. They are going to restructure the Colorado State Fair Board. They are going to change to agricultural districts: there are 4 and they will leave 2 from the Western Slope. There is some investigation into state organizations. They are looking into governor appointments. There is not equal party representation on the broadband board. The state land trust has no representation north of I-70 and south of Hwy 50. There is also concern regarding the Colorado water that feeds California reservoirs.

Colorado State Representative Janice Rich said she has spent a lot of time with issues that affect rural Colorado. She said that the urban and rural divide is real and very apparent with the workers' rights bills for farmers. She is concerned that there is one party rule throughout our administration and legislature and feels that there are more reasonable conversations when the party rule is mixed.

Colorado State Representative Matt Soper said that activists are running the ship. He is concerned victims are being targeted. There are 3 bills, in particular, that passed regarding rape kit storage; the abolishment of the statute of limitations for sexual assault; and a new cause of action against an organization that covers up rape or assault on a child – the victim can sue for cover up. Rep. Soper said a bill passed that requires the Governor to look at geography for appointments for boards and commissions. He also wants to make sure that broadband dollars make it to Western Colorado. He reviewed the Public Option for healthcare and pharmaceutical regulations that may damage the ability for citizens to have access to health care and even some prescription drugs. Rep. Soper is concerned about the wolf reintroduction and is reassured that there are stakeholder meetings being held to write the rules.

Rep. Soper mentioned some pending legislation for next session. He said they are going to create a state website where all citizens can access court cases. They are also going to allow residents to deduct medical costs from state income tax. It is at the top of the list for now to allow residents to negotiate directly with hospitals.

Senator Coram brought up the issue of proof of vaccination for employment. His personal view is that it's a personal right. Where is the liability if something goes wrong? Rep. Soper doesn't believe that it is appropriate for a mandate by the employer. Commissioner Samson thinks most people are vaccinated and doesn't agree with a mandate. Commissioner Gary Moyer said that he believes it is a personal choice.

Betsy Bair from Community Hospital spoke about the Drug Board Bill. Betsy said that the state applications for the Prescription Board and Advisory Committee were due. She has reached out to the Colorado Hospital Association. She is not happy with the Drug Board she wants a West Slope Representative. Hers is the only hospital in Western Colorado that applied. She asked AGNC to provide a support letter to Dr. Thomas Tobin and Steve Erkenbrack. Chris Nichols made a motion that we provide the support letter as Betsy requested; Cody Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Overview of 2021 CEDS Update & State Project Discussion – Bonnie Petersen & Karl Paulson

Bonnie review the CEDS and asked for comments. Karl reviewed the AGNC list of projects.

Federal Delegation Updates

Alyssa Logan from Senator Bennet's office shared that they have been working on infrastructure bills. She said that broadband will fund through state and regional entities. She believe that they will have \$300M for fire recovery and watershed protection; \$3.7B for clean water and wastewater infrastructure; \$900M for public transportation. There is concern that the federal standard for broadband is 25x3 and we really want to see 25x100. Will the funds be invested in old technology? There is an emphasis on rural as well as smaller projects. Will they focus on middle or last mile? Alyssa said that I-70 through Glenwood Springs is of utmost priority. Hickenlooper wrote a letter requesting \$116M for the project. They are looking for presidential emergency action.

Dana Hlavac, our new DOLA manager, introduced himself to the group. Dana has 40 years of experience: government administration, attorney, city manager, and finance manager, to name a few. He is looking forward to serving. He said the EIAF grants are out, and the deadline is September 3. In October, we will see housing grants coming out, and we can use these grants for the last mile of Broadband. He said they are trying to track the economic impact of the Glenwood canyon closure so they can make informed allocations in the future.

Administrative Update – Bonnie Petersen

Bonnie gave an update on I-70 issues and action that will be taken to improve. Bonnie also discussed the Routt County invoice and the current situation. They have asked for more information about our dues.

Bonnie reminded everyone of the Economic Development Summit that is going to be held at the Ute Theater in Rifle on September 9. She thanked our sponsors.

We received approval from the membership to apply to DOLA for the 2022 Mini-grants.

New Business: *Next Meeting September 15, Granby Fire Protection District Number 1 Meeting Room, 60500 US Hwy 40, Granby, CO, 80446*

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.

Attendance:

Angie Anderson, Glenwood Springs
Chamber of Commerce
Betsy Bair, Community Hospital
Tony Bohrer, Moffat County Commissioner
John Bristol, Steamboat Springs Chamber
of Commerce
Jeannie Caldwell, Town of Rangely
Bill Carlson, Town of Palisade

Brian Condie, City of Rifle
Don Coran, Colorado State Senator
Cody Davis, Mesa County Commissioner
Jamie Hackbarth, EDA
Grady Hazelton, Town of New Castle
Dana Hlavac, DOLA
Laura Kay Houser, AGNC
Heather Jones, AAoA

Margie Joy, CHFA
Tyler Kelly, Rifle Regional EDC
Wendell Koontz, Delta County
Commissioner
Alyssa Logan, Sen. Bennet's office

Gary Moyer, Rio Blanco County

Chris Nichols, City of Craig
Dianna Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Richard Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.

Ted Orf, Orf & Orf, P.C.
Christina Oxley, Colorado Workforce
Commission

Karl Paulson, CWF
Tiffany Pehl, AGNC
Bonnie Peterson, AGNC
Lisa Piering, Town of Rangely
Janice Rich, Colorado State Representative
Mike Samson, Garfield County
Ray Scott, Colorado State Senator
Shannon Scott, Craig Economic
Development
Matt Soper, Colorado State Representative
Carly Thomson, Rio Blanco County
Carolyn Tucker, CWF

Shannon Vassen, City of Fruita

ATTACHMENT A



Updates from AAA 8/18/2021:

- Update on the American Rescue Funds
- SB-290 passed
 - Only AAAs can submit proposals
 - No restrictions on the amount AAAs can request
 - Might have to prioritize requests
 - If funds are not allocated during the first round, another round will be offered
 - Application open for 2 months
 - Priorities will be:
 - Projects that address infrastructure needs;
 - Projects that support lower funded regions
 - One-time services (hearing aids, dentures, eyeglasses)
- 2020-2021 Stats:
 - ~In the last fiscal year, we served 4027 unduplicated consumers. This is a 3% increase from the previous fiscal year (3897).
 - 559 Case Management
 - 157 Caregivers
 - 1212 Grab N' Go/Congregate
 - 1132 Home-delivered meals
 - 253 Evidence-Based Disease Prevention & Health Promotion
 - 134 Legal Assistance
 - 174 Reassurance
 - 110 SHIP (Medicare Counseling)
 - 281 Transportation
 - 332 Vouchers

~The AAA saw increases in consumers served in:

- 27% Home-delivered meals
- 39% Vouchers-Chore
- 33% Vouchers-Homemaker
- 35% Vouchers-Respite

~ The AAA saw at least a 50% decrease in consumers for the below services due to services being closed or limited during the pandemic:

- Evidence-Based Disease Prevention & Health Promotion
- Legal Services
- Reassurance
- SHIP (Medicare Counseling)
- Transportation