



MINUTES
AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING
September 20, 2023
9:00 am to 1:30 pm
Fruita Community Center, Peach & Plum Meeting Rooms,
324 N. Coulson Street, Fruita CO 81521

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2510562431> **Password:** 2462

PHONE: +1 (669) 900-6833 **Meeting ID:** 251 056 2431 **Password:** 2462

Pledge of allegiance (pledge of allegiance was inadvertently missed)

Call to order – Chairman Cody Davis called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes – Chris Nichols made a motion to approve the June 21, 2023, meeting minutes; Bill Carlson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Financial report – Tiffany Dickenson presented the June, July and August 2023 financials. She presented the Profit and Loss reports and noted that we are ahead in terms of income, having used up the EDO Grant for ED Coordinator. She commented that the contribution project admin fees are above budget. She also said we still need to bill \$35K to EDA for the partnership planning grant. She noted that we are ahead of budget for the year. The Balance Sheets were presented. Accounts Receivable was discussed including the receipt of \$7K from Routt County EDP, however, we still do not know if Routt County will pay for last year. Tiffany reported on the check register and pointed out a couple of new payments for Bill Carlson’s grant navigator position, and Matt Solomon for the Energy Initiative. She also pointed out that there was a large reimbursement check to her for January through June, simply because she hasn’t had the time to do that monthly. We also spent some money on the Trapper Mine flyer to promote their facility. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Bill Carlson, seconded by Doug Overton; the motion passed unanimously.

Bill Carlson presented on investing AGNC funds in CD’s. He introduced Heather Goulding with Edward Jones. Heather joined by zoom and presented that she is a financial advisor with Edward Jones. She said that high interest rates make investing in CD’s very good right now. She said they can shop CD’s from various banks, allowing diversification, and insurance of up to \$250K for each bank. CD’s are available for up to 5 years in maturity. She presented the current rates. She said they also can stagger maturity. Risks of CD’s include liquidity, being able to hold until maturity, and interest rate fluctuations. They also have an Insured Bank Deposit account, to easily move cash back and forth. There is no minimum deposit requirement to open an account with Edward Jones. There is a gross credit cost to purchase CD’s, anywhere from \$5 to \$75. Cody Davis asked how much we are looking at investing. Bill said he would suggest laddering, starting with \$250K per month, with 3-month maturities. Cody asked if Bill reviewed our investment policy and he said that he has. Cody asked about a procurement policy, and Tiffany said that we don’t have that policy. Chris Nichols said he thinks it’s a good concept but would like Tiffany to tell us how much we need to reserve. Cody asked if we could get different maturity rates, and Heather said that is very customizable and flexible. Tiffany said she would like to see us grow this money to self-fund some of our projects in the future. Cody asked them to put together a package for the presentation. Bill with work with Tiffany and Heather to present a package.

Project and Committee Reports:

Area Agency on Aging – Heather Jones, NW CO AAoA Director provided an overview of AAA efforts reported that the State completed the ARPA audit, and they did not have any additional recommendations at this time. They are working on updating the new database and there is a lot of duplicate data to be cleaned up. She reported that all FY24 contracts have been signed and returned and began on 9/1. She attended the National AAA conference in Salt Lake City. They discussed concerns for the region and discovered that Colorado is behind in the business side of AAA, with a possibility of bringing in more revenue for AAA through service contracts. She reported that they asked Governor Polis for a \$5M base increase, which would be a \$235K increase for our region. She said they also asked for an inflation increase, which they have not received because they are not classified as a community provider, with a review every 5 years. They have not received a response from Gov. Polis. However, Yolanda Webb replied with some questions, she is the Director of Adults, Aging and Disability Services for CDHS. Heather said she is still waiting for Mesa County's logo, and Cody Davis said he will check on that. They had their annual visit for the state ombudsman, and they are in full compliance. She attended the Garfield County work session in regard to their senior program. She will be in El Jebel this week to attend the Age Friendly Expo. She reported that the state will be completing a virtual monitoring visit next week. Cody said congratulations on the ARPA audit. Heather's report is attached – as Appendix A.

OEDIT Update – Keely Ellis was unable to attend. Lisa Piering reported that she is on vacation and will be leaving OEDIT soon to join CNCC. Tiffany Dickenson commented that we are looking forward to working with her at CNCC.

DOLA Update – Dana Hlavac was unable to attend due to grant funding obligations.

CDLE Workforce Update – Christina Oxley joined via zoom with an economic update for our region. She said that our counties are in a pretty good position, and that if anyone needs a deeper dive into these numbers to please let them know. She reported that wages are trending up, as well as establishments, which may be a factor of COVID, and people interested in starting their own businesses. She reported on job postings over the past year. Health care continues to be the highest need for qualified workers. She commented that Garfield County is the only county in our region where job postings are higher this year than they were last year. She also said we are seeing a downward trend in employment, with job postings significantly down from last year. Chris Nichols asked for a copy of the slides for Moffat County. She said that she will send the slides to Tiffany for distribution. Christina said they also do presentations for city and county presentations.

Broadband Update – Corey Bryndal did not join the meeting.

Public Private Partnership Collaboration Unit for the State of Colorado - Susanne Reh, P3 Program Manager, presented on P3, which was created and funded through legislation. She reported that projects can include increased behavioral health capacity, affordable housing development, childcare services, and broadband deployment. They are not a funding unit, but they are a financing unit. SB23-001 is the legislation which provides P3 with \$13m for affordable housing. She spoke about the unit purpose and operations. She said that P3 conducts solicitations, hires experts, purchases service, manages construction and utilizes legal services. She presented the goals of the operation, including providing social and economic value. She said that P3 is only 18 months old, and they are finding that things are taking longer than expected. She spoke about the process documentation including the proposal phase, initiate phase, EDC subcommittee, capital development committee, and solicitation issuance phase. She spoke about the subcommittee meetings and that they are open to the public on the second Tuesday of the month from 8 to 10am, with recordings posted on the website. She presented the vacant facilities GIS Map, available on the website. She presented the current projects and commented that the partners are required to bring money to the table as well for their projects. She said there are only 3 staff members, and they are very busy with these projects. There were no questions, and she said that she will send the slides to Tiffany if we would like to distribute them.

Proposition 123 – Andy Hill, Community Development office, DOLA presented and shared some links in the chat:

“We have two general information flyers - one is an overview of prop 123:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uuGgg7o3S5swMqocBSgtCJgKT3mO5O3i/view?usp=sharing> and one provides an overview of the funding programs:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DrEjYPvQ4PmNN3GQXdNWAh31N6Be7gvt/view?usp=sharing> and DOLA's Prop 123 website is a great source of information: <https://engagedola.org/prop-123> and OEDIT/CHFA's site also has information on their funding programs under Prop 123:

<https://coloradoaffordablehousingfinancingfund.com/>”

She gave an overview of Proposition 123. She stated that Proposition 123 was approved by voters in 2022, to provide a sustainable and permanent funding source for affordable housing. The funding is available to compete for, only if the jurisdictions have opted in. Local governments must opt in by November 1st of 2023. This is the date the division of housing must accept it by, so it needs to be filed sooner. This gives local governments 3 years of eligibility. If you miss the deadline, you can still opt in, but will only have 2 years of eligibility, and then one year if you miss the deadline next year as well. She spoke about the local government commitment and what is required. The objective is to increase affordable housing by 3% annually or 9% over 3 years. The housing must be deed restricted or protected as affordable housing. She talked about the state affordable housing fund, with ½ year of funding available this year, and full year funding beginning next year. She said that the Dept. of Housing is putting their funding into existing programs. She spoke about common questions and concerns: Opting in allows access to funds, there is no penalty for not filing or for not reaching the unit target (9%-3yrs). If you can't meet the target, you can sit out for a year, and then submit new commitments for 2028 and 2029. It's not solely up to the local government to develop units. Counties commit to an increase in units for unincorporated area only. Once the filing is accepted, only the community's name is published on DOLA's website. DOH will only ask you to resubmit if your application is incomplete or not compliant with statute. Fast track compliance is not required until November 1, 2026. Conversion of units also counts towards the annual target. Loss of existing affordable units does not affect meeting the commitment. New units count toward commitment of building permit; they do not have to have CO by end of 3 years. Can start counting units produced as soon as filing is accepted. Local governments can develop regional partnerships to meet commitments. Johnny McFarland asked about guidance on types of housing that count towards the commitment, including transitional housing. Andy said they only plan to count housing that is permanent, but DOH is holding a stakeholder group and she can provide more guidance after that. Chris Nichols asked about the land banking program, and Andy said that CHFA has closed that for this year. Chris asked when it opens again, and Andy said she will try to find out and let us know. Cody Davis asked about deed restrictions for existing housing and how that will work. Andy said that she understands that deed restrictions may only apply to vacant properties. Tom Rugaard asked what happens if you don't make the 9% over 3 years, Andy said that you then have to sit out for one year, submit a new commitment, and then become eligible again for the remaining 2 years. Tom asked if the funding is statewide, and she said that it is statewide. She spoke about the concerns that front range will get most of the funding and rural Colorado is concerned about not being able to receive funding, and she said they are well aware of this concern and trying to address it. Tom asked if there is western slope representation on the boards allocating the funds. Richard Orf commented that senators are interested in making sure rural communities are included in the funding. Richard commented that the amount of funding available is not going to solve all the problems. Tiffany Dickenson asked if there is a scoring rubric for the application, and Andy said she will check and see and let us know.

2022 Audit Presentation – Paul Miller presented and began by saying that he sold his practice to Blair & Associates, which is why the report has their name on it. He went through the audit and commented on internal controls and especially in a small organization such as AGNC. He spoke about how important it is for the board to ask questions if anything needs to be looked at more closely. He also said that differences in the budget need to be addressed if they are large numbers under or over budget. He spoke about comparing 2022 and 2021 as a good overview. He spoke about the statement of position including any adjustments. He stated that government entities report expenditures before profits, with a net increase for AGNC last year. He said that the notes explain the

transactions and adjustments, policies, etc. He spoke about the budget to actual variances and asked that the board spend some time reviewing these amounts. He spoke about the single audit portion of the financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards was discussed, with AAA being the largest amount of these funds. Paul said if you have any questions, he will be happy to address them and to let Tiffany know. He said overall it was a good audit. Bill Carlson asked about the reporting entity and why Routt County is included, and Paul said he can amend this for us. Tiffany Dickenson commented that although Routt County is not a member of AGNC, they are a member of the AGNC Economic Development District. Bill asked about the Budget to Actual report and the AAA numbers being off. Paul commented that AAA is on a different fiscal year, and that is why these numbers will not match. Bill asked about internal control and the deficiency, and asked if this is due to the small staff of AGNC. Paul confirmed that to be true. Bill asked about our Balance Sheet and transferring retained earnings to the fund balance each year with a journal entry. Bill and Paul talked about QuickBooks and some of the quirks that occur when using this program for accounting. A motion to approve the 2022 audit report was made by Bill Carlson, seconded by Chris Nichols, and passed unanimously.

Legislative Update – Richard Orf and Senator Dylan Roberts presented a legislative update. Sen. Roberts joined by zoom and presented on ballot measure proposition HH. The slides he presented were provided by the Yes on HH Campaign, Responsible Tax Relief for Colorado. He stated that the proposition was created due to senate bill 303, and he said he was personally frustrated with the speed that it went through the legislature, but that it is better than nothing. He spoke about property taxes that fund important services in our communities. He spoke about the timeline including the Gallagher amendment in 1982, causing some severe consequences from ratcheting down of residential rates. The amendment was repealed in 2020, and then throughout the years there was some legislation to provide property tax relief. He stated that Prop HH reduces property taxes for all, targets relief for seniors and renters, and caps future tax increases. He stated that it will reduce the residential assessment rate for all homes, reduce the value of each that is subject to tax by \$50K in 2023 and \$40K in 2024. He showed a table of estimated savings. He will provide his slides after the meeting to all. He spoke about the relief for renters, due to increased rent rates passing on the tax increases from the landlords. There are also savings for businesses through Prop HH, reducing the property tax rate. He spoke about TABOR and the impacts that Prop HH will have on TABOR. He said that TABOR refunds are an exception and not the rule. Prop HH would allow the state revenue cap to grow by 1%. The tandem bill that was passed equalizes the TABOR refunds for all if Prop HH passes. He stated the alternative to Prop HH would be Initiative 50 in 2024, placing a hard cap on property taxes. Chris Nichols asked how special districts receive their lost revenue, and Sen. Roberts says he thinks they work through the county government to receive the backfill funding. Richard Orf said he can get Chris more information on how this will work for Fire, Health, and School Districts as part of the bill. Tom Rugaard asked about the cap on residential rates, and Sen. Roberts said it would be capped at 7%. Travis Elliot asked for clarification on the backfills and if counties and municipalities would be eligible for the backfill, and Sen. Roberts said yes, they will qualify. Sen. Roberts said Prop HH would lock in these rates for 10 years. Doug Overton commented that they are losing most of their energy income, and now if property tax rates get capped, they will be hurting even more. Cody Davis commented that another alternative would be local control. He stated that local governments have the ability to lower their mill levies and can increase them later. He also said that senior relief can be addressed with other legislation. He said that renter relief is also just a drop in the bucket. He spoke about the TABOR refunds and that is why this must go to the voters. He said that local control is the key, and Sen. Roberts said they passed a bill to reinforce that ability for local control. Bill Carlson asked if the ballot language states that it is a 10-year plan, and Sen. Roberts said that it does. Richard said the best information for the impacts is the fiscal note analysis for SB303, updated in August. He said the blue book language is also very clear. He said that in 2020 a bipartisan effort repealed Gallagher. Sen. Roberts said if there are any questions, please let him know.

Legislative Interim Updates – Dianna Orf reported on interim committees, with many bill requests coming from Water and AG Resources Committee, Oversight Committee and Task Force on Tax Policy, and the Wildfire Matters Review Committee. The legislative report is attached as Appendix B with more details about these bills. She spoke about the GEMM2 Rule Making and a new program for Toxic Air Contaminants to be regulated. There is a link in the attached report for the list of air toxins and the list of required reporters. She said that water permit fee increases are moving forward. Spreadsheets showing the proposed increases and their impacts can also be found at the link in

the attached report. She mentioned greenhouse gas fees have a draft regulation now. Regulation 3 from the air commission will have a hearing in December. There will be a fee assessed on emissions to pay for the climate program and permits. Dianna said much of what she presented today has happened within the last 48 hours. She said this fee proposal isn't very clear and some businesses are asking them to delay moving forward until they can understand it. Dianna said this is on new and existing businesses, with no exemptions. Richard had an update on affordable housing and stated that he attended some meetings with CCI and CML. He spoke about construction defects, program funding for rent assistance, and local control. He said there will be bills this year looking to streamline local concerns. Chris Nichols asked if there is anything new on wastewater nutrients, Dianna said that not yet but they know it is coming, including federal regulations on PFAS, and lead and copper standards. Bill Carlson commented that he attended a CML meeting and that CML is going to take a stance against Prop HH.

Federal Delegate Update –

Raven Finegan with Rep. Boebert joined via zoom and apologized that she couldn't attend in person. She reported updates on bills. She stated that multiple bills passed had committee hearings, including the endangered fish act, which passed committee today, bringing us a step closer to passing. She reported on multiple amendments regarding veterans including health and mental care. Community development projects were discussed, and she reported that Rep. Boebert submitted 15 projects, with 10 approved, over \$19.7M dollars going back to projects in the district, one in GJ. She encouraged everyone to submit projects for next year. She also said that their office can provide letters of support as needed, as well. She reported that Rep. Boebert made multiple visits throughout the district in August and is back in session now.

Administrative Update – Tiffany Dickenson reported on the ED Summit in August and that it was a very successful event. She said that we did make a small amount of money on the event, but that is okay as we are providing it more as a service than for profit. She reported that we will be reviewing the budget next month, but we are looking at doing a lot more marketing next year including logos, strategies, etc. We will have Teri Cavanagh present on that as we move closer. We will need an executive committee meeting to review the budget before our next board meeting. She said that the AQCC comments hearing is tonight on GEMM2 and she encouraged all to participate in the comments period to support rural Colorado. She said that the NWCDC out of Routt County is providing their support with us to oppose these regulations. The World Comes to GJ meeting was last week and she attended. She said the CSBR Road Trip was in August and was also very productive and Sen. Bennet attended, as well. She reported that AGNC funded the Trapper Mine brochure that was distributed at the road trip. EDD match money was used to fund it, and we are open to more funding opportunities like this for our EDD match requirements. She also met with Sen. Hickenlooper at the Habitat for Housing Manufactured Housing tour in Rifle. She reported that the Recompete Pilot Program Grant funding is available for communities within our region. Tiffany asked the Parachute mayor to join the next meeting on Friday. She is working with Regions 9 and 10, as well as southeast Utah for this funding opportunity. She said that AGNC provided a letter of support for the CMU Tech Hubs grant application. The Western Colorado's Energy Future is happening at CMU on October 11th. She talked about CHIP zones and that they won't be able to be in enterprise zones, and after 3 years they will become advanced manufacturing zones. This will effectively box out our communities from participating since our region is almost all in an enterprise zone. Raven Finegan commented that Rep. Boebert is fully supportive of the Trapper Mine project. Chris Nichols commented that his community needs to take the reins on repurposing these assets, and he appreciates the CSBR Road Trip, but they need to keep these projects going.

New Business –

Next meeting October 25, 2023, Garfield County Administration Building, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 195 W. 14th Street, Rifle, CO 81650

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Attendance:

IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM
Tiffany Dickenson	Jeannie Caldwell
Toni Barrett	Chris Oxley NWCO Workforce CDLE
Mistalynn Meyeraan	Carolyn Tucker – Colorado Workforce
Lori Malsbury	Heather Goulding
Chris Nichols	Shannon Scott
William Dearing	Travis Elliott
Cody Davis	Raven Finegan (Rep. Boebert)
Heather Jones	Susanne Reh – DPA
Lisa Piering	Ray Beck – Club 20
Johnny McFarland	Andy Hill – DOLA
Brandon Bainer	Dylan Roberts
Tom Rugaard	Dianna Orf
Doug Overton	Christine Rambo
Bill Carlson	
Richard Orf	
Melonie Matarozzo	
Paul Miller	
William Wilson	
Peter Baier	

APPENDIX A



Updates from AAA 09/20/2023:

- The AAA did hear back from the State regarding our ARPA audit. The Audit Division found our AAA's use of the ARPA funds "allowable and adequately documented." They had no additional recommendations for the AAA at this time.
- The AAA has been working on cleaning up the State Unit Data System (SUDS). This will take some time over a period of months.
- All SFY24 contracts have been signed. The ARPA PH contracts that started 9/1/2023 have been signed as well.
- I was able to attend the National AAA Association conference in Salt Lake City mid-July. I was able to meet with our regional administrator for the Administration on Community living (ACL), Percy Devine. Percy covers Colorado, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, and North Dakota. I was able to discuss with him our concerns in our region: funding cliff, lack of workforce for home care and long-term care communities. I also found that other states are farther ahead than Colorado when it comes to supporting aging services. Many AAA's across the states have contracts with hospital, insurance companies, and doctor's offices to provide services to the middle-income older adults. This brings in an additional revenue to the AAA that helps supports those services as well as the AAA.
- On 8/1/2023 a letter was submitted to Governor Polis from the AAAs across the State. FY 2024-2025 budget proposal to request and increase in General Fund Support for the State Funding for Senior Services line item in CDHS
 1. A General Fund "base" increase of \$5 million to help address unmet need.
 2. Classification of the State Funding for Senior Services line item as a "community provider", thereby ensuring that the line item will be considered for annual inflationary increases.
 3. A statutory proposal to review the adequacy of funding for the line item every five years.
- The AAA's did receive a response back on the letter from Yolanda Webb, Director of the Office of Adults, Aging, and Disability Services for CDHS. She said that CDHS cannot take a position at this time on the request outlined in the letter. Yolanda welcomed a continued discussion and that she would make herself available to meet with the AAAs.
- The State LTC Ombudsman and the Deputy LTC Ombudsman did an annual monitoring visit August 29th-30th. They shadowed all of our LTC ombudsman. We were told that Region 11 Ombudsman program was in full compliance, but we will wait to get our formal letter from the State.
- I attended a Garfield Board of County Commissioners Work session 9/6 in regards to their Senior Programs.
- I will be attending the Roaring Fork Age Friendly Expo this Friday in El Jebel, CO.
- The State Unit on Aging will be completing a virtual monitoring visit next week with the AAA and six of my providers: Hilltop ADRC, Garfield Count Nutrition, NW ADRC, Transdev, Mesa County MOW and Hilltop Senior Daybreak.

APPENDIX B



Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) Government Affairs Report September 20, 2023

The interim legislative committees are wrapping up their presentations and consideration of potential topics for legislation. Draft bill titles have, in many cases, been requested from staff attorneys but legislators must return in October to vote on a final selection. In most cases they requested titles to cover more bill concepts than they will be allowed to sponsor as committee bills under their rules. This report focuses on committees of key importance to AGNC members, along with some administrative agency actions of interest and concern.

Legislative Interim Bill Requests

Water and Agricultural Resources Committee. This committee now meets throughout the year, but submits its drafting requests on the interim committee schedule. On September 12 sixteen bill titles were requested, but only ten may proceed following a final vote on October 31. Keep in mind that these were put forward as concepts only, with details to be added prior to a final committee vote and potential introduction in January:

Three bill titles dealing with veterinary practice (vet technician scope of practice; addition of telehealth to the veterinary practice act; and establishing a loan/grant program to encourage Colorado students to go into large animal practices).

Seven bill titles concerning water issues: (non-functional turf in new developments; impacts of conservation practices on water rights; groundwater monitoring data; green infrastructure to support water quality obligations; encourage treatment of non-tributary water for beneficial use; a task force on high altitude water storage; conservancy district water management).

Six miscellaneous bill titles concerning: raw milk; a constitutional ballot question on the right to hunt and fish; civil infractions under the Noxious Weed Act; CDOT Right of Way easements including weed management; public meeting requirements for certain commissions; and extending disbursement of funds for the wild horse project under SB 23-075.

Oversight Committee and Task Force on Tax Policy.

Over the course of four meetings, the committee considered evaluation of various tax credits and exemptions and heard from consulting groups regarding tax incentives for increasing affordable housing supply. Much of the discussion was related to housing policy.

Six till titles were requested: 1) a bill related to repeal of unused tax expenditures (credits/exemptions); 2) a bill related to Tyler v. Hennepin and tax lien sales (a U.S. Supreme Court case from MN where state law allowed the state to retain the balance of funds above the value of the lien denying the taxpayer the remaining value of the property. The Colorado AG has determined that Colorado law is in some respects unconstitutional and should be amended to avoid that result.); 3) a bill related to the income tax credit for long-term health care premiums; 4) a bill to extend state Earned income tax credit by three years; 5) **creation**

of a permanent fund related to the severance tax; and 6) modifications to short-term rental definitions with respect to property tax.

Wildfire Matters Review Committee. Following numerous presentations related to fire prevention, mitigation, and community resiliency the committee requested nine bill drafts to be prepared. Of the nine, those of particular interest to AGNC are 1) a bill to provide incentives to the timber industry to help mitigate fire risk; and 2) a bill to provide extra financial support to rural counties for navigating grant programs for mitigation and support grant writers and 3) a bill calling for the state forest service to develop standards for wildfire mitigation and forest management projects.

Administrative Agency Activities

Toxic Air Contaminants. Following the enactment of HB 22-1244, the Air Pollution Control Division has developed a program covering toxic air pollutants. The list, released Sept. 19, consists of nearly 500 compounds which are designated as harmful to human health and requires businesses emitting those pollutants in any amount to report them to CDPHE. The department has also released a list of facilities statewide which it anticipates will be required to report their emissions of air toxics. The List of air toxics can be found at [Initial Toxic Air Contaminant \(TAC\) List_P&P__9/20/2022 \(hylandcloud.com\)](https://www.hylandcloud.com/Initial%20Toxic%20Air%20Contaminant%20(TAC)%20List_P&P__9/20/2022) on the department website and the list of facilities to report is located at [TAC Facility-Wide Reports__9/13/2023 \(hylandcloud.com\)](https://www.hylandcloud.com/TAC%20Facility-Wide%20Reports__9/13/2023)

Water permit fee increases. The Water Quality Control Division continued to move forward with plans to increase fees on Drinking Water and Discharge permits for the Commerce & Industry sectors. The discharge fees were last increased in 2017 and this session the legislature authorized the Water Quality Control Commission to set fees by regulation following outreach to stakeholders. Those meetings continue at a rapid pace. A rulemaking will likely occur in May 2024 to raise those specific fees to recoup inflationary increases (at nearly 50%) with a second rulemaking in 2025 to add an additional, but smaller increase to stabilize funding for the two programs. The increases will affect water treatment providers, drinking water suppliers, and industrial dischargers of all types. Spreadsheets showing the proposed increases and their impacts can be found at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GF34D3q20ncZDIz2gegHIpCruAafLRv-_bkLwk3IGCM/edit#gid=1743601975 for drinking water fees and <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14HmAuocAJR96KSZeI2cUg1aC7xHJI2VOp1w3YNgios4/edit#gid=0> for the commerce and industry discharge fees.

A large stakeholder meeting is scheduled to be held via ZOOM on Sept. 20.

Greenhouse Gas Fees. At its September 20 meeting, the Air Quality Control Commission will be asked to set a hearing for December to amend Regulation 3 as part of its Ozone State Implementation Plan. Within that regulation is a proposed fee to be assessed on emissions of Greenhouse Gases to pay for the Commission's climate program and permits. The fee is required by statute and appears to be based on a formula applied to a source's emissions as a proportion of total emissions within the state. It is unclear how it will be applied to individual companies and what the assessments will be.