



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO
MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES

February 15, 2017

9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Fruita Community Center, 324 N Coulson St, Fruita, CO 81521

Call to order and introductions: The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m. by Chairman, Martin Chazen and introductions were made.

Approval of minutes: November 16, 2016 meeting minutes were presented. A motion made by Ray Beck to approve the minutes was seconded by Roger Granat; the Motion passed. Martin Chazen abstained as he was not in attendance at the November meeting.

Filling AGNC Board Vacancies: The Board recognizes Ray Beck as the new board member representative for Moffat County and Jeff Rector as the new board member representative for Rio Blanco County. Routt County representatives will assist with obtaining a municipal representative for the County; Moffat County will assist with obtaining a municipal representative from Craig.

Financial report for December 2016, January and February 2017: The financials were reviewed by Executive Director, Bonnie Petersen. Doug Monger moved to approve December, January and February financials, Ray Beck seconded; the Motion passed. Mike Samson moved approval of supplemental \$1,147 funding for phone and internet in 2017 budget, Ray Beck seconded; the Motion passed.

Audit: Petersen asked the board if an RFP for a new auditor should be sent out this year as this will be the third year Paul Miller will have done the single annual audit for AGNC. Discussion followed pertaining to the difficulties of finding an auditor for this particular type of audit. It was agreed that it is a good control to change auditors every 5 or 6 years; AGNC will ask for a proposal from the current auditor for another year and revisit this in a year.

CORA Policy: Petersen reviewed the proposed CORA Policy for AGNC. Due to a CORA request last year, we have found that it is necessary to have a policy in regards to these requests posted on our web site to protect ourselves legally and financially. Mike Samson moved to ratify the Colorado Public (Open) Records Act policy as presented, Doug Monger seconded; the Motion passed.

Records Retention: Petersen reviewed the records retention schedule used by Region 10, suggesting AGNC adopt the schedule. Ray Beck moved to adopt the schedule. Discussion followed that legal counsel should review the schedule prior to approval. Doug Monger moved to table the motion to approve until legal counsel reviews and approves the schedule, Mike Samson seconded; the Motion to approve is tabled.

Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging - Findings and Recommendations:

James L. Riesberg, Chairman: SAPGA has issued their Initial Strategic Action Plan on Aging for Colorado. The plan outlines 8 goals:

- Goal 1: Colorado seniors will be able to live and fully participate in their communities of choice for as long as possible.
- Goal 2: Older adults will be able to stay engaged in the labor force and volunteer sector for as long as they want or need.
- Goal 3: Colorado seniors and their families will be more financially secure and prepared to meet the challenges of aging.
- Goal 4: Coloradans will be prepared for the challenges of caring for aging loved-ones and will be able to do so without endangering their own health or well-being or the health and well-being of the recipient of care.
- Goal 5: There will be enough skilled, educated and trained workers, paid commensurate to the abilities and training, to meet the needs of employers and industries serving Colorado's growing senior population.
- Goal 6: Older Coloradans will stay healthier longer through access to quality and affordable person-centered care that aligns with their preferences and values.
- Goal 7: All levels of government will meet their commitments to support older Coloradans and their families.
- Goal 8: Colorado will empower and protect seniors from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The full strategic action plan is available at www.colorado.gov/agingstrategy .

Government Relations:

Diana, Ted, and Richard Orf gave an update on the legislative session. There have been 417 bills introduced, we are following 63 of them, about 20% of the introduced bills, with 12-15 having been taken off the list. 34 of the bills we are following are on the calendar in the next 3 weeks. Animosity has not decreased during this session with sharp comments from urban legislators about the rural Colorado and their demands.

- CORA bill - Had a meeting with the Attorney General's office resulting in a number of changes being made to the bill; many are good protections. We don't know if it will help move opponents to neutral. We may see the bill again on Wednesday. Attorney General's office does not want this made public yet.
- HB1049 tax abatement bill - Will go to 3rd reading in the house. They are working to identify concerns and potential fixes for the bill. Rep. Thurlow agrees that attorneys should talk to each other to nail down legal details. There will be a time lag for introduction in senate.
- HB1152 allows FML Districts to invest money - Bill is up for testimony this afternoon; remote testimony available.
- SB100 civil immunities for volunteer work on public lands - Came out of committee. This bill would remove extensive liability insurance on public lands.
- HB 1070 drone bill/Center of Excellence bill - Heard yesterday. This became quite an ugly discussion for fear of civil liberties being invaded from the civil liberties groups. The law enforcement part was struck out of the bill to see if that would help. This is just a study bill. We will continue to support the bill, contingent on COE support of the bill.
- SB22 to codify the REDI program – Testified on the bill. It is still in committee.

- HB1162 – limits municipal judge’s ability to leverage enforcement of penalties by taking drivers licenses; instead it suggests collecting penalties assessed through tax refunds. Chazen would like to keep an eye on this bill.
- HB1187 fine-tuning TABOR – Introduced yesterday.

Seven County Infrastructure Coalition:

Brian Barton and Eric Todd Johnson: The Six County Infrastructure Coalition (now, Seven County) was formed 3 years ago in Utah after it was noted that, if things remained the same, the state would lose up to \$40 billion in economic growth. Rural Utah doesn't have infrastructure to support economic development. Six counties created this organization to look at opportunities and evaluate them to see if things could be done differently. They have found the more coordination and cooperation, the better life is. With the coalition, these counties have a more unified voice and it is a little bit louder when they have to deal with state legislature. They have been looking at what the public sector can do to help the private sector, running a P3 act, to address projects beyond transportation. Infrastructure doesn't stop at state lines and these projects could reach into Colorado. In the two years since the coalition was created, they have been pleased with the benefits of cooperation and coordination. They have also been talking with all of their neighbors: Wyoming, New Mexico, and Colorado. The Seven County Infrastructure Coalition is an interlocal entity with a separate political subdivision in and of itself, under Utah law; isolating any liability to the coalition protects the counties. The Utah Community Impact Board (similar to DOLA) receives 12% of FML funds for benefit of the state; seed money for the coalition came from a grant from those funds. The coalition was put together to think outside the box making it more dynamic, as the old way has limitations and they are looking for new ways to win. A study was done to look at existing infrastructure, along with Socio-economic analyses of Utah counties and some of those bordering Utah, leading to the creation of a GIS database to begin looking for game-changing ideas. Working on the premise that infrastructure is regional, they have been looking for partnerships to address needs. Opportunities have been found in the Craig Railroad line, oil and gas pipelines, and broadband infrastructure. Transportation corridors, i.e. Book Cliffs transportation corridor, are being considered to further economic development. The P3 concept is a big deal with the private sector providing funding and execution of building and the government officials help with rights of way and working with federal land managers, permitting, etc. A right-of-way study is being done to identify land management agencies and who contacts are, helping the private providers to lessen time and risk components. The coalition is facilitating a broadband project in Daggett County in cooperation with education network. The operator will be, as of now, a private group, but the school owns the network. They have talked with Montezuma County, Colorado, about making interstate connections to help with redundancy. The Uintah Basin will be designated as non-attainment; air quality is one of the drivers for transportation solutions, pipelines, and electrical service in oil fields and is high on coalition’s priority list. The coalition is working on: a trail from Montrose to Moab, in cooperation with Montrose; a connection between the I-70 and I-15 corridors; broadband redundancies; transportation; and federal issues that impact us identically (Eastern Utah and Western Colorado). The hope is to find ways for us to work together.

Bonnie Petersen suggested there is strength in numbers and AGNC should work with the coalition on transportation infrastructure; rural areas will have to stand up to get the attention we need and it would be beneficial to jointly sign as we write letters asking for consideration.

To keep up with what the coalition is working on, visit their site: www.scic-utah.org .

Senator Gardner's Office Update:

Betsy Bair: Trump's nominees are moving through. Pudzner, nominee for Labor Secretary, is going to be withdrawn. Scott Pruitt is next for EPA. The Senate is considering CRAs (congressional review act) for the BLM methane venting and flaring and BLM 2.0. Senator Gardner is undecided on the methane rule and requesting input. The governor wants us to keep these rules in place as they are less stringent than the rules Colorado already has in place, but they could help with neighboring states. There will be a court battle if it moves forward because the question is: does the BLM have the regulatory power to deal with air quality? Counties should contact Senator Bennet's office, as well.

Administrative Update:

Bonnie Petersen:

We are continuing to move forward with the Sage Grouse Project. We have asked for an extension on the DOLA grant and for some supplemental funding. We want the habitat models completed by the first part of April. The consultants will do some field validations versus the predictions from the models to define the habitats for probability of use so they can revamp the maps. We are hopeful we will come to an agreement with CPW so we can provide the maps to the BLM. The documents should be finalized by the end of December. We have an application to the EDA for a grant to develop a CEDS plan in order to demonstrate that we should be an EDD. The latest news is the application has been sent up to the next person to help us through the award process; it has not been said that we have the award but it sounds like, if funding is available, then we will be looked upon favorably. This will be a big job and we will need everyone's help from the 5 counties. We did get the executed document from DOLA for the 2017 mini-grants and we will get the applications out to our members next week, due back by April 7. We will try to have a review with the Executive Committee within a couple weeks of that to decide which projects will receive a mini-grant. We have created a Severance Tax working group; last year the Supreme Court made a ruling on case, brought by BP, and the decision was that exceptions hadn't been applied appropriately throughout the state. Legislators wanted to create changes in state law to get rid of exemptions and increase the Severance Tax by 12%. We are concerned that we are seeing production come back up and a tax increase could impact that negatively. The Severance Tax Symposium was held in November to look at how the Severance Tax dollars are being spent and we are concerned about sweeps of the Severance Tax fund to balance general budget. AGNC wrote a letter, at the recommendation of the working group, to support the tax being used as it was meant to be, and to say we don't support a tax increase because there is a potential revival coming and we don't want to drive out these companies. Last week, we put together a news conference and sent out news releases to Northwest Colorado media for our campaign, "Raise Revenue, Not Taxes". We met with the EDC in January to ask for a boundary adjustment as Meeker and Rangely had been excluded from the EZ last year, but new data showed they now qualify. The EDC granted the adjustment so Meeker and Rangely are back in the EZ. Next month, we will be going back to the EDC for another boundary adjustment for Central City and greater Gilpin County; we wanted to do that request in January, as well, but OEDIT wanted more information before we made the request. We will also be asking for an exception for Routt County to be included in the Jumpstart Program. The new 2017 board meeting schedule is out; please note the April and August dates have changed. Mike Samson let us know that tomorrow night there will be a meeting with the Glenwood Springs City Council as they have interest in rejoining AGNC. He and Bonnie will be doing a presentation for them. On the 28th we will also be doing a presentation about AGNC at CNCC in Rangely.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 22 in Glenwood Springs at the Garfield County Commissioners Meeting Room. Marty Chazen adjourned meeting at 1:25 PM.

Attendance:

Ray Beck, Moffat County
Art Riddile, Mayor, Town of new Castle
Mike Bennett, Fruita City Manager
Lori Buck, Mayor, City of Fruita
George Rossman, Congressman Tipton's Office
Louis Brackett, Fruita City Council
John Justman, Mesa County
Dave Karisny, Fruita City Council
Betsy Bair, Senator Gardner's Office
Eric Johnson, Seven County Coalition
Richard Sales, Town of Palisade
Roger Granat, Town of Palisade
Sallie Thoreson, CO Dept of Public Health & Env.
Dave Norman, AAoA
Jim Riesberg, Strategic Action Planning Group
on Aging
Frank Ladd, Fruita Chamber of Commerce
Brian Barton, Jones & Demille
Engineering/7County
Don Suppes, Delta County
Duncan McArthur, City of Grand Junction
Nicolle McCown, Club 20
Kimberly Bullen, City of Rifle
Susan Alvillar, Terra Energy
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County
Andy Key, Town of Rangely
Jeff Rector, Rio Blanco
Mike Samson, Garfield County
Marty Chazen, City of Grand Junction
Bonnie Petersen, AGNC
Tiffany Pehl, AGNC
Doug Monger, Routt County