



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

MINUTES

AGNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBER MEETING

August 15, 2018

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

9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Pledge of allegiance

Call to order and introductions– Chairman, Ray Beck Called the meeting to order at 9:08 am; introductions were made.

Approval of minutes: Andy Key made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2018, meeting as presented; John Justman seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial report: Bonnie Petersen presented the financial report – total funds in checking and savings accounts at the end of June 2018 was \$541,352.88. Income for June was higher than projected budget and year-to-date revenue is higher than the budget projection. June expenses were higher than budgeted but year to date expenses are lower than budgeted. Year to date net income is better than projected budget and remains in negative territory. As of July 13, 2018, accounts receivable totaled \$29,634.82. Andy Key moved to approve the financial report; Si Woodruff seconded the motion; motion passed.

Project and Committee Reports:

Dinosaur Welcome Center – Cheryl McDonald provided an update on the DWC; visitation has been great averaging almost 22% increase this year. Cheryl says the increase can be attributed to the new sign - people are coming in and asking about events posted on the sign. Cheryl offered her thanks for all the recent support, she has received calls from all corners supporting DWC. She is struggling on eastern slope to get food and services comped for the fam tours – Western Colorado supports the welcome center fam tours, metro does not. Cheryl passed out the new “Leave No Trace” brochures. The Governor’s conference will be held in Vail. Representative Rankin is expected to be at the October meeting it would be good to have people supportive of DWC there to discuss the CTO plans regarding visitor centers. The DWC written report is included here as Attachment A.

CEDS/EDD Update - Tiffany Pehl provided a progress report for the CEDS effort, AGNC hosted the second regional meeting on July 25th; the four main goals were reviewed, and input was collected regarding refining them. On August 10th AGNC hosted the 3rd and final meeting where the attendees came up with some projects we could begin working on right away. The required 30-day comment period is open now, to make comments people can go to, AGNC.org/ceds; send comments to admin@agnc.org. Everyone is welcome to comment, the public comment period will close September 10, 2018, staff will submit the completed CEDS by September 30th. Tiffany has spoken with Patrick at EDA and he says we are on track and that he is pleased with our progress. Patrick is working with us to be set for a start date of January 1, 2019.

Legislative Up Date – Dianna Orf provided an overview of the ballot initiatives we will see in November 2018; a written report was also provided and can be found as attachment B at the end of these minutes.

There are 4 referred measures on the ballot this year; Amendment Y and Z change the process for redistricting. Amendment X is a constitutional measure and allows the production of industrial hemp. The education tax increase will be on the ballot; it proposes a graduated income tax for earners over \$150k, increases income tax for C corporations and the funds raised go into special fund for public

education. The measure also proposes modification to the Gallagher amendment and would keep property tax rates at 7% for residential and reduce commercial property taxes to 24%. The property tax will change only on education assessment - there are no TABOR limits the estimated revenue for the first year is more than \$1 billion. The corporate tax increase could put Colorado at a disadvantage for business attraction. The proponents turned in 200 thousand signatures; it's the 1st measure to collect signatures under provisions of Amendment 71. Other measures that are having signatures reviewed include initiative 97 which is the setback proposal for oil and gas facilities (not just wells). An analysis by COGCC indicates that 85% of non-public lands would be unavailable for drilling in the state it is a statutory amendment. Initiative 108 is proposed by the Farm Bureau and requires compensation of fair market value for private property takings. This definition of taking applies to any government regulation, ordinances, zoning, etc. It will be up to the courts to determine reimbursement amounts. It is difficult to write something to protect takings; this proposal says that any reduction must be compensated. Currently, the Supreme Court has said that to be compensated, a taking must reduce a property value by 100%. Initiative 173 addresses campaign contributions and says that if individual contributes or loans more than \$1 million to his or her election campaign, then others can collect five times greater than the legal limits specified under current law – this is a constitutional amendment. Transportation has two initiatives submitted, both are statutory signatures are not yet certified. An interim committee is watching three Gallagher alternatives and Water resources review committee have requested nine draft bills. The JBC will undergo a great shift this year - of the six current members only 2 will remain - one of whom will be Rankin. We don't know who else will be appointed. Everything else is hinging on election outcomes.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Update: JT Romatzke, Regional CPW Manager for NW Colorado provided an update; it has been one year since he took this position. JT continues to advance the message that we want conservation back as it has been taken away from people that make a living off land. Conservation is the wise use of natural resources and that concept has been taken from management proponents and moved more to preservationists – under the preservation mantle, there is no room for humans in the landscape. Preservation advocates for removal of management and replaces it with the idea that nature will take its course. JT is advancing the idea that CPW is a conservation organization - humanity has a role on the earth and we can't stop humanity.

One of JT's first steps was to move the sage grouse mapping effort forward; credibility and trust were poor when he took this position. CPW needs to fix the trust and credibility issue - everyone wants to do the right thing but not lose identity in the mix. It would be helpful if AGNC and CLUB 20 would define conservation in a resolution and put it out. CPW doesn't do marketing but it would be good to get some tailgate wraps saying hunting, fishing and trapping fund conservation. JT hopes that after a year we would agree that we have a long way to go but that we are moving in the right direction. Science should inform management not direct management. The work on mapping from all partners is very much appreciated. Mike Samson noted that he is supportive of everything JT has said and thanked him for taking the position; AGNC supports your efforts and he noted that he would like our group to talk about developing a resolution. He anticipates that AGNC would be more than happy to help draft and pass resolution capturing the philosophy and ideas.

There are no legislation adjustments or changes formally in the works; CPW just came off an incredible victory – JT thanked AGNC for the support on future generations legislation. It is hoped that over the next year or so we will start to see more interaction with staff and local leaders; there is a need to engage on issues impacting counties. Future generations bill will be so helpful for CPW; the organization was looking at a \$28 million deficit for wildlife and an \$11 million deficit for parks without that bill. Still, CPW needs to spend funds wisely but the additional funding will be a huge benefit to the state. CPW is moving forward with Future Generations groups will determine how to implement the new fees which is expected to be in January sometime. We need to have a message that CPW's goal is to avoid listings and make that clear. The equal access to justice act has empowered preservationists. 48 suits brought on by enviro groups pushing that agenda and win, lose or draw they get reimbursed.

Drought and wildfire are something CPW is dealing with every day. If these conditions continue, CPW will have aum's cut and the organization is telling staff to consider increases on hunting licenses. Some ranchers are selling out; if we are not managing herds on the landscape, we are having issues. Bears are doing great this year, there are plenty of berries and food sources which leads to issues like the bear that tried to carry away the little girl on Orchard Mesa; CPW doesn't tell the story about bears and the challenges to managing that population. Between June 15 and end of August CPW received 2600 reports of bears in one county. CPW is looking at license increases for bears. Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is on the rise across the state and it is never likely to be eradicated; it attacks bucks predominantly. The Wildlife Commission established a working group; JT asked AGNC to be part of it and Don Cook is representing AGNC. The prevalence of the disease is now up to about 14%, CPW needs communities to be part of these decisions. Hunting and fishing is second only to the ski industry and, in some years, has exceeded the ski industry. The NW region is the funding source for wildlife in the state. Wolves are another concern for Colorado. In all reality, we have had wolves come into Colorado and they are likely here. USFWS stopped collaring them six or so years ago so we don't know for sure if we have any. There are incredibly aggressive groups headed by the likes of Ted Turner trying to get wolves into the state. CPW still stands firm on wolf plan and is not in favor of introducing wolves, it doesn't work for Colorado. The wool growers and CPW have been trying to work together to deal with - wolves, bear, lions, aums, etc. There is also the interaction debate about domestic to wild sheep taking place. The state is paying exorbitant prices to wool growers to protect against predation - add wolves or ban mountain lion hunting and it will increase the cost of predation reimbursements substantially.

Colorado State Parks are packed but the infrastructure needs are great. Trying to go from vehicle to individual pass to capture bikes and walk-ins. The ANS program is a serious management issue; Colorado is in a good place other than Green Mountain. Boats are coming in from Lake Powell so covered with mussels that the props couldn't turn; CPW got an ANS bill through the legislature creating a fee for boats to pay for the inspection program; it's \$25 for residents - non-residents \$40. The Bureau of Reclamation is in charge of Grand Lake and they are working to keep the ANS species out of those lakes by limiting access and time of operation. If these species get into those lakes, it will impact the entire front range. CPW is having challenges with the IPAWS - system for selling licenses - OIT oversees all systems so all CPW systems were moved to OIT. They started contracting the sales program out - CPW will sell 40k licenses in one day - the system has crashed the last two years, so they continue to work on that issue. There are just under 1000 license agents in the state; need them to help get licenses sold.

Cameo Shooting Range Update: Rich Sales, former town manager for Palisade is now working with CPW to help with the Cameo Shooting Rang. Cameo is about to open phase 1A and Rich extended an invitation to AGNC and encouraged them to push it out to all members to attend the first shooting tournament to be held August 25th. There will be a ribbon cutting at 10 am. Attendees should come about 9:30 - they would like AGNC to participate and have speaker and to watch competition. The competition is IDPA - concealed carry shooting; it will last 10 days with 14 shooters per day. There are 184 shooters from 18 states signed up to compete which is a great indicator that this has national draw. If attendees would like to bring a firearm, seven public bays will be open for shooting for pistol and rifle.

Sage Grouse Mapping Presentation: Zach Purdue provided an overview of the greater sage grouse habitat mapping project, the methodologies used for mapping and the maps as they currently stand. He shared the original map for each population and the revised maps developed through the process. There are three counties we still need to have final input from and would like to finalize the maps by the end of August if possible with the prepared technical summary by the end of October. AGNC, CPW and the Governor's office will work to have the maps adopted by BLM as quickly as possible through an administrative action.

Lunch Sponsor Spotlight: CSD & Co. sponsored the August board meeting and Lisa Hemann, Audit Principal for the firm, addressed the group. She provided an overview of the services the firm provides as tax and audit consultants and noted that the auditing group works with a number of government and non-

profit entities. Lisa also provided information regarding who an audit professional represents when doing public audits and the various roles of the entities involved in the audits.

Federal Delegation Updates:

George Rossman for Congressman Tipton noted that the House is out of session so for about 3 weeks nothing is really happening in D.C. There will be a lot of work to be done when the House is back in session; Congressman Tipton is out and about doing meetings in the district. He has been in Durango and she will be in a meeting with him in Montrose on Friday - been in Durango. The Congressman will be in Craig later in August and then back in session after Labor Day.

Shannon Wadas provided an update for Senator Bennet's office. The Senate had one week of recess and Senator Bennet has been in Summit county where he visited the fire and talked about defensible space; he is still trying to get permanent authorization for the LWCF. The Senator met with veterans about importance of the LWCF and participated in a town hall in Steamboat; from there he went to the ladder ranch near Wyoming. The Senate is still having discussions on the farm bill. Senator Bennet is not on the Conference Committee for the Farm Bill but is still involved in the discussions. He was in Walden for discussions on early childhood development, health care and child care then he held a town hall in Granby. He is back in session now. The Senator's office is tracking wildfires closely and Shannon encouraged members to reach out if help is needed.

Betsy Bair, representing Senator Gardner reported that Senator Gardner was in Summit County last week and met with first responders was concerned at hearing that the entire forest area got shut down impacting other counties. The information brought to light questions about who gets to make decisions about processes in place. He heard loud and clear that there is an issue and is not sure how to move forward. The Senator worked to get fire funding and categorical exemptions in farm bill. Summit County was able to small timber sales under the previous bill and this bill increases the amount of area that can be addressed to aid in wildfire mitigation. The Senator introduced a virtual health care to rural communities' bill but has run into the Broadband issue; the FCC chair identified \$100 million pilot program for low income and veterans in rural areas. Those funds are to be used to get Broadband into areas for virtual medicine. He introduced a bill that closes a loophole to oversee large requests for opioids; pharmacies can request large numbers of pills but there is no oversight. The bill creates one database and creates a red flag if large amounts are going to one area. He met with the Taiwanese president in an effort to create a long-term relationship with Asia - TIPA legislation - China does not recognize Taiwan and is putting pressure on worldwide organizations to keep them from participating. Senator Gardner will be trying to bring Good Samaritan legislation forward soon. An access to Broadband act was introduced two weeks ago and streamlines Broadband delivery across multiple agencies and puts one office in place to get permits done. Regarding the BLM move, Secretary Zinke told Gardner he would be in Western Colorado and the GJ working group is working with the Secretary's scheduler to set a date. The Senator sent letters to all airline carriers to ask them to do a direct D.C. flight from Grand Junction.

WRAP UP:

New Business:

Commissioner Hermacinski brought up a concern from Routt County. The State announced that VF Corporation would receive a \$27 million incentive package to bring their headquarters to the state; this would make it one of largest corporation in state. The company will be bringing 800 employees with them; however, Smartwool, a company located in Steamboat Springs with 70 employees will be part of the organization meaning that Steamboat will lose 70 employees. Luis Benetiz, from OEDIT, met with Steamboat and Routt County leadership. OEDIT is aware that the EDC vote would hurt a rural community and any attempt to stipulate that Smartwool would stay in Steamboat would result in the state not getting the corporation. Smartwool employees are devastated. Commissioner Hermacinski stated that we need Steamboat to be admitted to Rural Jumpstart program this month or next, so the community can use the program to attempt to attract a company to replace Smartwool. Another concern raised by the

state's deal is that the VF Corporation CEO has indicated that the business will put \$1 into the VF Foundation for every incentive dollar used - for charitable causes in Colorado. The question is, will they pursue protectionist agenda like Patagonia. We need to advance some ideas about how we work with outdoor retail clusters - perhaps VF could get involved - see if we can find some synergy. Commissioners were also concerned about the Bank of West announcement, essentially cutting off investment for traditional energy development. Moffat county took a stand and will remove all accounts with that bank. Commissioner Samson suggested this is a good time to revisit Steamboat with regard to their membership in AGNC. Rent from Smartwool is of significant concern for the airport in Steamboat as the company leaves the community. Betsy noted that a large portion of the population has said will pay more for goods and services to buy them from a company with a social agenda. Businesses will have to find a social nexus to gain market share and small communities will have to contend with those philosophies. There are many examples of this philosophy - the group in Colorado Springs that has been provided information about social business marketing will be at the AGNC ED Summit in November.

Next Meeting will be September 19, 2018, Oak Creek Town Hall, 129 Nancy Crawford Blvd., Oak Creek, CO 80467

Meeting was adjourned at 1:37 pm.

Attendance:

Betsy Bair, Senator Gardner's Ofc.

Mike Bennett, Town of Fruita

Roger Granat, Town of Palisade

Andy Key, Town of Rangely

Jeff Comstock, Moffat County

Ray Beck, Moffat County

Tiffany Pehl, AGNC

Bonnie Petersen, AGNC

Grady Hazelton, Town of New Castle

Mike Samson, Garfield County

Lori Buck, Fruita Town Council

Trish Thibodo, DOLA

Ted Orf, Orf and Orf

Shannon Wadas, Senator Bennet's Ofc.

George Rossman, Cong. Tipton's Ofc.

JT Romatzke, CPW NW Regional Manager

Amy Provstgaard, Battlement Mesa

Cheryl McDonald, Dinosaur Welcome Center

Dianna Orf, Orf and Orf

Karen Harkin, CHFA

Konnie Bilgren, Rangely Chamber

Cari Hermacinski, Routt County

Don Cook, Moffat County

Kimberly Bullen, DOLA

Rich Sales, CPW Consultant

Richard Orf, Orf and Orf

Zach Perdue, Elev8

Scott McInnis, Mesa County

Attachment A

AGNC REPORT
AUGUST 2018

July visitation was up 19.70%, totaling 4776 visitors. The count for 2018 calendar year thus far is 15823 up 23.48% an increase of approx. 3000.

I will be out of the office September 17th thru 20 for our annual volunteer study tour. This year it will be in the Denver area. These tours are for educating our volunteers about areas of the state so that they can better inform our visitors.

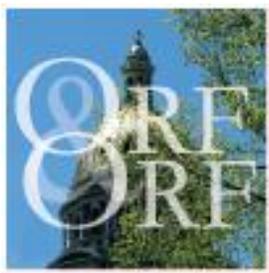
We have a new brochure titled ARE YOU COLORADO READY? This is part of the LEAVE NO TRACE (LNT) campaign. It contains information on ways to dress and pack in summer and winter months for exploring our great state. Safety tips for hiking, learning the signage such as 5280 which means mile high elevation.

Most important LNT educates on leaving the area the same as you found it. Sharing the trails and to stay on the trail. Colorado has 39,000 marked trails and over 13,000 camp sites.

This year's Governor's Conference is in Vail October 19 thru 31st.

Cheryl McDonald Mgr.
Colorado State Welcome Center

Attachment B



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS OF NORTHWEST COLORADO GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT August 14, 2018

The campaign season is upon us and the November General Election fast approaching. Add to that, the Colorado General Assembly will convene approximately one week earlier in 2019, starting on Friday January 4. As a result, legislators planning to return in January are considering bills they wish to introduce for consideration by interim committees, or perhaps among their own five-bill limit. And, as proponents of ballot initiatives wait for their petitions to be deemed sufficient, organizations supporting and opposing those measures launch expensive campaigns to sway voters in their direction.

Ballot Measures

Referred Measures. The following proposed constitutional amendments were referred to the voters by the legislature acting by bill.

Amendment X – defines Industrial Hemp to be the same as that in federal law, or as defined in state statute (currently it is in the state constitution which makes it difficult to change when federal law changes).

Amendment V – lowers the age for an individual to serve in the state legislature from 25 years of age to 21.

Amendment Y – changes the process for redrawing congressional districts in the state. (SCR 18-004)

Amendment Z – changes the manner in which legislative districts are reapportioned (SCR 18-005)

Initiatives. The following initiative petitions have been submitted to the Secretary of State's office. The Secretary of State must determine whether a petition has sufficient valid signatures within 30 days of being submitted. A ballot measure must receive at least 98,492 valid signatures in order to qualify.

#93 Funding for Public Schools will be on the ballot. The measure increases income taxes for individuals earning \$150,000 or more taxable income per year with graduated increases. C Corporations will also be taxed at a higher rate, with a 1.37% additional amount to a total of 6%. The increased revenues will be placed into the Quality Public Education Fund. For purposes of school district levies, residential property assessments will be 7.0% and non-residential property excluding oil, gas, and mining will be at 24%. The calculation for the target percentage and the residential assessment rate will be determined by the assessed values used for all other local governments and is unaffected by the measure. The initial fiscal impact statement notes that assessors will be required to update or change property tax computer and data systems and may require additional staff to implement the measure, although specific impacts will vary among counties.

Initiatives with Petitions still under review

#97 Setback Requirement for Oil and Gas Development – establishes minimum setback of 2500 feet for all oil/gas facilities from occupied structure, playground, park, and vulnerable areas. OGCC states 85% of private land would be closed to new drilling. (Statutory amendment)

#108 Just Compensation for Reduction in Fair Market Value by Government Law or Regulation. Applies to any law or regulation that a court finds has reduced the fair market value of private property. (Constitutional amendment)

#126 Payday Loans Limits the interest that may be charged on a payday loan to annual percentage rate of 36 percent. (Statutory amendment)

#153 Transportation Funding Increases sales and use tax rate from 2.9% to 3.52% for 20-year period and allows CDOT to issue bonds totaling up to \$6.0 billion. Total repayment cost may not exceed \$9.4 billion over 20 years. Bond repayment and state transportation funding receive 45% of revenue; multimodal transportation would receive 15%; and municipal and county transportation projects 40%. (Statutory amendment)

#167 Authorize Bonds for Transportation Projects Directs CDOT to issue Transportation Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANs) no later than July 1, 2019, in a maximum amount of \$3.5 billion with a maximum repayment cost of \$5.2 billion over 20 years, and repayment must be made without raising fees or taxes. Voter-approved proceeds from TRANs are TABOR-exempt and must be used exclusively for road and bridge expansion, construction, maintenance, and repair on the 66 projects identified in the measure, which include projects in each of the state's 15 transportation planning regions, excluding transit projects. (Statutory amendment)

#173 Campaign Contributions if a candidate contributes or loans more than \$1.0 million to his or her election campaign, then other candidates in that race may accept aggregate campaign contributions that are five times greater than the limits specified in current law. (Constitutional amendment)

Interim Committees

The Alternatives to Gallagher Amendment Study Committee continues to meet and discuss potential options. The meeting to request bill drafts must be held by August 22, 2018. The committee must meet and vote on the bill drafts by October 3, 2018.

The Water Resources Review Committee members have requested nine draft bills. Of interest to AGNC is a bill to stabilize funding for Tier 2 programs within the Department of Natural Resources which rely on severance tax. Two provisions discussed include 1) increase required Tier 2 reserve fund to 100% of a year's funding, and 2) distribute Tier 2 monies based on actual revenues received rather than projected revenues.

The Transportation Legislation Review Committee will hear requests for bill drafts on August 20 and will meet to approve/disapprove those draft bills on October 1.