

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments eNews December 2014



Join Our Mailing List!

Happy Holidays



As 2014 comes to a close, we'd like to thank our members for your steadfast support during another banner year. We'd also like to thank the scores of volunteers who serve on our boards, and committees for your dedication and commitment. Your wise counsel helps to set the stage for successful collaboration across our region (and beyond) and throughout our many programs. And finally, we want to thank the readers of this newsletter because you have all played a role in enabling us to get the word out about what we do in your neighborhoods.

Our success depends on your participation and we are grateful for those who have worked tirelessly as we all contribute to building strong, vital communities. With everything we've accomplished together this year, and all that we have planned for 2015, we appreciate your continued involvement.

Wishing you each a wonderful Holiday Season and a happy, prosperous New Year!

Economic Development District Makes HUGE Strides in 2014!

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It's no wonder people are talking about the NWCCOG Economic Development District. The list that follows are highlights of what's been accomplished in our region this past year!

Thanks to all the NWCCOG stakeholders in the region who have been active participants in NWCCOG's Economic Development District, either through the working group, board of directors, health & wellness sector partnership, and/or NWCCOG Council. NWCCOG has, both directly as a



program and indirectly with our partners, realized many economic development successes since being designated as an Economic Development District officially in 2012, and several projects identified in our region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) have been completed. Some successes include:

- Job growth in the region over the last 2 years since becoming a district has been 6.3%*
- Northwest Loan Fund has been re-established; 7 loans made in 2014 for a total amount of \$660,000 in capital provided to businesses in our region
- NWCCOG EDD now serves as host the Northwest Colorado Small Business Development Center - expand free business consulting; offer training, workshops, and two business conferences in 2014: Health & Wellness Business Symposium (August 2014) and Women's Business Conference (October 2014)
- New [EDD Website](#) -provides information on business resources, trainings and workshops, funding, economic data, success stories, incentives offered by towns/counties, as well as serves as a marketing tool for the region
- EDD working group established - provides a forum for collaboration and information sharing among a wide range of economic development stakeholders from throughout the region
- Broadband - completed regional broadband strategic plan; hired Regional Broadband Coordinator in May 2014
- Health & Wellness Sector Partnership established
- Grand Creatives established in Grand County
- Continuing Care Retirement Community being developed in Eagle County
- International flight established at Eagle County Airport
- PitchFest Academy held by the Roaring Fork Business Resource Center
- New Eagle Interchange completed
- 4-Year Nursing Degree established at Colorado Mountain College
- Projects to improve conditions on I70 completed including Twin Tunnels project
- Regional entrepreneurial ecosystem has been developing with new co-working spaces in Frisco, Avon, Basalt; Start-Up Weekends in Aspen and Breckenridge

And these are just the highlights. There are many more successes being realized by the communities in our region. Thank you to NWCCOG member jurisdictions for your membership, as a portion of your dues is used to match EDA funds to make this program possible.

*compares Q1 2012 to Q1 2014 - source: Colorado Dept. of Labor & Employment

Technical Assistance Grant

NWCCOG is offering a Technical Assistance Grant to its **member jurisdictions** only with funding from the Department of Local Affairs, Energy & Mineral Impact Assistance Fund. This is part of our mini-grant program.

Eligible Categories:

- Communities with mining, oil, and gas employment
- Small towns, particularly those that lack adequate staff
- Economically challenged communities

Applications are due by **5:00 p.m. on January 12, 2015**. There is a dollar for dollar match requirement. We have a total of \$30,000 to award.

For more information about this grant and to see if you might be eligible - [click here](#).



New Loan, New Logging Operation- NOW HIRING!



The latest recipient of a loan from the Northwest Loan Fund is the Windy Gap Logging Operation for the Ranch Creek Sawmill in Granby. With recent legislation that made it tougher for small logging companies to operate, the Ranch Creek Sawmill found itself with limited raw materials to produce the lumber products for which it has become well known.

Mike Jolovich, owner and operator, decided the best way to make sure they had ample timber was to create his own logging operation to supply the mill with the material it needed. He and his team had been working to get a loan to purchase

equipment and hire staff and the funding had been located but at a very dear cost. When he met Anita Cameron, Director of Business Lending for the Northwest Loan Fund (NLF), he was pretty sure she wouldn't be able to help because he was on such a tight timeframe.

Anita visited his operation, talked to him about his ideas, and convinced him that the NLF could help. They developed a plan for him to get an equipment loan from the Forest Service Loan Fund and a loan for operating capital from the NLF. They had approval for the NLF loan in just under

three weeks. Because of the complexity of the dual loans it took a total of 8 weeks to receive the funds - which is actually pretty amazing!

The funds from the NLF are being used to hire 5 new employees right away. They have purchased the equipment they need and are now accepting applications for employees to operate the equipment. (See job descriptions below.)

When asked about his experience with the NLF, Mike had this to say, "I've never met a more honest, diligent, hard-working individual than Anita. She has a genuine interest in the people she works with. She's a straight shooter and incredibly knowledgeable about her business. Whenever we'd encounter a hurdle, she'd just figure out how to move it out of the way. She's a great person to have on your side."



Job Descriptions:

LOG TRUCK DRIVER

Must have CDL A license, experience with driving a log truck and operating a log loader. Experience with driving logging roads in summer and winter conditions. Pay commensurate with experience. Starting \$20.00/Hour.

MAINTENANCE TECH

Responsible for daily maintenance throughout production facility. Service on all rolling stock machinery. Insure all machines are prepared for daily operation. Responsible for observing wear and tear throughout the production facility and making necessary repairs. Welding, Electrical, Hydraulic knowledge are required. Tools required. Pay commensurate with skill and experience. Starting \$15.00/Hour.

HARVESTER OPERATOR

Mature individual with good work ethic and team skill. Experience with dangle head processor a plus. General preventive maintenance skills. Candidate will operate a John Deere tracked harvester with a Logmax 7000 processor. Long term full time employment. Wage commensurate with skill and experience. Starting \$20 / hr.

SKIDDER OPERATOR

Mature individual with good work ethic and team skill. Experience with grapple skidder a plus. General preventive maintenance skills. Candidate will operate a Cat 525 dual arch machine. Long term full time employment. Wage commensurate with skill and experience. Starting \$16 / hr.

LABOR POSITION

General labor throughout production facility. Must be able to lift 75 lbs. Must be able to work in summer and winter conditions. Starting \$12.00/Hour.

If you or someone you know might be interested in working with the Windy Gap Logging operation, call 970-887-9225 for more information. Windy Gap is a drug free workplace.



NWCCOG Members are eligible for a discounted registration fee

[The ASSEMBLY](#) is a collaboration of North American mountain resorts, associations and public sector organizations, with common interests in both winter and broader year-round mountain tourism. Representative senior management "assembles" in late January, scheduled to coincide with the onset of the future year's planning season.

The ASSEMBLY has grown from 215 attendees in year one to 325 in year two, with strong representation of industry leaders and stakeholders. The Assembly will be holding its annual event on January 28th, 2015, in conjunction with the SIA Snow Show, with the theme: Mapping the journey to our future: Waypoints toward new realities.

NWCCOG is a promotional partner of this event, and as such, elected officials and staff of NWCCOG Member Jurisdictions are eligible for a discounted registration fee of \$195 if you register by January 13th.

PLEASE CONTACT RACHEL LUNNEY 970.468.0295 X106 IF YOU ARE A NWCCOG MEMBER FOR THE PROMOTIONAL CODE TO USE TO REGISTER TO RECEIVE THE DISCOUNT. [Click here for an informational flyer about the event.](#)



This "Chump" Wasn't Stumped!

Once again, our Weatherization Director is in the news. Each month the [Business Performance Institute](#) presents a "problem" to the nationwide subscribers of their newsletter about a home "energy issue" that they are to "solve". The feature is called "*Let's Play Stump the Chump*" and it's open to weatherization professionals all over the country.

Here's from their most recent newsletter:



Let's Play Stump the Chump!

Congratulations to **Steve Getz, Energy Management Director of Northwest Colorado Council of Governments** in Silverthorne, CO for being the first one to answer last month's stumper correctly.

As a reminder, Tom was recently hired by an older couple to air seal their home. The home is a 2200 sq ft, two-story single family home with a stone façade and vinyl siding, built in 1948.

The home's appliances include a 12 year-old side-by-side refrigerator, various electronic devices, a 14 year-old dishwasher, a 14 year-old gas stove with no range hood, one small electric space heater, three 8 year-old 5K BTU electronic window air conditioning units and a natural gas furnace and water heater.

The ventilation for the building included two 100 CFM bathroom fans.

After air sealing, the customers reported increased breathing issues, including exacerbated asthma problems. Upon inspection, no mold or moisture issues were found. The relative humidity in the home fluctuated but was never excessive. There were no unvented gas space heaters and there is no connected garage to the main home. But the inspection did turn up an occasionally elevated ambient Carbon Monoxide (CO) with no apparent cause.

Steve pointed out that even with the bathroom ventilation; there wasn't enough to clear the CO from the stove. With no range hood, the CO permeated the air of the building without a way out.

Tom adds that after additional testing, the stove was not only venting CO, but other combustion byproducts were impacting the homeowner's breathing.

Thanks to everyone who submitted an answer, better luck next time!

That Steve is one smart Chump...er guy!

The Building Performance Institute (BPI) is a nationwide organization that develops standards for energy efficiency retrofit work using an open, transparent, consensus-based process built on sound building science. From these standards, they develop professional certifications for individuals, company-wide credentials for BPI GoldStar Contractors, home energy rating systems and quality assurance services that help raise the bar in home performance contracting.

Livability partnership envisions a vibrant, four-season economy for Grand Lake

Submitted by the Grand County Office of Economic Development

Follow-up contact: Grand Lake Town Manager or Town Planner, 970-627-3435



Working to enhance and support a four-season economy in Grand Lake was the focus of workshop on December 3 that attracted over 80 participants that turned Grand Lake Elementary School into a beehive of activity.

The participants were a mixture of Grand Lake residents (both primary and second-homeowners), business owners, town and county officials as well as representatives from state and federal agencies. The process was facilitated by Kendra Briechle and Katie Allen from The Conservation Fund.

Discussion focused on opportunities to create a year-round economy by expanding outdoor educational opportunities, building partnerships, increasing economic competitiveness and improving the region's transportation infrastructure via trails, public transit, biking and walking, as well as road access and connections.

The morning was kicked off with welcoming statements from Grand Lake Mayor Judy Burke, Larry Gamble with the National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park and Elijah Henley with the Federal Highways Administration. Mayor Burke currently serves on the National Park Service Advisory Board as well as the National Park Service Centennial Committee. Grand Lake is one of four "Gateway Communities" participating in the Federal Lands Livability Initiative that is designed to help strengthen the livability capacity of towns, cities and communities that neighbor federally-protected, natural and recreational lands. The other three communities are Saginaw, Michigan; Sweet Home Oregon; and Calhoun Falls, South Carolina.

In September 2013 the Livability Initiative team completed an assessment visit with the Grand Lake community leaders to evaluate the area's key livability factors, including the quality of transportation options, range of affordable housing choices, potential for employment and business opportunities, strength of community character, and the partnerships and investments in social, economic, and public health.

David Hook, Grand Lake Town Manager, wrote the grant that provided the funding for the livability initiative. After last week's meeting, Hook said he was excited to see the interaction that he observed and also the ideas that were formulated in several break-out sessions. Hook, who has taken a job locally in the private sector and will be leaving his position as town manager at the end of this month, said he can now view and participate in the process from the position of being a citizen.

Together with land managers from Rocky Mountain National Park and Arapaho National Recreation Area, community, government and local business leaders met last week to discuss opportunities for advancing community goals through step-by-step plans for implementation of priority projects.

"The Town of Grand Lake is already a very dynamic community. This process helped them prioritize next steps and develop an action plan for expanding their year-round economy as a

way to strengthen the community," said Vice President of Sustainable Programs and Director of The Conservation Fund's Conservation Leadership Network, Kris Hoellen.

"It's our goal to help communities foster valuable partnerships, reinforce development plans that balance environmental and economic goals, and provide technical assistance to enable places like Grand Lake to become even more vibrant and thriving communities. We look forward to seeing the results."

Take on a Wellness Challenge BEFORE the New Year!

It's not uncommon for visions of sugar plums to dance in your head this time of year. If you are like most people, holiday festivities are based around food, which can affect your health in many ways. According to the Calorie Control Council, the average weight gain for Americans during the winter holiday season is one to three pounds. Considering that most people don't shed those pounds after the holidays are over, it's easy to see how this leads to accumulation in weight over the years.

So what do you do to own your health and still enjoy the holidays?

Set a Goal Now!

Take charge and own your health NOW to put the desire to indulge in holiday goodies in perspective. Set a goal to watch what you eat, get enough rest and plan for plenty of exercise. Putting together a list or calendar is a great way to get organized and start a program - and doing so before the New Year hits will make you feel like you are ahead of the game. [Read MORE...](#)



2015 NWCCOG Meeting Schedule

Thursday, January 22, 2015

Full Council, NLF Board & EDD Board Meetings

Location: Buffalo Mountain Room, Summit County Commons, Frisco

Time: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Full Council Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m.-noon

Thursday, May 28, 2015

Full Council & EDD Board Meeting

Location: Gypsum Town Hall

Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Full Council Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m.-noon

Thursday, August 27, 2015

Full Council & EDD Board Annual Planning Meeting

Location: Garden Level Classroom, Eagle County Administration Building, Eagle
(tentative)

Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m.-noon

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Full Council & Foundation Board Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m.-noon

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

www.nwccog.org

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN NWCCOG!