



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Colorado Mountain College, Room #307
1402 Blake Ave., Glenwood Springs, CO

Council Members Present:

Andy Miller, Town of Fraser
Anne McKibbin, Town of Eagle
Bill Infante, Town of Basalt
Carolyn Skowyra, Town of Dillon
Jennie Fancher, Town of Avon
Karn Stiegelmeier, Summit County
Keith Riesberg, Town of Winter Park
Matt Langhorst, City of Glenwood Springs
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County
Skippy Mesirow, City of Aspen

Others Present:

Betsy Bair, Senator Garner's Office
Jenn Ooton, City of Glenwood Springs
Matt, Senator Bennet's Office
Watkins Fulk-Gray, Town of Basalt

NWCCOG Staff:

Bryanne Busato
Jon Stavney
Rachel Lunney
Torie Jarvis

Call to Order:

Karn Stiegelmeier, NWCCOG Council Chair called the NWCCOG Council Meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

Consent Agenda Items:

Consent Agenda comprised of the March 28, 2019 NWCCOG Council meeting minutes, NWCCOG financials, and CORA policy.

M/S Karn Stiegelmeier/Patti Clapper to approve consent agenda items as presented.

Passed: Yes

YVEA Support Letter:

After Jon explained that he put this in as example of many support letters staff drafts for upcoming discussion it was passed.

M/S Carolyn Skowyra/Keith Riesberg to approve the YVEA support letter as presented.

Passed: Yes

Approve and authorize Executive Director to submit DOLA Grant in August Cycle for funding NWCCOG Regional Broadband Director for amount and duration TBD through discussing with DOLA representative:

The council discussed a multi-year contract for Nate. Jon has yet to draft the grant. He summarized the terms which he and DOLA had previously discussed. Jon will be writing it for 2-year funding at 50/50 between NWCCOG and DOLA to continue work, but one concession was that DOLA would like to have RBD position serve a much larger portion of the state. Region 10 will be requesting a similar position. This is to meet the needs of DOLA's commitment to spend \$5M each of 5 years on rural broadband. Support from local jurisdictions was requested. Jon to send approval letter drafts to each jurisdiction. Application due by August 1, 2019.

M/S Patti Clapper/Anne McKibbin to approve and authorize Executive Director to submit DOLA Grant in August Cycle for NWCCOG Regional Broadband Director funding.

Passed: Yes

Confirm that NWCCOG Executive Director or Program Directors have authorization to write letters of support on behalf of NWCCOG for local projects, programs and grant applications as well as for any member jurisdiction or Project THOR participant without specific authorization from NWCCOG Council for clearly non-controversial matters:

Council discussed if there is a need to create policy and procedures for letters of support written on behalf of the jurisdictions by NWCCOG Executive Director or Program Directors. Karn thinks when there is financial impact that would

affect community budgets council should weigh in. Patti would like a policy in place to review letters and have a set turnaround time. Bill agrees with Patti, and believes a procedure like such would hold each person more accountable. Overall, consensus that there should be a policy that gives each jurisdiction forty-eight hours to respond, wording in draft support letters should be simplified, and the procedure should not create competition between jurisdictions. Jon to draft for upcoming meeting for discussion.

Ski Area Fee Retention Bill 2019 Version:

Matt with Senator Bennet's Office – progress has been slowed due to Dustin on paternity leave, however, the bill is on the floor and they are working on the revisions and gathering feedback is still in progress. Bennet's office still supports the bill. Bennet's office is working to make fees substantial enough to help with other White National Forest projects. Would like to set up a call with NWCCOG, SWCCOG, Garner's Office and ski resort representatives to better address the issues and concerns of the bill.

Overall, council still thinks the bill is a good idea, however, believes the bill needs more than just a few adjustments. The forest is producing funds but the funds are not coming back to the forest. Concerns of understaffing in the Park Rangers is a major issue, the funds for a project maybe there but not enough staff to implement.

Betsy updates group that bill is on the floor as originally written, however, they are working on the revision. Each jurisdiction is to write up facts, concerns and points, send to Jon to send a collective thoughts email to Matt. NWCCOG to potentially re-write letter of support after the revision is seen; the last letter's position still stands.

Request by QQ for NWCCOG as 208 regional water quality planning agency to submit an amicus brief in the case that Save Our Colorado and other environmental groups have brought against the U.S. for issuing a 404 permit for the Windy Gap Firing Project:

Torie called executive session, however, Andy Miller requests for a discussion on the QQ topic before talking brief specifics in the executive session. Torie gives general overview of the memo that was provided in the meeting packet. Overall, group consensus is it is important to have a seat at the table; therefore, the Amicus must move forward. Executive Session is then held from 11:07am -11:18am. Torie is to move forward with drafting the Amicus. July 25, 2019 is submission date. Any questions must go through legal counsel: Torie or Barbra. Concerns and questions must be addressed prior to July 22, 2019.

M/S Keith Riesber/ Patti Clapper to enter executive session.

Passed: Yes

M/S Patti Clapper/Bill Infante to end executive session.

Passed: Yes

M/S Patti Clapper/Carolyn Skowrya to authorize Torie to continue drafting Amicus.

Passed: Yes. Andy Miller abstained.

Mountain Corridor Priorities I-70 Coalition, NWCCOG and Transportation:

Should NWCCOG adopt I-70 coalition priorities? There was general agreement that the priorities in the I-70 Coalition document are good, but not comprehensive enough to encompass what both TPRs in the region also see as priorities. Overall, council believes it is important to be a part of the conversation with the I-70 Coalition and TPR. Jon shared some thoughts on how between I70C and TPRs there may be opportunities missed that other regions which are more integrated with regard to regional transportation may have an advantage. He is visiting Pikes Peak COG and continuing discussions with Margaret.

Jon to "Run" for Temporary Local Commission for the Town of Eagle:

Consensus is Jon would be a great resource and benefit to Town of Eagle's commission. The minor concern is workload balance; with the position being temporary creates less concern. Council agrees the decision is up to Jon.

202 Census Updates:

Most entities present had complete count efforts underway. It was agreed that it was valuable for Rachel to share what is working (local success strategies and stories) with continued email blast update to the jurisdictions.

Council breaks for lunch.

Avon Request to update the 2008 NWCCOG Second Home Study:

Rachel sums up page 38 in meeting packet. Council would like to gather more from their jurisdictions on how the information of second home ownership information would be used to benefit them. Overall, agreement is that whether a survey or research is done it should gather more information about short-term rental impacts, employment created, and how to create and control sustainable growth. The interest is on the impacts of affordable housing for full-time residents. Patti and others wanted to discuss what value next studies may have to their planning staffs. This is an open discussion still.

Member Updates

City of Aspen, Skippy Mesirow – Welcome Skippy as a council member.

Town of Eagle, Anne McKibbin – Post Office Issue: not enough PO BOXES for residents, new development coming and no mail service available, reliability issue, lack of parking, and understaffed. Consensus, this is happening across all jurisdictions. Betsy and Matt – office's aware of these problems; want to bring in top tier postal service executive to meet with the group to discuss solutions.

NWCCOG Executive Director, Jon Stavney – THOR won the Community Project of the Year award at Mountain Connect 2019 and was the featured Keynote Lunch presentation.

Town of Basalt, Bill Infante – Bill updated council on the town's mil levy refund issue which the town is taking to the voters in November. Mill Levey needs to be approved, or else the Mil Levey will go from 9.597 to 2.35 which would be a huge devastation to the town; services will be cut back majorly. Refund back to voters is around \$2 million. Lawyers are currently working on ballot wording.

Pitkin County, Patti Clapper – Working on bringing back the ability of Real Estate Transfer Tax, big push for this to pass is coming.


Summit County, Jon Stavney and Rachel Lunney – County and towns considering taking minimum wage question to the voters. Jon to attend worksession, perhaps survey other NWCCOG members.

Adjournment:

M/S Patti Clapper/Carolyn Skowrya/Adam Miller to adjourn the NWCCOG Council Meeting at 1:14 p.m.

Passed: Yes


Karn Stiegelmeier, NWCCOG Council Chair


Date