



# Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

## NWCCOG Council & EDD Board Meeting

October 24, 2019

Grand View Community Room  
Vail, CO

### **Council & EDD Board Members Present:**

Alyssa Shenk, Town of Snowmass Village (phone)  
Andy Miller, Town of Fraser  
Anne McKibbin, Town of Eagle  
Carolyn Skowrya, Town of Dillon  
Heather Sloop, City of Steamboat Springs  
Jennie Fancher, Town of Avon  
Jo McQueary, Town of Walden (phone)  
Karn Stiegelmeier, Summit County  
Matt Langhorst, City of Glenwood Springs  
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County  
TJ Johnson, Town of Vail  
Watkins Fulk-Gray, Town of Basalt  
William Infante, Town of Basalt

### **Others Present:**

Rick Garcia, DOLA (phone)  
Betsy Bair, Senator Gardner's Office (phone)  
Matthew Kireker, Senator Bennet's Office

### **NWCCOG Staff:**

Elaina West  
Jon Stavney  
Nate Walowitz

***NOTE: NWCCOG apologizes for technical difficulties in coordinating two zoom meetings (Broadband and Council) with the microphone hardware and the sound system in the Room which made it nearly impossible to follow the meeting while calling in and affected the ability of staff to decipher these minutes from the recording. There may be more errors or omissions in these minutes than usual as a result. We apologize and are working on improving the call in experience for meetings.***

### **Call to Order:**

Karn Stiegelmeier, NWCCOG Council Chair at 10:05am. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the groups.

### **Presentation: Rick Garcia, Executive Director for DOLA**

Rick spoke about the current direction of DOLA. The group shared their appreciation for DOLA and commented on current, local issues in need of support. Comments from Karn, Jon, and Nate will be sent to Director Garcia. Sound issues. Jon sent an email to Director Garcia summarizing comments from the discussion.

### **Financials**

***Patti Clapper/Carolyn Skowrya*** to approve financials as presented.

***Passed: Yes***

### **NLF Reports**

Documents for review, not approval.

### **Approve NWCCOG Letters of Support Policy**

***M/S: Patti Clapper/Anne McKibbin*** to approve the NWCCOG Letters of Support Policy as presented.

***Passed: Yes***

### **2020 NWCCOG Council Meeting Schedule**

***M/S: Anne McKibbin/Heather Sloop*** to pass 2020 NWCCOG council meeting schedule after reviewing and incorporating CAST meeting dates/locations.

***Passed: Yes***

**M/S: Motion to Health Sloop/ Patti Clapper** to amend and repass the 2020 NWCCOG council meeting schedule switching August 27, 2019 meeting date to August 20, 2019.

**Passed: Yes**

**Formally approve NWCCOG 2020 DOLA COG-cycle grant request, and discuss project options**

Council discussed the 2020 COG grant cycle and potential projects. Jon proposed using funds for a short-term rental research project, as short-term rentals effect so many of our communities. **NOTE: that CAST decided to not share in funding this report in 2019 after the NWCCOG meeting (data would be premature with so many new regulations) so Jon pulled it from the DOLA request after consulting with Margaret from CAST and Greg Winkler from DOLA.**

**M/S: Heather Sloop/Anne McKibbin** to adopt DOLA grant request as presented.

**Passed: Yes**

**2020 Budget Hearing**

2020 draft budget was presented and reviewed by Jon. 2020 budget will be approved at the next council meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2019.

**Member Updates:**

**Summit County, Karn Stiegelmeier** – Election season is upon us. Summit County is excited and optimistic that they will get the 1a nicotine tax passed. On ballot is 1B is open space renewal.

**Town of Dillon, Carolyn Skowrya** – Dillon’s Town Manager search closes on Monday, October 28, 2019. Dillon just finished walkability water front/downtown/marina study. Town is close to a population of 1,000 people.

**Pitkin County, Patti Clapper** – The county is pushing 1A. Included is a ban of all flavored tobacco products. The county is optimistic it will pass as it so easily passed for the City of Aspen. Pitkin County is redoing their courthouse. They recently opened a new ambulance building. They are continuing to work on the new airport. They passed first phase of new land use code. Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners will host a hearing on November 13 regarding solar.

**Town of Fraser, Andy Miller** –The town finished county road 8 bridge project. They have two new breweries and a distillery downtown. Some are concerned about a majority of the business enhancement grant funds being focused on alcohol.

**Town of Vail, TJ Johnson** – Four Town Council seats are open for this year’s election.

**Town of Eagle, Anne McKibbin** – The town had been working with USFS on relocation of the Eagle Holy Cross Ranger District facilities, but after waiting for a couple years, the space has been sold and it turns out space will allow QuietKat, a manufacturer of ebikes to relocate there to remain in town. Workforce housing rental units were approved. Proposal to move age to 21 to purchase and use tobacco failed in 4 to 3 vote. The town signed a franchise agreement for cable TV with Comcast. Home rule is Eagle’s only ballot issue this November. The town is looking at 8% increase in revenues. Eagle Valley Library District in their last phase of construction on the library expansion.

**Town of Basalt, William Infante** – Basalt approved voluntary TABOR refunds earlier this year. An NPO invited those receiving TABOR checks to donate those funds to the community. Since the refund was sent to those property owners of record as of around September 15, 2019, anyone who sold their properties immediately before that date were extremely upset. The head of Colorado tourism came up and spoke to the council. One noteworthy conclusion for all of Colorado was that those communities supporting green ethics are receiving more tourism. It was suggested for some communities to seek a Colorado creative district title. Per one of Basalt’s energy goals from last year, they modestly reduced their emissions this year.

**Town of Basalt, Watkins Fulk-Gray:** Basalt is updating their master plan. One strategy is to identify key parcels. They plan to test the community’s desire for density.



**City of Greenwood Springs, Matt Langhorst** – Greenwood is starting city wide deployment for broadband. They plan to connect fiber to every house, commercial facility, etc. They are building a new sub-station this year to help balance the grid. Matt got elected to the MEAN power supply committee (Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska). Their goal is to transfer the county from gas power to renewals.

**Bennet's Office, Matthew Kireker** – Colorado Outdoor Recreation Act is on house floor next week and is going to pass. Then it goes to Senate and Energy and Natural Resources Committee. They hope to see bipartisan support sooner than later. The NWCCOG wildfire funding letter was received. Workforce for the census in 2020 is currently struggling to find employees. Currently in the process of mini bus appropriations. Trying to insert different key provisions into those bills like land and water conservation funding. Bennet's office joined with Gardner on letter to Secretary of Agriculture for wildlife enhancement which helps preserve and protect soil and wildlife species of our ecosystems.


**New Business:**

- Proposition DD FAQs
- Western Senators Letter 8/19 on protecting wildfire savings
- Cordillera Metro—Vail Valley Benefits Comps 2019 (FYI)
- Note Elaina requests contacts to collect Summit County Benefits Comps

**Adjournment:** *M/S/P Andy Miller/Anne McKibbin* adjourned the NWCCOG Council meeting at 2:09pm.

**Passed:** Yes

  
Karn Stiegelmeier, NWCCOG Council Chair

  
Date