



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council & EDD Board Meeting

August 22, 2019

Summit County Community & Senior Center
Frisco, CO

Council & EDD Board Members Present:

Alyssa Shenk, Town of Snowmass Village
Amy Kemp, Elevate Co-Space
Andy Miller, Town of Fraser
Anne McKibbin, Town of Eagle
Carolyn Skowrya, Town of Dillon
Chris Romer, Vail Valley Partnership
Corry Mihm, Summit Chamber
Coby Corkle, Jackson County
DiAnn Butler, EDD Grand County
Eric Heil, Town of Avon
Heather Sloop, City of Steamboat Springs
Jessica Valand, Colorado Dep. of Labor & Employment
Jo McQueary, Town of Walden
Kristen Manguso, Grand County
Matt Langhorst, City of Glenwood Springs
Melaine Leaverton, Jackson County Tourism
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County
Patty McKenny, Town of Vail (phone)
Skippy Mesirow, City of Aspen
Thomas Clark, Kremmling Chamber of Commerce
Watkins Fulk-Gray, Town of Basalt

Others Present:

Erin McCuskey, Small Business Development Center
George Rossman, Scott Tipton's Office (phone)
John Whitney, Senator Bennet's Office
Kay Henze, Colorado Broadband Office
Pat Donovan, Senator Bennet's Office

NWCCOG Staff:

Becky Walter
Elaina West
Jon Stavney
Nate Walowitz
Rachel Lunney

Call to Order:

Patti Clapper, NWCCOG Council Vice-Chair at 10:05am. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the groups.

Minutes of May 23, 2019 Council & EDD Board Meeting

M/S: Anne McKibbin/Heather Sloop to approve the May 23, 2019 NWCCOG & EDD Board Meeting minutes.

Passed: Yes

Minutes of July 11, 2019 Council Meeting

M/S: Heather Sloop/Anne McKibbin to approve the July 11, 2019 Council Meeting minutes.

Passed: Yes

Financials

Heather Sloop/Carolyn Skowrya to approve financials as presented.

Passed: Yes

NLF Reports

Documents for review, not approval.

Proposed 2020 Member Dues

Jon explained the calculations for the dues spreadsheet available in the meeting packet. Average increase was 8%.

M/S Alyssa Shenk/Kristen Manguso to accept the proposed 2020 Members Dues calculations as presented.

Passed: Yes

NWCCOG Policy: Letters of Support

At July meeting Jon discussed desire for clarity from Council on discretion regarding issuing letters of support on behalf of the organization. After nuanced discussion at Council and again at a staff meeting, Jon drafted a policy for discussion, and adoption if minimal edits are required. Alyssa has some editing suggestions. Patti suggested that the council review this policy annually. This policy will be presented for approval at the next meeting after Alyssa reviews and edits.

Kay Henze, Director, Business Innovation and Partnerships, Broadband Office, Governor's Office of Information Technology

NWCCOG works closely with multiple state agencies on broadband, notably DOLA, CDOT, Broadband Deployment Board, SIPA, Tony Neil Graves and also OIT. Director Henze will share how OIT is involved in statewide broadband deployment. Kay's presentation is on our website: <http://nwccog.org/about/meetings/>.

Summit County BOCC has drafted a comment letter on Ski Area Fee Retention Bill

There have been no communications with NWCCOG and Senator Gardner's office since the July meeting regarding amendments in alignment with NWCCOG previous comments. Jon sought Council direction on drafting a letter on the proposed legislation. John Whitey and Pat Donovan gave the council an update on the bill and on related concerns. Bennet's office remains open to conversation about changes, but they are not sponsors (Tipton and Gardner) so are more focused on fire fix funding (see page 58 of packet for Senator Bennet's office letter on fire fix). John Whitney stated that it would be helpful for council to weigh in on protecting the fire fix through the appropriations process. This was an aspect of last year's letter which was not emphasized, and now is a front-center concern. Council gave Jon the permission to draft a letter for signature that captured discussion about both items.

M/S: Kristen Manguso/Anne McKibbin to approve Jon drafting letter for signature to be sent to our congressmen.

Passed: Yes

NWCCOG Updates:

- Two letters to Postmaster from Congressman Tipton's office, Pg. 51
- Release BLM Moves to GJ, and Governing Magazine article on same, Pg. 55
- Senator Bennet's office letter on fire fix, Pg. 58
- Final Amicus Brief on Windy Gap—approved at July meeting, Pg. 62

Presentation: Northwest Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Erin McCuskey, Regional Director

Erin has been very busy reaching out to communities across Northwest Colorado, looking for partner agencies, qualified business consultants and has developed many contacts and partnerships in her short time at the work. Jon and Chris Romer complimented Erin on being much more entrepreneurial and pro-active than previous incarnations of SBDC which seemed overwhelmed by fundraising or by marketing with little substance. That appears to be reversed now. Erin's presentation is on our website: <http://nwccog.org/about/meetings/>.

Presentation: 10-Year Review of NWCCOG Economic Development Program, Rachel Lunney

Rachel's PowerPoint presentation is on our website: <http://nwccog.org/about/meetings/>. Regional Economic Summit is on the books for spring 2020. The intent of the review was to gather input for 2020 priorities, unfortunately, the presentation didn't leave time for much input from attendees. Some comments included not having so many priorities so that a more singular top priority could be addressed in a useful manner. Quick input on what that focus might be circled around employee retention strategies. Rachel will find some mechanism for sustaining this focus through 2020, she and Jon discussed quarterly additional "newsletters" focused on successes, related news and best practices related to retention.

Member Updates:

Town of Walden, Jo McQueary: Walden is taking big initiative to make town maintenance updates. NWCCOG helped fund half of their new phone systems, and new computers in 2019 through DOLA Mini-Grants.

Jackson County, Coby Corkle: Four cell towers were put up in the last year. Sales tax revenue has surpassed since last year because of destination taxes. Public safety has become an issue. They hired a great new sheriff, but are in need of more deputies. Walden is experiencing housing issues similar to the rest of the state.

Pitkin County, Patti Clapper: The county is still working on the airport. They are moving forward with broadband, and with trying to create a regional authority for broadband with Garfield county. The county is working on their master plan with Aspen Ski Company. They are also revising their energy code.

Colorado Workforce Center, Jessica Valand: As we approach peak hiring season, unemployment rate is very low. The Aspen Ski Company minimum wage increased to \$16; looking at data and how minimum wage increase affects local municipalities. Jessica had interesting conversations with hospitality industry leaders and how the industry is perceived in the local economy. They are looking at hosting a Northwest Colorado Workforce Symposium next year during mud season to examine how employers can encourage productivity and worker engagement and satisfaction. They will be hosting an Economic Summit September 12.

Kremmling Chamber of Commerce, Thomas Clark: Sales tax took a good increase this year. Kremmling is home to first brewstillery (brewery & distillery) in the state.

Town of Basalt, Watkins Fulk-Gray: Basalt approved voluntary TABOR refunds just last week. (previously discussed by Bill Infante as possible solution to collecting unauthorized tax funds over many years).

City of Aspen, Skippy Mesirow: Aspen is currently without a city manager, city assistant, and department heads. They hope to sign agreement within the next couple weeks for hire. The city reorganized priorities for 2020, and childcare is one issue at the top. They are looking into building facilities or remodeling current facilities. Finalists were interviewed just before this meeting and a City Manager will be announced within days (Update: congratulations to Sara Ott!)

City of Steamboat Springs, Heather Sloop: City recently opened combined law enforcement facility with Routt County. A fire property tax will be on the ballot in November. The all woman bike race, Colorado Classics, just started in Steamboat Springs. There will be two school initiatives on ballot in November, one of which is an increase in teacher wages. The city is looking at changing charter after this election cycle. Steamboat is going plastic bag free on October 1 with a .20 cent fee for paper bags. Citizens gave very low push back.

Town of Snowmass Village, Alyssa Shenk: Base Village is still under construction. They expect more buildings to open in November. Age for tobacco use and purchase is now 21.

Vail Valley Partnership, Chris Romer: Youth apprentice program has received over eighty applications. They recently launched a version of Peak Healthcare.

Town of Dillon, Carolyn Skowrya: Dillon also passed legal age to use and purchase tobacco to 21. Summit County is now in a stage 1 fire restriction. Dillon Town Manager's last day was at the end of August.

Town of Avon, Eric Heil: Eric was congratulated by the group as Avon's new Town Manager. Avon is hosting stage 2 of the Colorado Classic bike race. The town passed a tobacco tax and licensing. They too raised legal tobacco age to 21.

Town of Eagle, Anne McKibbin: The town is working on converting all paper files to electronic files (partially to clear space in lower level for THOR MMC). They entered into a franchise agreement with Comcast for primarily cable TV. Eagle has a new Town Planner. There will be a Home Rule initiative on the ballot this November.

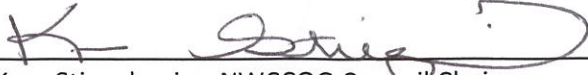
New Business:

There was none.

Adjournment:

M/S/P Clark/Skowrya adjourned the NWCCOG Council meeting at 2:08pm.

Passed: Yes


Karn Stiegelmeier, NWCCOG Council Chair

12-5-19
Date


DiAnn Butler, EDD Chair

1/24/20
Date