



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council & EDD Board Meeting

July 9, 2020

Conference Call Only ("Present" means on the call")

Council & EDD Board Members Present:

Karn Stiegelmeier, Summit County
Watkins Fulk-Gray, Town of Basalt
George Brodin, Town of Minturn
Patty McKenny, Town of Vail
Jon Bristol, Steamboat Springs
Matt Langhorst, City of Glenwood Springs
Bill Infante, Town of Basalt (Caller ID)
Andy Miller, Town of Fraser
Carolyn Skowrya, Town of Dillon

Others Present:

Sally Anderson, Congressman Neguse's Office
Suze Kanack, Jackson County Lodging Tax Panel

NWCCOG Staff:

Becky Walter
Erin Fisher
Nate Walowitz
Jon Stavney

Call to Order

Karn Stiegelmeier, NWCCOG Council Chair at 10:10am. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the groups. Call to order was delayed due to technical difficulties on the call. Quorum was established.

Approval of May 2020 Council & EDD Board Meeting Minutes

M/S: Karn Stiegelmeier/George Brodin to approve the May 2020 Council & EDD Board Meeting Minutes with revisions.

Passed: Yes

Approval of Financials

M/S: Patty McKenny/Karn Stiegelmeier to approve the financials as presented.

Passed: Yes

NLF Reports

Council reviewed. No motion necessary. Jon confirmed that all loans are under regular review by NLF Director.

2019 Independent Audit Postponed

Jon provided details as to why Audit was not ready for this meeting. In addition to delays caused by COVID, the lead auditor responsible for overseeing the NWCCOG audit has unexpectedly left CLA. His replacement has been reassigned and the audit is expected to be completed by August council meeting or by a special call if necessary.

Proposed 2021 Member Dues

Jon summarized the memo from the packet proposing that 2021 dues remain the same as 2020 dues.

Patti noted that Town of Vail has asked that program budgets be reduced 10-15% for this year.

Jon noted that 2021 dues will be issued with cover letter and value statement pertinent to local area intended to show value to members (explaining local programs, etc).

M/S: Patty McKenny/Karn Stiegelmeier to approve the financials as presented.

Passed: Yes

Discussion of USFS Admin Parcels – do you have plans locally and how do they relate to the recent lease rulemaking?

NWCCOG submitted comments on rulemaking for USFS leasing with draft in packet and final later emailed to group on Monday before the Council meeting after revised following comments from Summit County and Basalt. Discussion was brief, mostly FYI. Jon noted that parcel maps are available if needed. Patty asked for maps which Jon sent after.

Discussion of CIRSA Law Enforcement Liability Alert

This document and the next were in the packet mostly as FYI circulated from CIRSA. Not all members get direct updates on this information which usually goes to staff. NWCCOG had issued a statement on George Floyd and Jon wrote a newsletter piece on use of force and is in discussions about doing a survey/study on NWCCOG region policies. A number of those on the call commented that they appreciated the information. Partially because of the quality of the call there was no additional discussion.

Discussion of CIRSA Sample City & Town Executive Session Procedures CIRSA

The point of these forms is to make executive sessions more transparent and information more accessible to the public. All town clerks should have the forms. Jon noted that NWCCOG Council itself according to Staff Counsel did not need to abide by these changes which were mostly for FYI for local jurisdictions. Council did not have any more comment.

Discussion of Gallagher Amendment

Karn had requested that this upcoming ballot measure be on the agenda to see if NWCCOG should play a role. In 2019, 72% of the participants in BBCO's Colorado Conversation across 37 communities recommended that Coloradans repeal the Gallagher Amendment from our state constitution. The state legislature has now referred that recommendation to the November ballot, so Coloradans can decide for themselves.

Council comment: This is going to be on the ballot and it is important to inform constituents and/or provide a view. Patti is looking to see if there is legislation necessary.

Discussion of NWCCOG COVID-19 Guidelines

Jon commends Elaina, Erin, and Doug for their excellent work on spearheading COVID guidelines.

Discussion of how has COVID changed your organization or your jurisdiction?

Zoom and electronically remote meetings have become the norm. There are more meetings, but they are shorter and there is no commute. Patty: Town of Vail has now taken public meetings back to council chambers and record their meetings on zoom to make them available for those who cannot attend in person. Plexiglas partitions are in place and chairs are limited to allow land-use hearings to happen in person, applicant to be present, and more citizen participation. Karn: Looking long term to see what jobs can become permanently remote and who wants to become permanently remote. Potential permanent MWF or T/TH schedules to be looked at. In-person interaction is necessary but harder to consider. Visitors entering Summit County receive an emergency alert on their phone issued by local law enforcement. Andy: Zoom meetings have increased public participation- this is beneficial for citizen participation. In Grand County there has been lots of debate over face mask requirements. Commissioners refuse to pass a countywide facemask requirement. Biggest concern is economic impact if the ski season is impacted. Eagle County: Just passed a mandatory face mask order. Summit has had one all along.

Alpine Area Agency on Aging changes name to Vintage

Erin Fisher announced name change to Vintage. AAAA was struggling with name recognition and many people, including clients are caregivers, were unaware of the services available. Vintage is the same program but has changed name to make it easier and shorter. Many National AAAA's have recently rebranded, which sparked Vintage to begin this process. Vintage's rebrand includes colors, fonts and themes to increase brand recognition and reach to older adults. Feedback has been positive.

New website: www.yourvintage.org

Legislation Updates

Senator Gardner's Office, Betsy Bair: Not Present

Senator Bennet's Office, Matthew Kireker: Not present

Congressman Neguse's Office, Sally Anderson: (Note: speaker was unable to give verbal update due to technical issues and emailed update to NWCCOG instead) The US House passed the "Moving Forward Act" last week that provides \$1.5 trillion to invest in America's infrastructure, including funds for road and highway repairs, like I-70. The Select Committee on the Climate Crisis released its Climate Crisis Action Plan last week, and Congressman Neguse was able to secure some Colorado specific legislation in the report, including the CORE Act and the 21st Century Conservation Corp Act. The link to the release and the full report is [here](#).

Member Updates

Summit County, Karn Stiegelmeier: Summit County is back up to 100% of tunnel numbers from last year, compared to 20-30% during quarantine.

Eagle County, George Brodin: Minturn has seen increased tourism. Sidewalks are complete on Main Street. Bike Park under construction with plans to open in late August. Pinpointing sites for new water tanks; hopeful to start construction by next season. Battle Mountain is remaining annexed to the town and withdrawing petition to de-annex (so they are de-de-annexing).

Steamboat EDD, John Bristol: Focus is still on economic response for long-term recovery. Twenty different industry groups have been engaged for programming and policy changes. Summer visitation is high; campgrounds under considerable pressure but tourism economy is strong. Craig Coal Power stations have three planned closures in 2025, 2028, 2030. "Steamboat Strong" program is helping Steamboat small businesses; additional funding program or bridge program might become available to help businesses survive mud season.

City of Glenwood Springs, Matt Langhorst: Water Tanks in planning. Municipal fiber to home project is underway and should be complete within 24 months.

Town of Vail, Patty McKenny: Projected 21% decrease in revenues, currently showing 16% reduction. Tourism was high over July 4th; parking garage numbers were only 15% down. July 4th events were successful and adapted to COVID. There is ongoing work on messaging and signage regarding face coverings. Getting ready to propose a commercial rent relief program for the business community in order to face August-December months.

Town of Fraser, Andy Miller: Many new permanent residences due to remote working. This has helped sales tax numbers stay high.

Program Updates:

See in meeting packet on website: <http://nwccog.org/about/meetings/>.

New Business:

See in meeting packet on website: <http://nwccog.org/about/meetings/>.

Adjournment

M/S: George Brodin/Patty McKenny adjourned the NWCCOG Council meeting at 11:12am.

Passed: Yes



Karn Stiegelmeier, NWCCOG Council Chair

8.21.2020
Date