



# Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

## NWCCOG Council Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025

### Executive Board Members

Patti Clapper – Pitkin County  
Nina Waters – Summit County

### NWCCOG Staff:

Jon Stavney  
Becky Walter  
Anita Cameron – NLF  
Moir Vander Meer  
Jonathan Godes – Grants Navigator  
Barbara Green – Counsel Green and Sullivan  
Rachel Tuyn – EDD  
Erin Fisher – Vintage  
Doug Jones – Energy Program  
Dana Wood – Mobility Program

### Others Present

Janeth Stangle – Office of Senator Hickenlooper  
Tom Boyd – Eagle County  
Jeffrey Woodruff – Pitkin County  
Jonnah Glassman – Town of Silverthorne  
Erin McCuskey – Eagle County  
Sam Rose – City of Aspen  
Keith Hensley – Routt County  
Randy George – Grand County  
Diane McBride – Town of Frisco  
Geoff Grimmer – Town of Eagle  
Dan Sullivan – Town of Keystone  
Carolyn Tucker – SBDC  
DiAnn Butler – Grand County  
Hilary Henry – Senator Bennet Representative  
Kris Mattera – Basalt Chamber of Commerce  
Corry Mihm – Project Works  
Jacob Zook – City of Glenwood Springs  
John Bristol – Routt County  
Melissa Matthews – Town of Red Cliff  
Michael Buccino – City of Steamboat Springs

### **ACTION** Call to Order NWCCOG Council Meeting

Patti Clapper, NWCCOG Council Vice Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 10:00 am. Quorum was confirmed with introductions of attendees.

### **ACTION** Approval of January 2025 Council Minutes

M/S: Jeffrey Woodruff made a motion to approve the January 2025 NWCCOG Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Tom Boyd.

***Passed: Yes***

### **Presentation**

Barbara Green, NWCCOG General Counsel presented on Navigating Legal Changes. Topics covered included making sense of Executive Orders and evolving court cases and case law, recommendations on discrimination as state versus federal definitions, changing procurement and recipients of federal fund grants, and the power local governments must regulate on federal land. NWCCOG looks to identify programs for which award selections have included the following elements: equity activities, diversity, equity, inclusion, DEI, climate change activities, environmental justice, gender-specific activities, primary focus on bicycle infrastructure, charging infrastructure. Any of these programs may not meet the new administration criteria for funding. A review of DEI orders and EPS-related orders are being pulled back on regulatory requirements, which is resulting in litigation from different organizations and states. The outlook is that there will be a lot of back and forth between what is acceptable and what is not for funding from the federal side, with litigation changing the outlook almost daily. Keeping focus on the localized issues and not entering the national political field will keep the programs in question out of the national debate and staying away from items that create public forum. It is possible that grants will require mandates that do not match the values of the entity, but to receive the grant, those concessions will need to be made. Extending funds without reimbursement may become more

commonplace, so holding out on spending until the funding is secured and received is one path, though this does not cover grants that are reimbursement grants.

#### **Update – Jonathan Godes NWCCOG Regional Grants Navigator**

Jonathan has a new role with the I-70 Coalition as Director. Jonathan will remain as the NWCCOG Grants Navigator alongside his new responsibilities. Discussion of the CAMP Grant, with its focus on bicycle programs for high-density housing developments and concerns of conflicts of interest and sustainability of funding, along with the funding being quarterly, may have an impact on housing developments and community infrastructure.

#### **Discussion – NWCCOG 401a Contribution and review of January and February NWCCOG List of Bills**

Currently, employees of NWCCOG can choose the percentage of contribution in the 401a program from 3.5% to 6% with employer match. As this is a replacement for the Social Security contribution, even at 6%, it is less than the Social Security contribution of 6.2%. NWCCOG would like to explore making the contribution a mandatory 6% as once the contribution is chosen, it cannot be changed. The Council asked that further information provided at the next Council meeting of how many staff are under the 6% threshold and what a rough cost of having future staff enroll at 6% may be. January and February NWCCOG List of Bills was reviewed.

#### **ACTION – I-70 Coalition Request of Funding for I-70 Economic Study Update from 2007**

The contribution could be as much as \$5000.00 with an initial contribution of \$1000.00. This is to redo the study that was initially done in 2007 which showed that every hour Vail Pass is closed cost \$1million. CDOT estimates that the amount is now closer to \$1.6 million. NWCCOG would like to support the I-70 Coalition in redoing this study. Motion to approve brought by Geoff Grimmer, seconded by Tom Boyd.

***Passed: Yes***

#### **Update – NWCCOG Energy Program Profit Sharing for 2024**

Approximately seven years ago, different programs were added as fee-for-service programs like what was already being done with weatherization but generating a surplus. The idea was to reward employees due to the many challenges of being a competitive employer especially in the energy sector. Half of the surplus is taken every year and a profit share program for the Energy Program employees as well as the administrative staff under Indirect was implemented. All of this was a result of diversifying funding, adding programs, delivering more benefits to the region, and the families in the region. Each of the service homes generates a surplus, and half goes to the reserve fund for the Energy Program, and half is divided among the employees.

#### **ACTION – Move May NWCCOG Council Meeting to June and Move July NWCCOG Council Meeting to August**

NWCCOG made a request to move the May 22, 2025, NWCCOG Meeting to June 5, 2025 and move the July 24, 2025, NWCCOG Council Meeting to August 7, 2025. Tom Boyd made the motion to approve. Geoff Grimmer seconded the motion.

***Passed: Yes***

#### **ACTION – Adjourn the NWCCOG Council Meeting and Reconvene as NLF Board**

Motion for NWCCOG Council Meeting to adjourn and NLF Board to convene was made by Tom Boyd. The motion was seconded by Tom Boyd. The NWCCOG Council Meeting adjourned at 11:37am. NLF Board Meeting was convened at 11:37 am.

***Passed: Yes***

#### **ACTION – NLF Board Approval of January 2025 NLF Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made for the approval of the January 2025 NLF Board Meeting Minutes. Geoff Grimmer made the motion to approve the January 2025 NLF Board Meeting Minutes. Tom Boyd seconded the motion.

***Passed: Yes***

#### **ACTION – NLF Board Approval of 2024 End-of-Year Financials**

Motion was made by the NLF Board to approve the 2024 End-of-Year Financials for NLF. Tome Boyd made the motion to approve the financials. Geoff Grimmer seconded the motion.

**Passed: Yes**

**Update – Letters of Support or Opposition**

Discussion on letters of support or opposition to bills being presented which impact on our jurisdictions.

HB25-1056 – Should NWCCOG send a letter to sponsors Roberts and Lukens, re, Breckenridge.

HB25-1247 – Should NWCCOG send letter: re, raising the lodging tax cap from 2% to 6%

Public Lands Staff Terminations – Should NWCCOG send letter to delegation re, Grand County

Selling or Drilling on Public Lands – Should NWCCOG send letter concerning Public Land use for drilling or the sale of public lands.


Support was given to any municipality that would like to submit letters of their own, with the guidance to keep it short and to the point of how these changes impact our area.

Hilary Henry from Senator Bennet's office highlighted the need for local governments to report issues related to frozen grants and federal employee reductions. She mentioned that Senator Bennet is focused on the Fix Our Forest Act, which aims to address permitting reform while ensuring adequate funding and staffing for forestry work. Additionally, Janeth from Senator Hickenlooper's office provided updates on the funding freeze and shared resources for federal employees.

- Communication strategies between local governments and federal representatives
- Federal funding issues and their impact on local governments
- Communication Strategies: Strategies for local governments to address community concerns regarding federal mandates and funding.
- Resources for federal employees affected by funding freezes
- Upcoming deadlines for grant requests

**ACTION – Adjournment of the NWCCOG Council Meeting**

A motion was made to adjourn the NWCCOG Council Meeting by Geoff Grimmer. Randy George seconded the motion. The NWCCOG Council meeting was adjourned at 12:23pm.

  
Patti Clapper (Aug 3, 2025 15:47:56 MDT)

Patti Clapper, NWCCOG Council Vice Chair

07/29/2025

Date