



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council Meeting

June 6, 2024

Board Members:

Alyssa Shenk – Town of Snowmass Village
Tim Redmond – Routt County
Kristen Brownson – Town of Breckenridge
Randy George – Grand County
Patti Clapper – Pitkin County
Michael Buccino – Steamboat Springs
Jeannie McQueeney – Eagle County
Chico Thuon – Council Member Avon
Britta Gustafson – Town of Snowmass Village
Jonnah Glassman – Silverthorne
Rich Chimino – Grand County Commissioner
Geoff Grimmer – Town of Eagle Trustee
Ed Sullivan – Town of Keystone
Nina Waters – Summit County Commissioner

Others Present:

Carolyn Tucker – SBDC
Sam Hellwege – Auditor
Beth – Clear Creek
Dan Sullivan – Keystone
Beth Luther
Mike Wilson
Melissa Matthews
Corrie Mihm
Larry Pardee
Brian London – Insights Collective
Ralf Garrettson – Insights Collective
Matt Kireker
Gary Sujor
Mike Wilson
Diane Butler
Patrick Brower
Mike Wilson

NWCCOG Staff:

Jon Stavney
Anita Cameron
Becky Walter
Jonathan Godes
Darcy Owens
Rachel Tuyn
Greg Ociepka

Congratulations for Ten Years:

Jon Stavney presented Nate Walowitz with a Colorado beetle kill wood tray as a thank you for ten years with NWCCOG.

Call to Order

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 10:03 am. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

Approval of March 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

M/S: Alyssa Shenk made motion to approve/Michael Buccino made the motion to approve, seconded by Tim Redmond the March 2024 Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Passed: Yes

NWCCOG 2023 1st Quarter Financials

Jon shared list of bills by class and the balance sheet. The Covid payments through Vintage including food and transportation for older Americans. With a \$5 million dollar ask for the Vintage Program, \$2 million was granted.

M/S: Alyssa Shenk asked for a motion to approve the 1st quarter financials. Jonnah Glassman moved to approve the 1st Quarter financials, seconded by Tim Redmond.

Passed: Yes

Update on NLF from Anita Cameron

Presented with the list of loans. One loan is in foreclosure risk but has a court order to sell 2 residential properties, so foreclosure action has not been needed. There are two new members to the Loan Committee – Bill Johnson from Pitkin County and Peter Ammon from Summit County.

Audit

Presented by Sam Hellwege from CLA and Becky Walter, NWCCOG. The Board has been requested to provisionally approve the draft audit barring any significant items in the meantime so the Chair will be able to do a final approval through delegation. The bylaws require that the audit be approved in a timely manner by the Board and there are several items that then happen such as funding. CLA can offer unmodified opinions over the draft audit. All three funds have a healthy fund balance at the end of 2023. No material weaknesses or sufficient deficiencies were noted in the financial findings. Tim Redmond asked that the payroll findings of a 2-hour miscalculation had been rectified and Becky Walter confirmed that it had. Jeanne McQueeney asked where the fraud that was perpetrated against NWCCOG fits in the whole financial story. Sam Hellwege explained the expenditure occurred in 2023, but the fraud took place in 2024. Most of the funds have been either recovered or provided back by insurance. This will be listed as a bullet point identifying that CLA did look at the fraud from an IT perspective, the even occurred after year-end from a cyber perspective but is not called out as a formal finding. Anything that CLA would have done through a formal recommendation for NWCCOG, NWCCOG had already done a great job of implementing.

Alyssa Shenk asked for the motion to sign off on the final audit from CLA barring any significant changes. Chico Thuon made the motion, and Kristen Brownson seconded to approve draft 2023 audit as presented barring any significant findings or changes and give the Chair official delegation to sign off on the final audit.

Passed: Yes

Insights Collective Overview

There has been a shift in the communities served of evidence that the demographics of second-homeowners, renters, and full-time owners have different wants for their communities. Insights Collective created deliverables in the form analysis in an Executive White Paper with all the data available in the slide deck on the website and the full White Paper as well. This was originally presented at the EDD Summit in May. In anticipation of members wanting to take specific parts of the information as it relates to his/her community, those three resources are available to go through on the website. The study did confirm that that post-Covid, there has been a dramatic change in the mountain communities. The information gathered offers balance in the tourism-based economy and the lifestyle directives of the communities. This is a comprehensive look at what the people of the communities want to see, with a balance of resort and tourism, but also housing and services for residents. Insight Collective will develop a visual graphic representation of the continuum to illustrate the balance between tourism and community interests. Margaret will present the findings to the CAS group and initiate a conversation about potential uses of the data.

Discussion of Brown Ranch

Gary Sutor from Steamboat introduced what the Steamboat Springs area had seen with the proposal of Brown Ranch – an affordable, employee housing development that had seemed like it would be approved and was turned down by the community by a 60/40 ratio. This reinforced the resident-focused expectations of the community over tourism driven initiatives. The Town of Steamboat Springs is going to look at smaller development rather than an all-at-once approach for the Brown Ranch Development. Better marketing and community outreach of fully explaining the project, how it will come to fruition, and the short and long timelines of the project, so when it comes to a vote again, the community is fully informed of the project and the impact on Steamboat Springs. Gary will use the data from Insights Collective to inform the decision-making and policy development in Steamboat Springs, particularly considering recent community events. NWCCOG will consider the potential for future projects to build on the baseline data and metrics provided by Insights Collective.

Update on Postal Service and Shred Act

Congressional updates from Matt from Senator Bennett's office. There were several projects that were able to be requested during the appropriations committee. Congressman Neguse can also make these requests. During the summer the draft bill language will show if these projects are viable for funding. If there are any projects that the counties of NWCCOG have submitted and there are questions on them, please contact Matt and he will go over the details with you. Matt also addressed the postal service issues including delayed delivery, long waits, staffing issues, etc., and with many letters written to the postal service, some small improvements have occurred. Senator Bennett's office

has also asked the Postmaster General to work with the postal service unions to find a way that the cost-of-living allowance can reflect the area of the postal office location. There is an estimated 300-person shortage of postal staff, so there is a long way to go.

The update on the Shred Act is a continuing conversation and some of the details may need to be reworked, and there is a role of NWCCOG to play in getting the bill moved forward and passed.

Open Discussion

What has changed from the Covid experience and what changes have you made or any subject about the specific communities.

Grand County has a federal mineral withdrawal resulting from a BLM auction to gas and oil companies that would have allowed for mineral extraction near waterways, ranches, etc. Grand County wrote many letters asking BLM to fully withdraw the federal mineral rights from areas and have brought the focus to which areas the mineral right withdrawal would have adverse effects on waterways, tourism, environment, etc.

Breckenridge is starting a new housing development in Block 11 including using geothermal in the development. There is also a single-use plastic law going into effect July 1, 2024, where single use water bottles, utensils, etc., will be banned. Dan Sullivan from Keystone working with the county on the transition of becoming a town and the next big project is creating the master plan in Q3 with some funding from DOLA.

Nina Water with Summit County shared that the ribbon cutting ceremony for Larkspur occurred the past week, a partnership with the Town of Breckenridge for 52 units. Development of a comprehensive plan for the first time in 12 years is also underway. Commissioner Eric Mamula is working on a regional transit authority along with the Summit Stage. An ordinance for Pay-As -You-Throw should be passed soon for unincorporated Summit County.

Jeanne McQueeney shared that Covid really highlighted the need for infant/toddler care in the community. The lack of childcare is costing Colorado \$2.7 billion and the information from Insights Collective data shows the support of the community for lodging tax to fund childcare.

Randy George reported that Grand County is putting to a vote the current 1.8% lodging tax to be raise to 2.0% and allow the use of those funds for housing and childcare.

Tim Redmond reported that Routt County has finished a two-year process of rewriting the master plan and made a point that the community was driving the plan. Routt County residents asked that there be a maximum home size which will be part of the master plan.

Diane McBride reported that Frisco is working on their comprehensive plan and good feedback from events. A climate action plan, housing strategic plan, and working with the regional transit plan and micro-transit. There are also two housing projects in the works.

Chico Thuon reported that Avon is feeling post-Covid the cost of housing has created new programs for helping people afford housing and some Town of Avon staff housing is in the planning stage and the Village at Avon is coming along quickly. Childcare is being addressed with an early-childhood center as well. Solar is being paused while the backup system is reworked to hold the energy for nighttime hours.

Alyssa Shenk reported that Snowmass has many events lined up. Employee housing is a major focus and there are a few housing developments in the plans. There are plans to rebuild the Little Red School House to help alleviate some of the childcare shortage and infant care. There has been a lot of change in area restaurants as well, so new places are opening.

Jonnah Glassman reported that Silverthorne is finishing its first sustainability plan and two amendments have been passed for an expansion of the Rec Center and to borrow against the housing tax. Ground has been broken on a new fire station and Smith Ranch for-sale-housing has finished and the rental portion should be finished this summer.

Jonathan Godes reported that the alternative fuels corridor is most of NWCCOG and there is a grant for \$800 million to apply for.

Adjournment

M/S: Alyssa Shenk asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Nina Waters made the motion, Kristen Brownson seconded. NWCCOG Council meeting adjourned at 12:03PM

Passed: Yes