



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council Meeting

October 24, 2024

Board Members

Alyssa Shenk – Town of Snowmass
Patti Clapper – Pitkin County
Nina Waters – Summit County
Jeannie McQueeney – Eagle County
Randy George – Grand County
Geoff Grimmer – Town of Eagle Trustee
Kristen Brownson – Town of Breckenridge

NWCCOG Staff:

Jon Stavney
Erin Fisher
Torie Jarvis – QQ
Ashley Bembenek - QQ
Jonathan Godes
Rachel Tuyn
Moirra Vander Meer
Becky Walter

Others Present

Carolyn Tucker – SBDC
Thayer Hirsch
Chris Romer – Vail Valley Partnership
Kris Mattera – Basalt Chamber of Commerce
John Bristol – Routt County
Jonnah Glassman – Town of Silverthorne
Teagan Serres – Town of Kremmling
Matt Kireker – Regional Director US Senator Bennet’s Office
Dan Sullivan - Town of Keystone
Sara Nadolny – Town of Basalt
Ashley McDonald – Town of Kremmling
Chris Romer -Vail Valley Partnership
Kris Mattera – Basalt Chamber of Commerce
Teagan Serres – Town of Kremmling
Jacob Zook – City of Glenwood Springs
Jena Skinner
Corry Mihm
Diane McBride

ACTION Call to Order

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 10:03 am. Quorum was confirmed with introductions of attendees .

ACTION Approval of September 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

M/S: Alyssa Shenk made motion to approve made motion to approve the September 2024 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion approved by Randy George and seconded by Sara Nadolny.

Passed: Yes

Update: Chair to share Executive Director Evaluation Process status with members.

Alyssa provided an update on the executive director’s evaluation process, noting delays due to the election season but confirming plans to meet with Jon for his evaluation in mid-November. No questions from members at this time.

ACTION COG 2nd Quarter Financials

The financial overview highlighted a robust financial position, including \$6 million in checking and savings, and a \$426,000 loan associated with the NLF. The team praised Jon and Becky for their effective storytelling in presenting the financial data, emphasizing the importance of understanding the financial landscape as they approach budget approvals. The discussion then shifted to the budget overview, particularly focusing on indirect costs essential for covering administrative expenses. Randy George raised questions about the allocation of these costs, prompting Becky Walter to explain their necessity for funding various organizational needs. The conversation also addressed the importance of maintaining a reserve fund amid uncertain federal funding, with Randy advocating for a more conservative reserve strategy. Additionally, the meeting noted a significant adjustment in the Broadband grant, which would reduce funding

for elevator projects, and discussed a recent fraud incident that resulted in a loss of \$31,168, highlighting the need for improved practices to prevent future occurrences.

Alyssa Shenk asked for a motion to approve the Quarter 2 financials. Patti Clapper made the motion and Geoff Grimmer seconded.

Passed: Yes

Discussion: COG 2025 Budget Overview

A formal vote will occur at the December 5, 2024 Council Meeting for the 2025 Budget per bylaws. The 2025 Draft Budget is available on the NWCCOG website as well as the 2024 Revised Budget. Noted was the 10% in reserves per NWCCOG bylaws, and that the members are facing very tight budgets for 2025, so understanding the dues increase for NWCCOG and what services NWCCOG provides were important for members in upcoming budget discussions in their communities.

Presentation; Wage Range Analysis and Reserve Analysis from Becky Walter

Wage Range and Compensation Analysis was also discussed with changes to be applied in 2025 and reflected in the 2025 Budget.

Update: NLF Reports

Northwest Loan Fund Risk Rating for outstanding loans were shared as well as the redacted Portfolio Summary. These documents were for review only, not for approval or motion.

ACTION 2025 Proposed NWCCOG Meeting Schedule

In-person meetings for 2025 will be held in the Silverthorne location with remote option. Dates presented: January 23, 2025 / March 20, 2025 / May 22, 2025 / July 24, 2025 / September 18, 2025 / Mid-October TBD Annual Executive Director Review & 2026 Budget Workshop / October 23, 2025 / December 5, 2025

Alyssa asked for a motion to approve the 2025 NWCCOG Council Meeting Schedule. Nina Waters made the motion and Sara Nadolny seconded.

Passed: Yes

Presentation: NWCCOG Program Presentation – QQ

Ashley Bembenek and Torie Jarvis Presented on the Watershed Services Program. Explanation that NWCCOG is the designation Regional Water Quality Management Agency for Region 12, with participation in Water Quality Control Commission rulemaking, assisting members in adopting water quality protection measures, review water quality control division site applications, and participate in adaptive management efforts. Discussion of the \$100K Legal Defense Fund will be discussed at the upcoming fall meeting on November 15, 2024. There has not been a contribution to the reserve in at least 13 years.

Presentation: Unita Rail Project Appeal reaches SCOTUS

NWCCOG and QQ attorneys participated in the Amicus Brief submitted in October to the Supreme Court with focus on the Colorado River protection if there is a spill or environmental issue. It is an ongoing issue and discussion will continue as to if it is better for QQ or NWCCOG to lead the matter. Matt Kireker, the Regional Director for US Senator Bennet’s Office did state that it is an issue that the Senator is following.

ACTION Adjournment

M/S: Alyssa Shenk asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Patti Clapper made the motion, it was seconded by Nina Waters. NWCCOG Council meeting adjourned at 12:19PM

Passed: Yes

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair

Date