



# Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

## Economic Development District (EDD) Board Meeting

August 26, 2021

Conference Call Only (“Present” means on the call”)

### **Council & EDD Board Members Present:**

Alyssa Shenk, Town of Snowmass Village  
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County  
Matt Langhorst, City of Glenwood Springs  
Josh Blanchard, Summit County  
Thomas Fridstein, Town of Snowmass Village  
Coby Corkle, Jackson County  
Mark Hoblitzel, CO Dept. of Labor & Employment  
Erin McCuskey, SBDC  
Melanie Leaverton, Jackson County Tourism  
Chris Romer, Vail Valley Partnership

### **Others Present:**

Christina Oxley, CO Dept. of Labor & Employment  
Carolyn – CO Dept. of Labor & Employment  
Matthew Bauer, WRC  
Robin Campos, WRC  
Jeremy Kennell, WRC

### **NWCCOG Staff:**

Becky Walter  
Jon Stavney  
Rachel Lunney

### **Call to Order:**

Patti Clapper, EDD Board Member, called the Economic Development District (EDD) Board meeting to order at 12:31 pm. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

### **Approval of July 2021 EDD Board Meeting Minutes**

***M/S: Josh Blanchard/Thomas Fridstein*** to approve the July 2021 EDD Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

***Passed: Yes***

### **Workforce Update, Mark Hoblitzel**

Mark Hoblitzel presented the labor force update. Expiring unemployment benefits not expected to have impact on employment rates however there will be a greater need for government assistance. Housing and childcare are critical concerns for finding employees. Wage compression makes it difficult to retain employees. Tapping into hidden labor markets and finding creative solutions may resolve some employment voids. Upcoming events include educational toolbox from Aspen Institute in September, Mountain Town Job Fair and Mountain Careers best practice education in October.

### **CEDS 5-Year Update Review**

Rachel reviewed the CEDS 5-Year Update which has been available for public comment for 30 days on the NWCCOG EDD website <http://nwccog.org/edd/nwccog-region/comprehensive-economic-development-strategy/>. The Regional Action Plan is designed to evolve each year and is used to access funding from EDA. It includes the Regional Road Map projects which helps build resilience in the region. All Colorado EDD CEDS update every five years in October.

***M/S: Thomas Fridstein/Josh Blanchard*** approved resolution adopting CEDS 5-Year Update as presented

***Passed: Yes***

### **EDA-ARPA Grant Funds**

Rachel introduced the EDA-ARPA grant fund which is allocating 3 billion in American Rescue Funding. There are 6 different funding programs for communities. EDA has funding for regional projects, which is tied to the CEDS. The details for each of the programs is available on the EDA website <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/2021-2022-eda-arpa-funding-opportunities-now-available/#:~:text=Under%20the%20American%20Rescue%20Plan,local%20economies%20that%20will%20be>

### **Digital Workforce Opportunity**

Jeremy Kennel and Mathew Bauer with Wireless Research Center (WRC) proposed creating regional digital communities for training people looking for remote full-time, part-time, or subsidiary income. The training would be paid from a contingency of the remote job salaries. Building the digital communities can be tied into the EDA-ARPA funding and would be considered a public/private partnership.

Council had concerns about promoting remote work opportunities when all communities are struggling with workforce housing.

**New Business:**

NWCCOG EDD Conference planned for May, 2022.

EDCC Drive, Lead, Succeed conference in Steamboat October 20-22, 2021 <https://edconline.org/product/2021-drive-lead-succeed-conference/>

**Adjournment:**

*M/S: Chris Romer/Thomas Fridstein* adjourned the EDD meeting at 2:13 pm.

*Passed: Yes*

*Patti Clapper*

[Patti Clapper](#)

Patti Clapper, EDD Chair

*(Oct 13, 2021 14:52 MDT)*

Date