



# Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

## Economic Development District (EDD) Board Meeting

January 27, 2022

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

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

Thomas Fridstein, Town of Snowmass Village  
Corry Mihm, Summit Prosperity Initiative  
DiAnn Butler, Grand County EDD  
Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County  
Josh Blanchard, Summit County  
Melanie Leaverton, Jackson County Tourism  
Kristen Brownson, Town of Breckenridge  
Coby Corkle, Jackson County  
Skippy Mesirov, City of Aspen  
John Bristol, Routt County EDD  
Tim Redmond, Routt County  
Mark Hoblitzell, CDLE

### **Others Present:**

Christina Oxley, CDLE  
Erin McCuskey, SBDC  
Carolyn Tucker, Co Workforce  
Jamie Hackbarth, EDA  
Trent Thompson, EDA  
Jessica Valand, CDLE

### **NWCCOG Staff:**

Becky Walter  
Talai Shirey  
Jon Stavney  
Rachel Tuyn

### **Call to Order:**

DiAnn Butler, EDD Chair, 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 October EDD Board Meeting Minutes**

***M/S: Thomas Fridstein/Kristin Brownson*** to approve the August 2021 EDD Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

***Passed: Yes***

### **EDA Denver Regional Office Update**

Trent Thompson, Economic Development Representative, provided an updates on EDA Funding.

- American Rescue Act funding. Colorado won funding from Build Back Better Phase I which was awarded to front range communities. Phase II awardees starts in March and finalist can be viewed at <https://eda.gov/news/press-releases/2021/12/13/build-back-better-regional-challenge-finalists.htm>.
- The Good Job’s challenge deadline is coming up this month.
- US Treasury recently decided that specific funds for government services may be used for matching other funds including ARPA.
- EDA and Congress have discussed reauthorization of eligibility as emergency is coming to end. To view EDA Investment priorities <https://www.eda.gov/about/investment-priorities/>
- University Center Grants are available for all higher learning education economic development initiatives. Interested parties should contact EDA before this spring. The Kansas RedTire program is interested in expanding to other universities and should be contacted if interested.
- Region 9 is administering a new loan program funded by the EDA on behalf of the NWCCOG Region.
- Colorado received \$9 million for tourism and recreation. It has not been confirmed how these funds will be dispersed yet.
- The Colorado Tourism Office’s Tourism Management Grant provides funding for tourism-related projects that develop, enhance, or manage visitor experience in Colorado. The maximum grant amount is \$20,000 and the required match is 4:1. For every \$1 the qualifying grantee allocates to the proposed project; the Colorado Tourism Office will provide \$4 in matching funds. Applications open February 1, 2022 and will close at 4pm on March 3, 2022. <https://oedit.colorado.gov/tourism-management-grant>

## **Workforce Update - Resignations and the Pandemic**

Christina Oxley, CDLE and Mark Hoblitzell, CDLE provided a EDD Board Workforce Update. The presentation focused on finding solutions to provide quality positions for the limited workforce as 45% of the current NWCCOG region workforce is nearing retirement age. Slowing US birth rates and declining return to workforce combined with the effects of the pandemic have limited the workforce. Defining the Great Shuffle opposed to Great Resignation as the workforce moves to jobs with better pay, work-life balance, better housing options and situations that better fit their needs. Retention is key for strong staffing; a lot comes down to owner/managements willingness to change and make employee accommodations. Several resources provided:

- National hiring gains and losses by industry by sub-sector: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t17.htm>
- In-depth look at shifts within the healthcare industry: <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/chart-collection/what-impact-has-the-coronavirus-pandemic-had-on-healthcare-employment/>

Discussion was made regarding cost of living and competing with other states for employees. It was recommended the NW regions work together for Best Practices in our community. Success stories from the Good Jobs sessions with the Aspen Institute include employee survey as a retention strategy and updating technology to assist the lack of employees. Additional data from the Good Jobs pilot will be shared as soon as available.

Additional resources:

- <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/longform/job-quality-tools-library/index/employers/>
- <https://goodjobs.pacificcommunityventures.or>

## **New Business, Round Table Conversations**

Rachel Tuyn, EDD Director reminded the Regional Economic Summit on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Silverthorne Pavilion.

Corry Mihm, Summit Prosperity Initiative shared success with entrepreneur programs that assisted current business owners who need to pivot, new lines of business and new business start-ups. The biggest challenge is housing and childcare shortages.

DiAnn Butler, Grand County EDD started a job share in Grand County which include incentive packages and housing for different businesses and encouraging flexibility in management of staff.

Tim Redmond, Routt County has combined with Moffit and Rio Blanca counties to create a regional cooperative and are establishing common goals. Some of the new regional projects include Craig moving forward with solar garden; Hayden is looking at building a outdoor manufacturing complex and Meeker is expanding the hospital and medical services.

## **Adjournment:**

***M/S: Mark Hoblitzell / Christina Oxley*** adjourned the EDD meeting at 2:02 pm.

***Passed: Yes***

***DiAnn Butler***

[DiAnn Butler \(Mar 7, 2022 08:46 MST\)](#)

DiAnn Butler, EDD Chair

**3/722**

Date