



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council Meeting

March 24, 2022

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

Council & EDD Board Members Present:

Alyssa Shenk, Town of Snowmass Village
Carolyn Skowrya, Town of Dillon
Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County
Skippy Mesriow, City of Aspen
Tim Corrigan, Routt County
Josh Blanchard, Summit County
Tamra Nottingham Underwood, Town of Avon
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County
Geoff Grimmer, Town of Eagle
Ed Cannon, Town of Frasier
Jennifer Ooton, City of Glenwood Springs
Kristin Brownson, Town of Breckenridge
Sara Nadolny, Town of Basalt

Others Present:

Greg Winkler, DOLA
Jessica Valand, CDLE
Erin McCuskey, SBDC
Emma Marion, Rep. Neguse
Keely Ellis, OEDIT
Matt Kireker, Sen. Bennet
Janeth Stancle, Sen. Hickenlooper

NWCCOG Staff:

Jon Stavney
Anita Cameron
Becky Walter
Doug Jones
Rachel Tuyn
Erin Fisher
Talai Shirey
Nate Walowitz

Call to Order

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 10:00am. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

Approval of January 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

M/S: Ed Cannon/Carolyn Skowrya to approve the January 2022 Council Meeting Minutes as presented

Passed: Yes

Approval of 2021 NWCCOG Final End of the Year Financials

Jon presented the NWCCOG Final End of the Year Financials. There were no questions.

M/S: Patti Clapper/Carolyn Skowrya to approve the Final End of Year financials for NWCCOG as presented

Passed: Yes

NLF Financials

The End of Year NLF Financials were approved at the January Council meeting. Today’s financials are for presentation only. Two new risk ratings were created due to a potential foreclosure however there is no need to foreclose on any property at this time.

Approval to Authorize NWCCOG to Purchase Warehouse for Energy Program

Doug and Jon announced a partnership with Eagle County to expand the Beneficial Electrification (BEECH) Program. The Energy Department is growing both BEECH and WAP programs and the current space is at capacity. Doug found centrally located industrial space for sale in Gypsum which NWCCOG has placed under contract. The purchase price will include \$200k in tenant finishes including an office, conference room, two restrooms, car charging stations and a secured fenced yard. Colorado Energy Office is pledging \$300K to expand the BEECH Program and Eagle County is providing \$428K toward the purchase of the warehouse. Colorado Energy Program will cover the monthly costs including utilities for at least the next five years. The closing date is currently set for the beginning of July. The tenant finishes will begin once NWCCOG owns the building. A discussion was had regarding additional expenses for hiring staff and how NWCCOG would support the expenses should the state pull funding. NWCCOG Fiscal forecasting shows that all additional expenses, including staffing, are within the CEO funding which is expected to increase over the next five years up to

3.1M. Fiscal will prepare hiring forecasting to share at the May Council Meeting. Doug will request additional bids for the tenant finishes. The request for motion included a variety of related items which were outlined in the Director's memo and were moved together in omnibus form including such actions as authorizing the loan, use of COG funds, completing contracts with seller and contractor as well as executing an agreement with Eagle County for the program. More detail refer to memo in the packet.

M/S: Carolyn Skowrya/Geoff Grimmer I move to authorize the Energy Program Director and Executive Director to take the actions as presented to purchase property for the Energy Program.

Passed: Yes

Approval of IT Policy Update to Include PII and HIPAA

Jon presented the updated IT Policy to include necessary PII and HIPA language which was provided from Axiom and NWCCOG IT and has been reviewed by CIRSA. Alyssa had made a cursory review of the document. Jon noted that Sam at CIRSA had also edited the document. This is an evolving document which will be updated as needed.

M/S: Patti Clapper/Tamra Underwood to approve the updated IT Policy update as presented

Passed: Yes

NWCCOG Awarded DOLA Grant for THOR

Nate Walowitz presented details of the recent grant award for THOR expansion and enhancements which has been identified as being "Of Statewide Interest". NWCCOG was awarded the DOLA Grant for THOR which will provide funding for broadband expansion including the "West Slope Network" and upgrades to Project Thor. The full presentation is available on NWCCOG website: <https://www.nwccog.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Project-THOR-NWCCOG-Council-Presentation-2022v2.pptx>

Project THOR Long Term Budget Update

Executive Committee requested in January for staff to present on the fiscal stability of Project THOR. Nate, Becky, and Jon reviewed the THOR budget and 5-year projections for council at this meeting. New network operator and network contracts have lowered costs. The progressive increase and sudden drop in fund balances across years indicates the purchase of circuits or IRU. The operating costs decreased with RFP for new network provider. Director noted that while thankful for Mammoth in getting THOR off the ground, that the new Network Operator is much better positioned for the work. The separation with Mammoth was amicable and mutually beneficial. The Administration Fund Budget provides a cushion to ensure funds are not drained due to unforeseen costs. Nate noted that the 5 year budget begins to have THOR stakeholders paying some of the costs to NWCCOG which were not included in the startup period. There were a few questions. This presentation was to provide more detail on the already approved Project THOR 2022 budget and did not require Council action.

Executive Director Facilitations Guidelines

This was also an item requested by the Executive Committee in January. Alyssa presented the NWCCOG Facilitations Guidelines which ensures the best use of the NWCCOG Executive Directors time and efforts. The policy is available on the website at: <https://www.nwccog.org/about/people/our-council/council-policies/> As guidelines, these did not require official approval by council.

2022 Regional Economic Summit & Broadband Summit

Reminder that the Regional Economic Summit & Broadband Summit is scheduled for May 5th at the Silverthorne Pavilion. The agenda and registration available at <https://www.nwccog.org/regional-summit/>

Vintage Updates

Erin updated the group that the RFP closed and the Grant Review Committee has made recommendations for funding; Erin is going through process with State to award funds which is expected to total \$850k. Also, the SB290 grant was awarded for \$166K for Summit County Committee and Senior Center.

Report Update

Jon showed the group and announced the soon to be printed the Elected Officials Workbook currently available on the website Council Meeting page https://www.nwccog.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/22018-Elected-Officials-Workbook_v5.pdf . He noted that one printed copy will be sent to each Member Jurisdiction manager with a cover letter

highlighting NWCCOG facilitation services and informing of how to obtain copies of the workbook. He also mentioned two other reports/projects he is currently working on through the extended DOLA grant. The match for these projects is his time which the Executive Director is tracking.

Program Updates

Program updates are provided in each packet for review. Instead of reading through each update, members can review and contact Jon with questions.

Legislative Updates

Matt Kireker, Sen. Bennet – Introduced Hillary Henry as the Regional Representative out of Grand Junction. The Ominous Package includes Forestry Funding, Mental Health, and Congressionally Directed Spending. Congressionally Directed Spending Projects deadline is 4/8/2022 for all not-for-profit funding applications. If NWCCOG has any requests, please reach out to Matt or Hillary to discuss eligibility requirements.

Janeth Stanclie, Sen. Hickenlooper – Regional Meetings being held Monday, March 28 – 1:00-2:00 PM (Northern Colorado), Tuesday, March 29 – 3:00-4:00 PM (Western Slope), Wednesday, March 30 – 5:00-6:00 PM (Southern Colorado) <https://senate.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdeivqzloGJsBzeeWjmGyYbCYtW5mv64>

Emma Marion, Rep. Neguse will be sending around Community Project Funding guidance (Congressionally Directed Spending). For more information please email: Emma.Marion@Mail.House.Gov.

Adjournment

M/S: Tamra Underwood/Carolyn Skowyra adjourned the NWCCOG Council meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Passed: Yes

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair

Date