



# Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

## NWCCOG Council Meeting

July 7, 2022

Conference Call Only ("Present" means on the call")

### **Council Board Members Present:**

Alyssa Shenk, Town of Snowmass Village  
Skippy Mesirow, City of Aspen  
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County  
Kristen Brownson, Town of Breckenridge  
Sara Nadolny, Town of Basalt  
Ernie Bjorkman, Town of Grand Lake  
Geoffrey Grimmer, Town of Eagle  
Josh Blanchard, Summit County  
Carolyn Skyowyra, Town of Dillon  
Coby Corkle, Jackson County  
Tim Redmond, Routt County  
Ashley Macdonald, Town of Kremmling

### **Others Present:**

Christina Oxley, CDLE  
John Bristol, Routt County  
Keely Ellis, OEDIT  
Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County  
Melanie Leaverton, Jackson County Tourism

### **NWCCOG Staff:**

Jon Stavney  
Becky Walter  
Doug Jones  
Talai Shirey  
Nate Walowitz  
Anita Cameron

### **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 May 2022 Council Meeting Minutes**

***M/S: Patti Clapper/Kristen Brownson*** to approve the May 2022 Council Meeting Minutes as presented  
***Passed: Yes***

### **Approval of NWCCOG Financials and Bill Schedule**

Jon reviewed the NWCCOG Financials which show the robust amount in checking/savings; this is key for cash-flowing the Gypsum building. No questions were asked.

***M/S: Patti Clapper/Carolyn Skyowyra*** to approve the NWCCOG Financials as presented  
***Passed: Yes***

### **Approval of 2021 NLF 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financials**

Anita presented the NLF Financials reviewing Account 1315 which matches the Risk Reserve account. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financials are higher due to an unusual lending year in 2021; \$133K was reimbursed during the 2021 calendar year; the remainder is expected to be reimbursed in 2022.

***M/S: Kristin Brownson/Jeanne McQueeney*** to approve the NLF 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financials as presented  
***Passed: Yes***

### **Energy Office Building Purchase**

Jon provided an update regarding the purchase of the new Energy Office Building in Gypsum. Council agreed to close on building before tenant finishes to reduce risks at previous meeting. FirstBank appraisal included tenant finishes and therefore the loan will close after tenant finishes are completed in 6 weeks. NWCCOG Reserves will cover a bridge loan for closing on Friday July 8, 2022 and tenant finishes, until the FirstBank loan closes. At that point, the 25 year 5.59% interest rate loan from First Bank for \$797,607 will be used to replenish NWCCOG reserves. The Eagle County contribution and this loan should cover the cost of both.

### **ResourceX Cohort**

ResourceX is hosting a Cohort Information Session on Tuesday, July 12 for anyone interested in joining the small community PBB cohort. Talai sent separate email with information to join Zoom call.

### **Annual Planning Meeting**

This was on the July Agenda instead of August because Jon will be out in August. Jon reviewed the 2022 Goals and Objectives for Member Services requesting input for 2023 Goals. Jon will apply for funding from DOLA once suggestions have been reviewed. Requests for NWCCOG Member Services activities in the remainder of 2022 and for 2023 included:

- Coaching on evaluations for town/county managers and confirming that there had been an appropriate evaluation form specific to NWCCOG Executive Director reviews created
- Adding community development tiny home codes to the NWCCOG Council Clipboard which would include legislation, amendments, and codes from outside of our region. Patti clarified that she wanted NWCCOG to do research on other places. Pitkin has yet to develop such code revisions.
- Request to have Brian Hannagan present information on the innovative microgrid in Pitkin County at the August Council Meeting.
- Create an Energy Efficiency Council Clipboard page.
- Starting a conversation with the BLM regarding unfavorable land to be used for renewables/solar farms.
- Forwarding updated short-term rental policies to Jon for sharing with members.

### **2023 Member Dues**

Jon presented the proposed 2023 Member Dues spreadsheet with an average 8% increase. Noted, Project THOR and the purchase of the Energy Building do not affect Member Dues. The QQ Member Dues proposed increase is 3%. Please reach out to Jon if your jurisdiction would like a presentation on the benefits of member services to Board.

**M/S: Skippy Mesiorow/Kristin Brownson** move to accept the proposed 2023 member dues as presented  
**Passed: Yes**

### **Mountain Mitigation Update**

A conversation was had regarding updating the Mountain Mitigation report. With COVID finally settling, it was requested to have an update in 6-12 months to see what trends survive post COVID. There was support for necessary funding to update the report and it was agreed to discuss again at the December Council meeting. Talai to put reminders to review on December and May Agendas.

### **Elected Officials Workbook**

Jon presented the Elected Official Workbook which is available on the NWCCOG website at:

<https://www.nwccog.org/programs/member-services/reports/>

This is a First Edition; feedback is encouraged, and the Workbook will be updated as recommended. It was suggested to add a chapter regarding behavioral health for elected officials; how to deal with contentious public comments and actions. Skippy said he had downloaded for all Aspen officials.

### **Member Update**

Alyssa Shenk, Town of Snowmass Village - Breaking ground on another building for the base village redevelopment. The buildings are sustainable and run on electric. Kicking off the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of live music. The Rodeo is up and running. Included in the packet is the Town of Snowmass letter in favor of gun regulations in response to gun violence.

Patti Clapper, Pitkin County - Update for Pitkin County Growth Management Revision in process. Pitkin posted letters regarding No Gun Carry at polling locations in response to gun violence and looking at additional gun regulations.

Kristen Brownson, Town of Breckenridge – Breckenridge just hosted the CML conference and is looking forward to Mountain Towns 2030 in September. Lots of construction in the town and working on a sustainability plan.

Josh Blanchard, Summit County – BOCC recently revised codes including increase in local resident housing and development review requirements; finding additional accessory housing units; updating building codes which allow for

tiny homes as well as other regulation adjustments. Also update the Open Space Master Plan which will likely be adopted at the August BOCC Meeting. Summit County BOCC is working on moratoriums regarding short-term rentals. Also working with Airbnb to ensure users have a short-term rental license.

Tim Redmond, Routt County- Rainbow gathering issues have shown some disconnect with Federal, State and Forest Service officials. There were many challenges with communication which would not have existed had it been a different type of emergency such as a fire. Moving forward, new lines of communication have been developed to ensure better communication for future gatherings. Northwest Regional Development Committee partnership has installed solar on all municipal and county buildings. Routt County is looking at an industrial solar power plant that will tie into the traditional grid. Once the land-use codes are updated through the Master Plan, the solar power plant will go live.

Skippy Mesirov, City of Aspen - New Northstar process implemented to help guide budgeting and goal setting as well as tracking and feedback. With moratorium ending, broad new STR and residential regulations in place. First food trucks in town as well as a new roundabout. Last election approved reallocation of RET funding for the artist community. Skippy provided a link regarding the behavioral health for elected officials [www.electedleaderscollective.com](http://www.electedleaderscollective.com).

Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County –Using Balancing App engages community to weigh in on funding. Working with municipalities to create RTA. Also, going to voters to impose a lodging tax which will provide funding for affordable housing and childcare.

Geoffrey Grimmer, Town of Eagle – Onboarding a new Town Manager this fall which will domino into additional new hires.

Coby Corkle, Jackson County – Looking at Zoning overlays, allowing for growth for commercial demand. May need to extend water well from Town of Walden out to Jackson. Looking at private housing growth and Bitcoin mining to replace gas flaring.

Ashley Macdonald, Town of Kremmling – Strategic planning for economic development. Looking at expanding water treatment system. Workforce housing projects to support the hospital, school and government workers. Also looking at paving projects.

Ernie Bjorkman, Town of Grand Lake - Focusing on employment housing and short-term rentals. Working with CHFA regarding affordable housing grants.

### **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.

### **Adjournment**

***M/S: Patti Clapper/Josh Blanchard*** adjourned the NWCCOG Council meeting at 12:09 p.m.

***Passed: Yes***

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Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair

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Date