



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council Meeting

August 25, 2022

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

Council Board Members Present:

Alyssa Shenk, Town of Snowmass Village
Tamra Nottingham Underwood, Town of Avon
Thomas Fridstein, Town of Snowmass Village
Skippy Mesirow, City of Aspen
Lewis Gregory, Fraser
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County
Kristen Brownson, Town of Breckenridge
Sara Nadolny, Town of Basalt
Geoffrey Grimmer, Town of Eagle
Josh Blanchard, Summit County
Carolyn Skowrya, Town of Dillon
Michael Buccino, City of Steamboat Springs
Ashley Macdonald, Town of Kremmling
John Bristol, Routt County
Matthew Langhorst
John Crone, Town of Grand Lake

Others Present:

Melanie Leaverton, Jackson County Tourism
Sam Hellwege, Clifton, Larson, Allen
Jennifer (unknown)
Wendy Ecklund, City of Steamboat Springs
Matt Kireker

NWCCOG Staff:

Becky Walter
Doug Jones
Talai Shirey
Erin Fisher
Rachel Tuyn

Call to Order

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 10:03am. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

Approval of July 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

M/S: Carolyn Skowrya/Alyssa Shenk to approve the July 2022 Council Meeting Minutes as presented

Passed: Yes

Approval of NWCCOG 2nd Quarter Financials

Becky reviewed the NWCCOG Financials. There were no questions or comments.

M/S: Carolyn Skowrya/Tamra Underwood to approve the NWCCOG 2nd Quarter Financials as presented

Passed: Yes

Called together joint meeting with Northwest Loan Fund Board to review 2021 Audit

2021 Audit

Sam provided a brief review of the audit and explained the Draft would be completed by the end of September. Paul, the principle on the engagement, and a quality control process will review any formal findings. There have been audit adjustments and corrected statements similar to previous years. The only significant finding is a NLF CHFA loans that had to be reclassified for \$170k.

Since the audit is not completed, the options are scheduling a separate meeting or create a subcommittee to review the audit.

M/S: Tamra Underwood/Thomas Fridstein move to authorize NWCCOG Officers as a subcommittee to review the 2021 Final Audit with auditors and approve if proper.

Passed: Yes

Closed joint meeting with NLF Board to review 2021 Audit

Website Analytics

Talai presented the website analytics from January 1-June 30, 2022. The most visited pages in recent weeks include Employment Opportunities, Staff, Energy Programs and Broadband. Within the six-month period, NWCCOG.org had 5,988 new visitors and 21,715 pageviews. If anyone has questions or would like additional analytic information, please contact Talai.

Council Clipboard

Talai shared the recent Council Clipboard updates which include Tiny Homes, Mobile Homes and Executive Performance Reviews. The webpages are updated often, Information can all be viewed on the NWCCOG website: <https://www.nwccog.org/about/people/our-council/council-resources/council-clipboard/>.

Upcoming Schedule

Executive Director Review by Executive Committee, Alyssa will reach out to schedule this review.

October Budget Workshop will be scheduled for a deep dive into the budget, a brief overview will be provided at the October Council meeting.

The October Council meeting will be a hybrid meeting with in-person at NWCCOG Silverthorne office.

Presentation: How to Executive Review and Why

Wendy Ecklund, HR & Risk Manager of Steamboat Springs presented City/Town Manager Performance Evaluations. The presentation is available on the NWCCOG Council Resource page: <https://www.nwccog.org/about/people/our-council/council-resources/>

More information on Executive Evaluations is available on the NWCCOG Council Clipboard page: <https://www.nwccog.org/about/people/our-council/council-resources/council-clipboard/>

Congressional Updates

Matt Kireker provided an update for both Sen. Bennett and Sen. Hickenlooper.

- USDA is providing \$8.5M for the Windy Gap Dam Plan which is projected to be completed 2024 with water reconnected by 2026.
- The Inflation Reduction Act will provide reclamation/drought \$4B, Forestry \$5B, \$20B agriculture conservation; more details available in 2023.
- United States Post Office Reform Act was approved, the conversation is now on how to spend the funds. Main concerns are staffing, inadequate pay for mountain towns, aging equipment, etc.
- Members inquired at last meeting about how NWCCOG might approach BLM for renewable projects on public land as they do oil and gas. Geoff Grimmer explained how much land is needed for solar energy farms and asked if there is any legislation or willingness to support local municipalities develop clean energy. Matt provided a general overview; Eagle County would contact local field office in Silt. BLM land use has prioritized several uses including renewal energy. Energy Act of 2020 provided a directive for solar, wind, geothermal use on BLM land. Contact Matt Kireker if you would like to meet in more detail. Additional information is available at: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-outlines-roadmap-continued-renewable-energy-progress-public-lands>

Vintage Updates

Erin Fisher, Vintage Director, discussed CASOA (Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults) which results will be available in an upcoming Council Meeting. Vintage is hosting upcoming Community Conversations; dates are available in the August Council Packet. The data is used to create the statewide plan. Erin opened a conversation on 4-year area plan:

- What do people in your community need to age well? A: Easy Access to appointments, transportation. Oxygen. Tech support to navigate patient portals. Socialization, senior centers, transportation to get to social events. Making community aware of the senior needs, helping at the senior centers, and providing groceries, etc.
- What barriers does your community face in accessing services to age well? A: Transportation isolated as mountain communities, limited transportation to get to other communities for assistance (Denver, etc.)

- What do people need to age safely in their homes? A: More lifts, elevators; unable to make lateral housing moves; crime rates higher for elderly people; need more “guardians” (SMART Team in Summit County responds to mental health/elderly); ADU housing security.
- Where do you see ageism in your community? A: Lack of accessibility in housing and recreation opportunities.
- COVID had an isolating effect on many people, especially older adults. What was, and continues to be, most important to the wellbeing of older community members? A: Reassurance calls and connecting school children with senior centers.

Erin provided a link for a 15-minute survey and invited all to participate. <https://forms.office.com/r/FYsjtML4AT>

Member Update

- Tamra Underwood, Avon – Passed short-term rental regulations/restriction and recall ordinance. Regional Transportation Authority was approved for upcoming ballot. Thanked NWCCOG for 2021 Childcare Assessment, the data was recently used for Eagle County Childcare Initiative.
- Patti Clapper, Pitkin County – Excited for MT2030 especially Peter McBride’s talk on the Colorado River. Aspen Ambulance Mill Levy will be on vote. Encouraging everyone to get out and vote!
- Kristen Brownson, Town of Breckenridge – Passed 1st reading of “Pay as You Throw” recycling program. Preparing for MT2030 next month.
- Josh Blanchard, Summit County – Just passed Open Space and Trails Strategic Plan. CDOT just awarded Summit County almost \$35M for transit center. Hiring for several key positions: County Manager, Assistant County Manager, HR Director, Director of Communications. <https://www.summitcountyco.gov/105/Open-Space-Trails>
- Skippy Mesirow, City of Aspen – Renewal .5% Open Space, Short-Term Rental Tax will be on upcoming ballot. Moving forward to conceptual design of childcare center, reviewed Aspen Housing Authority 2022-2023 work plan, looking at building a year around arts facility to be built by Theater Aspen.
- Geoffrey Grimmer, Town of Eagle – Larry Pardee is new Town Manager who will be presenting at MT2030 <https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/grimmer-embracing-beneficial-electrification/>
- Melanie Leaverton, Jackson County – NorthPark Days was successful. Meeting with Council regarding chamber funding for future tourism efforts.
- Lewis Gregory, Fraser – Just passed STR ordinance which increased fees to help affordable housing; 11-12 acre parcel is going out to bid for affordable housing. New farmers market just opened.
- Thomas Fridstein, Snowmass Village – Council agreement on STR, early childhood education improvements, on the November ballot is to use excess marketing funds for affordable housing. JAS Fest, Wine Fest and Balloon Fest are all coming up in September.

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: Thomas Fridstein/Patti Clapper adjourned the NWCCOG Council meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Passed: Yes

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair

Date