



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council Meeting

October 27, 2022

Hybrid Meeting (“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
Geoffrey Grimmer, Town of Eagle
Josh Blanchard, Summit County
Carolyn Skowyra, Town of Dillon
Ed Cannon, Fraser
Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County
John Bristol, Routt County
Caroline McLenahan, Routt County
Glenn Drummond, Town of Basalt

Others Present:

Ashely Bemenek, SWQQC
Torie Jarvis, SWQQC
Claire Carrol, SWQQC
Kate McIntire, DOLA
Chris Bacon, Insight Collective
Raff Garrison, Insight Collective
Tom Foley, Insight Collective
Matt Kireker, Senator Bennett’s Office
Christina Oxley, Colorado Workforce
BT (unknown)

NWCCOG Staff:

Jon Stavney
Becky Walter
Erin Fisher
Rachel Tuyn

Call to Order

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 10:06am. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

2021 Audit Approval

The 2021 Final Audit was approved by NWCCOG Officers in a special meeting with Alyssa Shenk, Carolyn Skowyra, Jon Stavney, Becky Walter, Anita Cameron, and Sam Hellwege from CliftonLarsonAllen. No concerns were raised by Alyssa or Carolyn.

Approval of August 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

M/S: Patti Clapper/Glen Drummond to approve the August 2022 Council Meeting Minutes as presented
Passed: Yes

Approval of NWCCOG and NLF 3rd Quarter Financials

3rd Quarter Financials are available in the Council Packet. No questions were asked.

M/S: Carolyn Skowyra/Geoffrey Grimmer to approve the NWCCOG 3rd Quarter Financials as presented
Passed: Yes

Approval of NLF 2nd Quarter Financials

2nd Quarter NLF Financials were not available in the August packet and are presented now for approval.

M/S: Carolyn Skowyra/Tamra Underwood to approve the NWCCOG 3rd Quarter Financials as presented
Passed: Yes

NLF Report

Documents provided for review in the Council Packet, no questions were asked.

2023 NWCCOG Council Meeting Schedule

The proposed schedule includes in person/Zoom hybrid at NWCCOG Silverthorne Conference Room.

M/S: Thomas Fridstein/Ed Cannon to approve the 2023 NWCCOG Council Meeting Schedule as presented

Passed: Yes

FAMLI

After reviewing with program directors and finding current STD more robust, NWCCOG request to opt out of FAMLI. There was a conversation regarding retribution protection for employees who are taking leave, NWCCOG has a general policy against retribution for all matters. There was also a request for follow up at the December meeting further explaining the STD family care and review paternity leave options. It was also recommended that NWCCOG opt out for the employer only. Becky confirmed that we are requesting to decline Employer portion and will assist with employees who chose to participate.

M/S: Tamra Nottingham Underwood /Jeanne McQueeny to approve NWCCOG, as a local government agency, to opt-out of FAMLI

Passed: Yes

Employee Bonus Policy

Jon presented the NWCCOG Employee Bonus Policy outlining three different types of bonuses currently used. There were a few recommended edits:

- 2a. payment for services shouldn't be a part of the bonus policy
- Clarification on "for payment different that hourly wage employee must invoice NWCCOG"
- Outside of job description **MUST** be voluntary.
- Executive Director approved by Chair **MUST** consult with other Officers, Executive Committee or Council.
- It was also recommended that Council review a list of staff bonuses.

NWCCOG will work with the NWCCOG Officers to make the requested edits to the Policy and bring back in December for approval.

DOLA Grant Project with Insight Collective

Jon introduced Kate McIntyre, DOLA representative for the Northwest Region. Kate McIntire, DOLA. Kate as replaced Greg Winkler as the new COG representative for DOLA funding opportunity.

Ralf Garrison, Principal and Founder of Insights Collective, presented the Insights Collective project proposal, to be funded by DOLA. If approved, this would utilize \$50,000 of member dues.

Presentation highlights:

- Insights Collective is a travel economy thinktank focused on understanding stability and sustainability trends in mountain destinations.
- Key concerns: Demand vs Supply, Visitors to Residents ratio, Resort to Community to lifestyle retirement economics
- Approach and Deliverables: develop metrics, measure, create report, present findings

Discussion:

Skippy Mesirow, Patti Clapper: Is this an extension or update of mountain migration report? There is interest in another MM project.

Jon Stavney: This is a tool to help understand what is going on in regional economies and provide usable data. It works alongside Mountain Migration. There is opportunity for Mountain Migration 2

Tom Foley/Raff Garrison: developing a standard set of metrics is important in comparing data across industries and communities

Goeff Grimmer: Raff – what have you seen in significant changes to master plans?

Raff Garrison: Has not reviewed master plan changes in detail. But they are all related to the legacy focus of creating demand in resort communities which has now developed into over-tourism.

Chris Bacon: This can be applied as a sustainability study; how can we improve quality of life and community character

OEDIT Funded Regional Grants Navigator Position

Jon discussed the new OEDIT funded Regional Grants Navigator Position. This position is intended to help local navigate hundreds of opportunities for local funding, specifically in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation

Reduction Act. This person is not intended to write the grants, but to help members understand opportunities available and provide the right connections. This is in the budget and comes to us as a pass-through opportunity.

Question: Should this position be kept relatively small, or expanded to a larger role within the region?

Discussion:

Ed Cannon: There is a need for larger regional projects and this opens doors for different communities and counties. However, smaller communities might not have capacity to write grants, apply for, and manage federal grants if they were received. If this position was funded, he would want to see a focus on helping smaller communities move forward with this project.

Patti Clapper: This needs to be a "term limited" position because it is tied to grants. This is a good opportunity and will be beneficial to the region. Pitkin County has had success with similar positions.

Torie Jarvis: Summit Water Quality and Quantity Committee is hearing a lot of people asking about water projects, but those people don't have capacity or resources to do it themselves. She thinks this is a great opportunity to serve their needs.

Alyssa Shenk/Jon Stavney: We would like this position to be funded for longer than one year in order to be fully functional and up-to-speed. One year is not enough time.

Matt Kireker: Agree. One year is not enough for position to be beneficial. Senator Bennett's office is aware and ready to be in close communication with RCC position.

Vote is not needed but Council informally and unanimously approves moving forward with this project.

2023 Budget

Jon and Becky had a budget workshop and answered questions to anyone interested in doing a deep dive on the budget. The intent was to do a deep dive so that excessive time is not spent reviewing the budget during the Council meeting.

Alyssa Shenk: Carolyn and Alyssa met with Jon to review the budget on Tuesday 10/25. They asked a few clarifying questions which Jon was able to answer. They do not have any concerns.

Highlights:

Indirect budget has grown and is able to sustain 45% of the Executive Director wages in 2023

Broadband is growing closer to being able to cover its own costs. It is now covering 20% of Broadband

Director's salary and 10% of Fiscal Manager's salary, taking weight off both Indirect and Broadband budgets

Comments:

Patti Clapper: Requests staff summary including # of employees, % of positions being funded by grants for 2021-2023

Geoff Grimmer: What is the total FTE capacity for Energy Program?

Jon Stavney: Up to 15 new employees in the Energy Program within the next 3 years through different funding streams

Alyssa Shenk: No other comments. Looking forward to approving final budget in December.

NWCCOG Regional Water Quality Management Plan

Torie Jarvis provided the draft plan which is available in and separate of the October Council Packet.

Background: NWCCOG is the administrator of the Northwest Regional Water Quality Management Plan. QQ (Water Quality and Quantity Committee) provides strategic direction and advise to NWCCOG on how to manage the plan.

208/Management Plan Update Highlights:

Shortened and clarified policies and implementation actions

Developed NWCCOG Model Water Quality Protection Standards and Water Savings Guidance and Model Standards for the Colorado River Headwaters

Conducted detailed review of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems, specifically septic systems in rural communities

Not currently adding Routt County

See packet for detailed updates

Role of Council: To review and approve updates to plan when it is finalized. There is no timeline for completion on this. Then it will go to State for approval.

Member Update

- Matt Kireker, Senator Bennett's Office: 2023 list of appropriations will be passed before end of fiscal year. It will help move programs forward. Potential work on "waterbus" for river tourism. Continued work on Inflation Reduction Act notice of funding opportunities. Ready to work with Regional Grant Coordinator on this.
- Skippy M, Aspen: Spoke at MT2030 on mental health & wellbeing for elected leaders. Has been approached by many mayors wanting to do training for new elected officials. Skippy is now reaching out to Jon/Council to offer this service regionally to NWCCOG members. He is seeking informal approval to move forward on coordinating with NWCCOG to elevate this project. It is not a request for funding. The Council had no objection.

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: Geoff Grimmer/Skippy Mesirow adjourned the NWCCOG Council meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Passed: Yes

Alyssa Shenk

[Alyssa Shenk \(Dec 15, 2022 14:49 MST\)](#)

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair

Dec 15, 2022

Date







October NWCCOG Council Minutes

Final Audit Report

2022-12-15

Created:	2022-12-12
By:	Talai Shirey (tshirey@nwccog.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA8QLXGJCBMxOI5rxc_7t37nKOjfz_BwAi

"October NWCCOG Council Minutes" History

-  Document created by Talai Shirey (tshirey@nwccog.org)
2022-12-12 - 9:20:21 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to ashenk@tosv.com for signature
2022-12-12 - 9:20:38 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by ashenk@tosv.com
2022-12-15 - 9:48:30 PM GMT
-  Signer ashenk@tosv.com entered name at signing as Alyssa Shenk
2022-12-15 - 9:49:12 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Alyssa Shenk (ashenk@tosv.com)
Signature Date: 2022-12-15 - 9:49:14 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2022-12-15 - 9:49:14 PM GMT