



# Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

## NWCCOG Council Meeting

March 23, 2023

In-Person and Conference Call

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

Randy George, Grand County  
Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County  
Chico Thuon, Town of Avon  
Skippy Mesriow, City of Aspen  
Britta Gustafson, Town of Snowmass Village  
Kristen Brownson, Town of Breckenridge  
Sara Nadolny, Town of Basalt  
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County  
Glen Drummond, Town of Basalt  
Josh Blanchard, Summit County  
Jena Skinner, Town of Avon  
Melissa Mathews, Town of Red Cliff  
Watkins Fulk-Gray, City of Glenwood Springs  
Ingrid Wussow, City of Glenwood Springs  
Michael Buccino, City of Steamboat Springs  
DiAnne Butler, Grand County  
Cory Mihm, Summit County  
Kathleen Halloran, Town of Vail

### **Others Present:**

Julie Sutor, Rep. Neguse  
Janeth Stancle, Sen. Bennet's Office  
Matt Kireker, Sen. Bennet's Office  
Ben, Unknown  
John Bristol, Routt County EDP  
Carolyn Tucker, Northwest Colorado Work

### **NWCCOG Staff:**

Jon Stavney  
Anita Cameron  
Becky Walter  
Rachel Tuyn  
Erin Fisher  
Talai Shirey  
Nate Walowitz  
Jonathan Godes  
Greg Ocieпка

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Approval of January 2023 Council Meeting Minutes**

***M/S: Chico Thuon/ Kristen Brownson*** to approve the January 2023 Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

***Passed: Yes***

### **Data from 2023 Member Manager Calls**

Jon presented results from recent 2023 Manager calls. He is calling every municipal and county manager in the Membership (31) for an hour interview with a set list of questions about key topics. One purpose is to test some anecdotes and random datapoints with a more thorough process, and to confirm interest in a NWCCOG project with Insights Collective. Jon presented a PPT with preliminary data and some quotes. The PPT is not shared because the quotes have not yet been approved for publication and the data is not yet complete. Top internal challenges were staffing, capacity and housing; all conversations merged into housing. Other conversations included civility, climate change/sustainability/stewardship/water/drought, tourism, marketing/managing, tourism/locals, policing and housing disconnect. IJJA or IRA discussions indicated that many jurisdictions need grant funding assistance; Jonathan Godes was recently hired in this much needed position and will be working with entities as needed. Jon will be sharing that data with Jonathan the RGN. Following questions, Jon recommended hiring Insights Collective to further the research. Council agreed to have Jon move forward with next steps including hiring Insights Collective.

### **EDD Summit**

Rachel announced the Economic Summit May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9-4, registration and agenda are available at:

<https://www.nwccog.org/nwccog-regional-economic-summit-2023/>

## **2023 Member Handbook**

The 2023 Member Handbook was recently updated with the 2023 Budget, member list and schedule; it is available on the Council Resource Page: <https://www.nwccog.org/member-handbook/>

## **Programs in Transition, Jon and Becky**

NWRHC will be adding a clinical advisor to the team per the state's request. Jon and Becky explained that situation.

Jon presented the current status of the All Hazards program which NWCCOG has hosted as Fiscal Officer since the mid 2000's. The board of NWAHEMR has notified the state and NWCCOG that it no longer wishes to pursue the grant going forward, including the currently open 2023 grant cycle. The grant from the state is very difficult to obtain, most funds are allocated to one project and employing a coordinator. NWCCOG has been hosting this program without an admin fee, and it has taken an increasing amount of Jon and Becky's time in recent years. It will take time to phase out the program with the prior year's "open" grants until they are fully expended, at which time responsibilities will be spun off to another entity. Patti confirmed with her Emergency Manager that all communities agreed upon this decision, and they will continue to meet and that those few counties in the 10 county region that wish to request funding will do so on their own. It is not expected that any of NWCCOG's member counties will be applying in the future.

## **Elected Officials Training and Mental Health Project**

Feedback from the Elected Officials Mental Health retreat confirmed that there was not enough interest to participate. A spreadsheet of responses was in the packet. A conversation was had; some jurisdictions may decide to reach out to Skippy and attend future meetings individually as the Town of Eagle did recently. There was also not enough interest to move forward with a NWCCOG partnership in assisting ELC with retreats with NWCCOG funds. It was confirmed the \$20,000 that was budgeted for this retreat will remain in Regional Business for future use, and cannot be used for this purpose as originally budgeted.

***M/S: Jeanne McQueeney/ Chico Thuon*** not to proceed with NWCCOG financing of the Mental Health retreat.

***Passed: Yes***

## **Executive Director Updates**

- Assisted with Fraser Town Manager process – 25 hrs, 3 days
- Assisted with Avon Council Retreat – 8 hrs
- Manager Calls – Progress Report
- March DOLA Round, possible ED assistance with upcoming Broadband in Hayden
- Tracking Proposition 123 regarding housing
- NWCCOG Bi-Annual Member Survey will be emailed to members this week
- ECO Trails Profit and Loss; NWCCOG earned \$4400 as a passthrough agent in 2022

## **Should NWCCOG issue letters of support for various federal funding requests from Members?**

Charles McCarthy from Winter Park reached out with a request for a LOS, opening up a question on what the process should be for supporting local grant opportunities. When letters are Program specific, the Program Director has authority to provide LOS. If it is a legislative or controversial subject, Jon discusses with the Executive Committee. With the new Grants Navigator position, requests will become more common. Communication is important to ensure municipalities are aware of what others are doing and encouraged to reach out to NWCCOG for support as needed. It was agreed to have Jon and Jonathan create a process-policy-plan to present at the May meeting.

## **Vintage Update**

Erin Fisher presented CASA Results & Four-Year Area Plan. The presentation is available in the March Council Packet. Please contact Erin if your jurisdiction is interested in data specific to your county or town.

## **Regional Grants Navigator**

Jonathan Godes provided a brief update on current grant opportunities. Members may contact him directly for assistance identifying grants that make sense for specific jurisdictions in our region.

## Legislative Update

Julie Sutor, Rep. Neguse – Available resources include low-no grants for elected school buses. The SHRED act was reintroduced; 85% back into the forest of which 75% would be allocated for ski forest needs including fire mitigation and 25% broader use to include employee housing and avalanche mitigation. New from Neguse - Congressional River Caucus, Bipartisan Wildfire Caucus and Bipartisan Fentanyl Caucus all launched this month. More proposals than ever before received this month– 80 requests with only allowing 15. Also reintroduced the Continental Trail completion act.

Matthew Kireker, Sen. Bennet - SHRED act looks like it will pass. Flexible Partnership Act to place housing and administrative sites on forest land for community benefit. Protect the West would bring \$60B for forest services. Bennet and Neguse with Hickenlooper sent letters to the Secretary of Transportation regarding Unita Basin Railway with concerns of protecting the headwaters. Last, Bennet met with Postmaster General to discuss the interruption in quality USPS service in mountain towns, an update with plans to resolve the issue will be provide in upcoming weeks. Last, CDOT is applying for grants to upgrade Glenwood Canyon and Cottonwood Pass.

Janeth Stangle, Sen. Hickenlooper – Recently confirmed Judge Gallagher for the District of Colorado. Hickenlooper sent a letter to Dept. of Homeland Security requesting they reconsider increasing employer fees for work visa’s H2A and H2B. Also working with Mountain West senators regarding the Colorado River caucus; currently just as review, they are not intervening in 7 state negotiations nor drafting legislation. New to come - Bit Wires Act to ensure reliable energy transmission.

## 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: Josh Blanchard/Jeanne McQueeney*** adjourned the NWCCOG Council meeting at 12:06 p.m.

***Passed: Yes***

*Patti Clapper*

[Patti Clapper \(Jun 4, 2023 10:27 MDT\)](#)

Patti Clapper, NWCCOG Vice Council Chair

Jun 4, 2023

Date







# March NWCCOG Council Minutes

Final Audit Report

2023-06-04

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