



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council Meeting

May 25, 2023

Council & EDD Board Members Present:

Alyssa Shenk, Town of Snowmass Village
Chico Thuon, Town of Avon
Carolyn Skowyra, Town of Dillon
Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County
Tim Redmond, Routt County
Josh Blanchard, Summit County
Kristen Brownson, Town of Breckenridge
Mathew Langhorst, City of Glenwood Springs
Ashely MacDonald, Town of Kremmling
Mellissa Mathews, Town of Redcliff
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County
Randy George, Grand County
Geoff Grimmer, Town of Eagle
Kathleen Halloran, Town of Vail
Ben Kliemer, Red Cliff
Sara Nadolny Town of Basalt

Others Present:

Carolyn Tucker, Northwest Colorado Work
Christina Oxley, CDLE
Matt Kireker, Sen. Bennet's Office

NWCCOG Staff:

Jon Stavney
Jonathan Godes
Becky Walter
Doug Jones
Greg Ociepka
Talai Shirey

Call to Order

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 10:01am. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

Approval of March 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

M/S: Josh Blanchard/Tim Redmond approve the March 2023 Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Passed: Yes

Approval of 2023 Q1 Financials

Checking account is very robust, funds have been moved to Trust account. No questions were asked.

M/S: Patti Clapper/Geoff Grimmer to approve the Q1 financials and Bill Schedules for NWCCOG as in packet.

Passed: Yes

NLF Reports for Review

NLF accounts are also robust; Anita has moved funds over \$250k FDIC insured to a new Alpine Bank ICS account.

2022 Audit Update

Becky provided an update on the 2022 audit which included two single audits: one of the NLF Program and one of the Vintage Program. The principal auditor is in the process of drafting the final audit which will be ready to present at the July Council meeting.

Letter of Support

An update from the conversation at the March meeting, Jonathan Godes and Jon Stavney discussed having a generic LOS that would be provided to requesting jurisdictions; otherwise, we do not send LOS to any. There was a discussion regarding the current LOS policy; Jon explained that some requests are program specific, and the current policy allows for program directors to make decide on LOS however larger scaled request such as legislative concerns are brought to the Council for discussion. Now that we have a RGN, it was recommended to allow Jonathan as a program director to provide general LOS per the current policy.

M/S: Josh Blanchard/Ashley Macdonald to approve Jonathan Godes to provide general LOS per the current policy.

Passed: Yes

Request DOLA Grant Submittal

DOLA indicated through Regional Rep to Jon that funding for Broadband position will continue under current terms for only one more year, expiring 12/31/24 (50% local match/50% DOLA). ED of the CBO, Brandi Reitter confirmed to Jon that DOLA is moving out of the Broadband business but CBO will request funding from legislature for similar positions to be funded through the CBO in future years. Jon requested support from the Board for DOLA grant application for RBBD Position. It is possible that by 2025, Project THOR will fully fund the Broadband Director position.

M/S: Kristen Brownson/Patti Clapper to approve Executive Director to apply for one more year of Broadband funding.

Passed: Yes

Second DOLA grant support request: Nate and Jon have been in talks with Yampa Valley Electric regarding a DOLA grant partnership which would bring fiber network to Craig and Hayden. There may be possible other funding through NCB however at this time Jon is requesting approval from Council to offer his expertise in drafting and submitting the DOLA grant for which NWCCOG may be a pass through entity. There would be no cost to NWCCOG other than Jon's time. Tim Redmond is also meeting with DOLA and Yampa Valley Electric to continue negotiations. Nate to follow up with Tim when he returns from Europe.

M/S: Patti Clapper/Tim Redmond to approve Executive Director time in applying for the Dark Network DOLA grant.

Passed: Yes

At the March meeting, Council authorized moving forward with Insights Collective for survey regarding town marketing; this report is expected to be presented an upcoming Council Meeting. Jon is now requesting approval to apply for a DOLA grant to proceed with a more in-depth report including the perception of visitors vs. residents vs. 2nd homeowners.

M/S: Tim Redmond/Josh Blanchard to approve Executive Director to request a DOLA grant for this report.

Passed: Yes

Uinta Basin Railway Project

With many member jurisdictions submitting letters in opposition, Jon asked Council if NWCCOG should take an official position in opposition of this Project. The Uinta Basin Railway Project is proposed to move oil from Utah to the Gulf via the Pacific Railway through the Moffat Tunnel or perhaps the Tennessee Pass. Jonathan Godes explained at this point we should be asking Congress to oppose the \$2B public bond financing which is typically used for traditional infrastructure. Randy, and other Grand County Commissioners took a road trip with Pacific Railway who assured them that Tennessee Pass would not be used; with the drop in coal trains there is plenty of room through the Moffat Tunnel for the oil train. Grand County is prepared to take a position of opposition from a safety standpoint. Further discussion concluded that members all agreed this train should not be moving through Colorado, nor should public bonds be used to finance this project; no one on the call voiced an opinion of approval to the Project. Huge concerns were expressed about having an oil train move through the Glenwood Canyon and it was suggested to have a "derailment bond" and other regulations be put into place should this project be approved. Another recommendation was adding the Ute Mountain Ute tribe to the letter as well as Secretary Vilsack, cc: Colorado Delegation and Colorado Attorney General Philip Weiser. Bennet, Hickenlooper and Neguse letter in opposition may be viewed at:

<https://www.bennet.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2023/3/bennet-hickenlooper-neguse-urge-dot-secretary-buttigieg-to-consider-risks-of-approving-tax-exempt-bonds-for-uinta-basin-railway-project>

Note: a collection of jurisdictions letters in opposition may be found on the NWCCOG Council Clipboard

<https://www.nwccog.org/about/people/our-council/council-resources/council-clipboard/>

M/S: Tim Redmond/Patti Clapper to authorize Alyssa Shenk, Jon Stavney and Jonathan Godes to write a NWCCOG letter in opposition to the Uinta Basin Railway letter and send to all federal partners without circulating back to Council.

Passed: Yes

NWCCOG Discussion on follow up to SB23-213

This bill will likely come back to legislators next session; the thought was that resort towns had too much weight on shutting the bill down last time. DOLA may be directed to send funds for housing reports in mountain communities. Regional housing studies have been limited in the mountain communities. Josh Blanchard commented that one is in

works for Summit County. Kathleen Halloran mentioned that the state is unaware of many of the community projects that are already in progress and recommended that a collection of all projects be presented to the state to show mountain communities are working toward the same goal. There was a discussion about the updated Mountain Migration and if NWCCOG partnering with CAST should create a report including projections of future projects and collaboration between jurisdictions. CAST has a standing housing committee; it was recommended that NWCCOG discuss collaboration. This study could also prove positive for local businesses who potentially could grow business if assured that housing is available. It was also discussed to add private business housing projects to the report (i.e. Vail housing). It was encouraged to have this completed this summer so legislatures may have it in hand by the end of 2013. Jon will work with Rachel and CAST to move forward with this project and provide an update at the July NWCCOG Council meeting.

Crystal River Wild and Scenic

It was requested that NWCCOG serve as a fiscal sponsor for the W&S Feasibility Collaborative at an indirect rate of 4%. **M/S: Alyssa Shenk/Ashely Macdonald** approved Council Chair to sign MOU between NWCCOG and Crystal River Wild and Scenic for NWCCOG to act as fiscal sponsor.

Passed: Yes

2023 NWCCOG Member Survey

Jon presented the 2023 NWCCOG Member Survey which can be found at <https://www.nwccog.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-NWCCOG-Member-Survey.pdf>

Executive Director Activities

Matt Kireker, Sen. Bennet – The debt ceiling is a hot topic; the House and Senate are not currently in session. It is likely that a deal will be reached by early June. Some local funding may be pulled back as well as tax credits might be on the chopping block. Also, Sen. Bennet is looking at the Farm Bill for eligible Federal land to use for housing development including local workforce housing. There may be an update of the appraisal language to ensure that the land is affordable for local governments' use. There was a request to have NWCCOG provide a LOS to the National Forest Service to Sen. Bennet regarding modifying the Farm Bill which is set to expire this year. Last, Sen. Bennet is encouraging congress to establish a regulator committee to overlook social media, AI and big tech due to concerns of lack of oversights especially for our youth.

M/S: Carolyn Skowrya/Randy George approve NWCCOG Chair to submit a letter of support to Sen. Bennet regarding Farm Build, working with National Forest and appraisal.

Passed: Yes

Executive Director Activities

- Called Attention to some Program Updates -
 - Rachel Tuyn provided an overview of the 2023 Economic Summit. Sponsorships covered the cost of the 2023 Economic Summit. Feedback was positive; the only comments were to start later and request updated IT (currently projector and screen) and to record the event or keynote panel.
 - Energy Program has received funding from the CEO for a Workforce Development Manager who was hired to start May 30th.
 - Broadband – Nate Walowitz is in France meeting with CEO and engineers for Ekinops the company whose equipment will be replacing Ciena network equipment for Project THOR as funded by DOLA grant in 2022. Testing to occur during visit. Deployment in U.S. begins Late June, early July.
 - RGN - Region 12 Funding Meeting at CMC Breckenridge in July 18th; all members are encouraged to attend. Jonathan will send out additional information.

Some Report-ins from Jon on his activities since last Council Meeting include:

- Prep and Emcee for Regional Economic Summit May 4th (30 hrs.)
- CCCMA Conference and State Broadband Summit Attendance
- Completed Town Manager Review for Avon (16 hrs.)
- Facilitated Staff Leadership Retreat for Avon (5 hrs.)
- Facilitated Council Retreat for City of Glenwood Springs (12 hrs.)
- Acting Mobility Manager (4-6 hrs. per week)

- Request to apply for CHFA Board of Directors—There was a conversation regarding Jon Stavney using his time on the CHFA Board of Directors. There was concern that this might stretch Jon’s time too thin, however he is encouraged to apply at his discretion.
- Drafted and Published 5 Manager Insights Newsletters weekly.
- Preparing Mobility Manager NOFO through CDOT as there are opportunities for support personnel.

Member Updates

Klint Kinney in Snowmass Village won manager of the year award.
MT2030 has been scheduled for October.

Adjournment

M/S: Kristen Brownson/Josh Blanchard adjourned the NWCCOG Council meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Passed: Yes


Alyssa Shenk (Feb 22, 2024 21:31 MST)

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair

22/02/2024

Date







3a. May 25 2023 NWCCOG Council Minutes

Final Audit Report

2024-02-23

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