



SOUTHWEST COLORADO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, 7 September 2017, 1:30pm-4:00pm

1101 E 2nd Ave., Durango CO

La Plata County Administration Building Board Room

- I. Introductions
- II. Century Link Presentation and Discussion – Not to Exceed 1.25 hours
- III. Consent Agenda
 - a. 26 June 2017 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes
 - b. 3 August 2017 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes
 - c. July 2017 Financials
- IV. Reports (Staff will be available for questions on the written reports)
 - a. Director's Report
 - b. Broadband Report
 - c. Transportation Report
 - d. VISTA Report
- V. Discussion Items
 - a. DOLA EIAF December Grant Cycle
- VI. Decision Items
 - a. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from July 20, 2017
 - b. Cascade Village Broadband Letter of Support
 - c. Colorado Tourism Office Grant
 - d. DoLA 2018 Technical Assistance Grant
- VII. Other Items
- VIII. Community Updates

CenturyLink Presentation and Discussion

SWCCOG CAF 2 Enabled Customer Locations Update September 7, 2017

SWCCOG Wire Center	2015 CAF 2	2016 CAF 2	2017 CAF 2	2018 CAF 2	2019 CAF 2	2020 CAF 2	2021 CAF 2	CAF 2 Total	Halo Effect
Allison		1						1	
Bayfield	357	302						659	
Cortez	344	264						608	
Dolores	18	10						28	68
Durango	590	196						786	
Pagosa Springs	61	316						377	
Pagosa Springs West	53	1,070						1,123	2,159
Silverton		87						87	
SWCCOG Totals	1,423	2,246						3,669	2,227
Colorado Totals	5,524	8,850						14,374	13,692
SWCCOG vs. Colorado								25.50%	16.20%



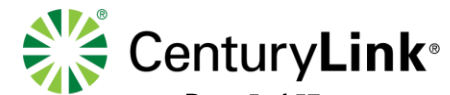
Colorado
CAF 2 Broadband Fund Update
June 1, 2017



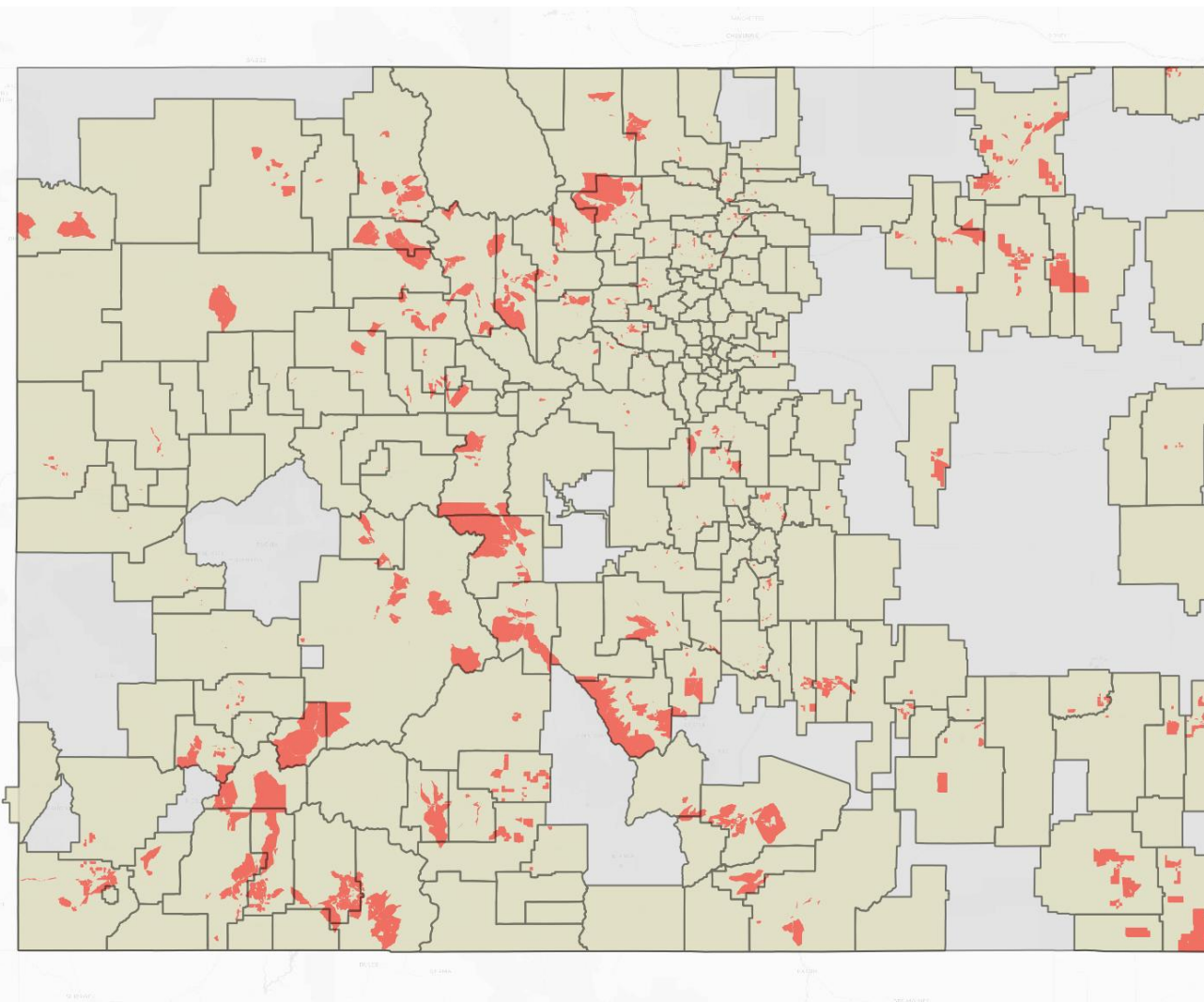
Connect America Fund 2 Update

CAF 2 Colorado Overview as of June 1, 2017

- FCC selected over 80,000 CAF 2 customer locations in the designated eligible areas of Colorado.
- FCC funded the construction and maintenance of 50,000 customer locations in the state with \$159 million over six years. This is about 60% of the eligible locations.
- 10x1 mbps bandwidth speed is the minimum required in the CAF 2 program.
- 20,000 customer locations are required to be enabled by end of year 2017.
- CenturyLink reported to FCC and Colorado PUC 5,524 enabled customer locations in 2015.
- CenturyLink reported to FCC and Colorado PUC 8,850 enabled customer locations in 2016.
- CenturyLink enabled 14,374 eligible customer locations with CAF 2 funds in 2015 and 2016 with an additional 13,692 customer locations also benefitting indirectly from these investments with faster broadband speeds and improved service quality and reliability.
- A total of 28,066 Colorado customer locations now have access to improved broadband service from investments made during the first two years of six-year program.
- CenturyLink filed its official completed sites for the 2016 CAF 2 report to the FCC and Colorado PUC on June 1, 2017.
- **Following this overview is the list of CAF 2 Colorado enabled locations by wire center for 2015 and 2016, which were filed in the official report with the FCC and Colorado PUC.**



Connect America Fund 2 Update For Colorado



CAF 2 Area
CenturyLink Wire Center

CAF 2 Enabled Locations

14,374

27% of Total CAF 2 Location Target

CAF 2 Area are eligible Census blocks with at least one location qualifying for 10 mbps down and 1 mbps up or greater as of the end-of-year 2016. Not all addresses within a Census block may qualify for 10x1 broadband. For verification of unique addresses or locations, contact your local CenturyLink representative.

2017-09-04

INTERNAL USE ONLY



CenturyLink®

Connect America Fund 2 Update

Colorado Wire Center	2015 & 2016 CAF 2 Enabled Customer Locations
Aguilar	62
Akron	113
Alamosa	3
Allens Park	78
Allison	1
Aspen	8
Ault	32
Aurora	13
Avon	114
Avondale	199
Bailey	56
Basalt	24
Bayfield	659
Berthoud	9
Black Forest	637
Boulder	282

Connect America Fund 2 Update

Colorado Wire Center	2015 & 2016 CAF 2 Enabled Customer Locations
Breckenridge	16
Brighton	10
Bristol-Granada	115
Brush	28
Buena Vista	457
Burlington	146
Calhan	2
Campo	111
Canon City	46
Carbondale	3
Castle Rock	119
Center	44
Central City	311
Cheraw	4
Clifton	1
Coal Creek Canyon	4

Connect America Fund 2 Update

Colorado Wire Center	2015 & 2016 CAF 2 Enabled Customer Locations
Colo Springs East	83
Colo Springs Main	44
Copper Mountain	68
Cortez	608
Craig	12
Crested Butte	136
Cripple Creek	40
Debeque	27
Deckers	162
Del Norte	72
Delta	11
Denver Northeast	4
Dillon	10
Dinosaur	212
Dolores	28
Durango	786

Connect America Fund 2 Update

Colorado Wire Center	2015 & 2016 CAF 2 Enabled Customer Locations
Eagle	9
Eaton	15
Edwards	142
Estes Park	338
Evergreen	25
Florence	64
Fort Collins Harmony	11
Fort Collins Main	326
Fountain	92
Fraser	145
Frederick	5
Fruita	70
Ft Lupton	11
Ft Morgan	24
Gardner	9
Georgetown	27

Connect America Fund 2 Update

Colorado Wire Center	2015 & 2016 CAF 2 Enabled Customer Locations
Glenwood Springs	6
Golden	1
Granby	263
Grand Junction	22
Grand Lake	169
Greeley	20
Green Mountain Falls	13
Gunnison	287
Gypsum	267
Hayden	3
Holly	60
Hot Sulphur	40
Hudson	3
Idaho Springs	136
Johnstown-Milliken	41
Julesburg	32

Connect America Fund 2 Update

Colorado Wire Center	2015 & 2016 CAF 2 Enabled Customer Locations
Keenesburg	3
Kremmling	117
La Junta	30
La Salle	4
Lake City	95
Lake George	4
Lamar	3
Larkspur	67
Leadville	68
Limon	217
Longmont	83
Lookout Mountain	17
Loveland	3
Lyons	19
Mancos	18
Manzanola	104

Connect America Fund 2 Update

Colorado Wire Center	2015 & 2016 CAF 2 Enabled Customer Locations
McCoy	16
Mead	4
Meeker	16
Minturn	9
Monte Vista	13
Montrose	10
Monument	8
Morrison	55
Nederland	135
New Castle	3
Oak Creek	396
Olathe	24
Ordway	3
Otis	44
Ouray	44
Pagosa Springs	377

Connect America Fund 2 Update

Colorado Wire Center	2015 & 2016 CAF 2 Enabled Customer Locations
Pagosa Springs West	1123
Palisade	12
Parachute	1
Parkview	3
Penrose	55
Peyton	4
Pikeview	30
Platteville	10
Pueblo Main	19
Pueblo Sunset	8
Pueblo West	250
Red Feather Lakes	6
Ridgway	76
Rifle	5
Rocky Ford	1
Saguache	35

Connect America Fund 2 Update

Colorado Wire Center	2015 & 2016 CAF 2 Enabled Customer Locations
Salida	102
Security	24
Silt	10
Silverton	87
Snowmass	3
South Fork	442
Springfield	104
Steamboat Springs	163
Sterling	214
Stratmoor	34
Telluride	130
Trinidad	82
Vail	16
Vineland	128
Walsenburg	212
Walsh	76

Discussion and Questions?

Discussion and Questions?

CenturyLink Contacts

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Consent Agenda

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
June Board Meeting
Monday, 26 June 2017, 1:30pm
1188 E. 2nd Ave., Carnegie Bldg., Durango, CO 81301**

In Attendance:

John Egan – Town of Pagosa Springs
Michael Whiting – Archuleta County (via video)
William Tookey – San Juan County (via video)
Fred Brooks – Town of Mancos
Chis La May – Town of Bayfield
Karen Sheek – City of Cortez
Kari Distefano - Town of Rico
Ron LeBlanc – City of Durango
Dick White – City of Durango

Staff in Attendance:

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Dennis Wegienek– Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Sara Trujillo – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Guests in Attendance:

Lisa Bloomquist Palmer – Homes Fund (via phone)
Kelli Jones – Hinton Burdick CPAs and Advisors (via video)
Chad Atkinson – Hinton Burdick CPAs and Advisors (via video)
Ann McCoy-Harold– Senator Gardner’s Office

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 pm; everyone introduced themselves. Because additional members were expected, John asked Lisa Bloomquist Palmer to introduce herself (section III) prior to the audit presentation (section II).

II. 2016 Audit Presentation

Chad Atkinson, partner with Hinton Burdick CPA & Advisors, introduced himself and Kelli Jones. Kelli managed the 2016 audit for the SWCCOG. Chad said the conclusion to the audit was to issue an unmodified opinion on the COG financial statements. As part of the audit, a requirement is to test work in regards to internal controls and review compliance items. An item of significant deficiency in internal controls was related to the All Hazards grants. Chad said there was a large adjustment made as part of the audit process that the board needed to be made aware of. As part of the criteria, it is management’s responsibility to identify adjustments and ensure no misstatements. Chad said the issue has been corrected and that in the future management needs to review year-end closing processes to ensure revenues and adjustments are made so financial statements are not misstated. Miriam asked for a more layman’s term explanation. Sara explained that each year she receives a final reimbursement request from the All Hazards grant typically in March for the year prior, meaning there is information provided after final adjustments are inputted. Sara said she will work with Lori Johnson, grant coordinator, to ensure all adjustments are known prior to March of the next year to ensure adjustments are correct. Sara added that this happens every year and that in 2015, Hinton Burdick gave an adjusting entry for the AH grants in the amount of \$92,588 and that entry was not found to be a significant deficiency. Chad said Sara’s explanation was correct and that the seriousness of the

finding is minor. Chad gave some financial highlights saying that overall the budget was at a - \$4,765 loss, which is close to break-even. This concluded the audit presentation.

After the presentation, Miriam announced that the SWCCOG won a rural achievement award from the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) for work done on broadband in rural Colorado. The award plaque was presented and passed around.

III. Introduction to Homes Fund new Executive Director, Lisa Bloomquist Palmer

Lisa introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the Homes Fund. She has experience working for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI), which the Homes Fund (HF) is designated. Lisa said she would like to individually speak with members to find out how the HF can get housing funds into the community. Home buyer education programs are currently running in Durango, Cortez, and Pagosa Springs. The HF also offers one-on-one counseling. Lisa provided her contact information as 970-259-1418 ext. 5 or can be reached at lisa@homesfund.org. Miriam said she will send this information out to the board via email.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. 4 May, 2017 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes
- b. May 2017 Financials

Dick White motioned to approve the consent agenda, Fred Brooks seconded, unanimously approved.

V. Reports

Director's Report

Miriam will email the letter for National Monuments to all board members. John said the letter was wonderfully written and thanked COG staff. Miriam reminded members that the CUA meeting will be held July 21, 1:30pm in Durango; a more specific location is being worked on now. A flyer will be put together of what is happening in the region for those folks visiting the area for the meeting. Miriam asked that members provide information to include in the flyer and get folks out to the communities. Miriam said she will be on vacation in Alaska from July 7-19.

Broadband Report

Miriam said per the May meeting discussion, the COG will be moving forward with the rural healthcare grant and submit an application January 2018. This grant will provide funding for infrastructure development and middle mile work. Chris asked when the application is due. Miriam said the application process opens January 1 and staff plans to submit in January. Miriam guesses a final award would not be known until mid-year. Dick asked if CDOT will be involved. Miriam said yes but this needs to be in writing and not just verbal. Miriam would like CDOT to do the construction management because infrastructure builds would be in CDOT right-of-ways. The COG is looking to build from Wolf Creek to the Utah boarder, Cortez to Telluride, and between Durango and Silverton.

Miriam reported that the Enterprise Zone application to the state was approved. As of July 1 the COG will be able to do a 12.5% tax credit for those who donate labor and materials for broadband development. However, there are locations that do not allow for enterprise zones.

Legislation Report

There was no legislation report as the legislation session has concluded.

Transportation Report

Jessica reported that the TPR met June 1 with a brief agenda. CDOT updated on the beginning developments of the next statewide planning process that will include starting to assess needs for rest stops. The next TPR meeting will be August 3.

Jessica said in regard to transit that the COG applied for FTA 5310 mobility management funding for a transit coordinator. This will be the 3rd year the COG has applied. Staff is trying to get this funding to continue coordinating and moving transit forward with the Transit Counsel.

The transit marketing consultant wrapped-up work with the transit agencies and feedback has been positive. Staff is now working to figure out how to move forward with 5304 planning funds. The project entails working with the four corners states of UT, NM, AZ, and CO and looking at how to address public transit across state lines such as to the VA hospital and other health clinics.

VISTA Report

Dennis reported that he is working on the RREO recycling education grant and is coming up on the final week. He has been in communication with various producers of recycled goods and materials to purchase incentives with grant funds set aside for participating classrooms such as tote bags and recycle bins. Karen asked what grade the focus would be. Dennis said based on the state education criteria, 5th grade was the best target.

VI. Discussion Items

None.

VII. Decision Items

a. 21 April, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Chris La May motioned to approve the April 21, 2017 Executive Committee meeting minutes, John Egan seconded, unanimously approved.

Dick asked if the Executive committee has met since the April meeting. John said there was a session held prior to this board meeting and several individual sessions between April and June as coordinating schedules had been difficult.

b. 2018 Dues

Miriam said the 2017 budget was approved August 2016, which created some challenges because much changed between August and December; however, dues letters need to be provided to assist communities in their individual budget processes that are already starting. Therefore, the 2018 dues need to be discussed and approved so dues letters can be sent in July. The COG 2018 budget will be presented in September.

Miriam provided 2 dues spread sheets, one with the COG receiving FCC funding and the other without the COG receiving this funding. In both scenarios the TPR contributions and administration assistance dues are the same as 2017. All categories, dues, admin, and grant match except the TPR are calculated using the board-voted formula of a 20% flat rate for each jurisdiction then 80% based on population.

Miriam said at the board retreat that the members put broadband as the priority. With the board's decision to move forward with the FCC funding January 2018, this will create a need to increase staffing and funding at the COG level. This increase is seen in the dues scenario with FCC funding. However, the FCC funding will help to cover some of the project management and a portion of Miriam's salary but not all. Of course the FCC funding will not cover 100% of the

COG overhead, so this funding must come from members. The dues increase would be \$31,000, which is a small percentage increase of a \$30 million project. In addition, if grant match is not requested, which is the goal, even with the dues increase, all members will see a decrease in what is actually paid from 2017 to 2018. If grant match is invoiced, La Plata County would see the largest increase from 2017 to 2018 dues of \$4,500, which represents less than 1% of the total cost. Miriam added that staff would increase from the current 4 to 6 including the next VISTA. John said that if the FCC funding is not received, the COG will stay at status quo. Miriam confirmed yes and that the e-TICS and fiber fund that have been seen on previous year's invoicing will no longer be seen as the e-TICS has been paid for by a grant for the next 3 years and the fiber fund was voted to be collected for just 2 years, which has been completed as of 2017.

Dick asked when funds would arrive if the FCC funding is awarded. Miriam guessed the first quarter of 2018 but is unsure of the FCC's timeline to process. Dick asked if the 2018 budget proposal will incorporate the fact that funds will not be available for the full 12 months in 2018 as this could affect funding for increased staff. The COG should budget optimistically and remit dues back to members if the FCC grant is not received. Miriam suggested maybe invoicing for the lower amount and invoicing for additional funds if FCC funding is received. Michael said the higher amount definitely needs to be in the dues letters and budgeted for by members. John recommended moving forward with the 2018 dues including FCC funding and if the funding is not received, communities can be reimbursed. Sara said if the FCC funding award will be known within the 1st quarter of 2018, she may be able to wait and invoice when a confirmation of funds is known, this way there would be no need for reimbursements or additional invoicing.

William Tookey motioned to approve the recommended dues for 2018 with FCC funding and grant match, Dick White seconded, unanimously approved.

VIII. Other Items

Miriam said that Club 20 is holding a broadband committee meeting July 13 in Montrose. Those who are members should attend. Century Link will be proposing a resolution to Club 20 that is against local governments developing broadband. It is the same legislation Century Link attempted earlier this year. Miriam said it would be useful if COG members were there to speak against this. Michael asked if Miriam could provide some talking points. Miriam said yes and that as soon as the resolution is received, she will send out talking points.

IX. Community Updates

Michael Whiting, Archuleta County:

- Consent has been received for the proposed location of the new jail and sheriff's office.
- The county is looking at a sales tax or property tax increase on the November ballot.

Chris La May, Town of Bayfield:

- The bridge project continues over the Pine River.
- The school district broke ground on 3 different projects.
- A new dollar general is breaking ground next to the Dollar Store.
- The town is ready to start a rewrite of the comprehensive plan.
- The wayfinding project is nearing completion.

Karen Sheek, City of Cortez:

- The city is beginning the demolition of the old high school.
- There is construction on the hospital and new county court house.
- A water pipe replacement project will begin this summer.

- The city is beginning to implement improvements on downtown streets and medians.
- Every 3rd Thursday throughout the summer there will be activities held at the city park.

Kari Distefano, Town of Rico:

- Kari is the new town manager of Rico.
- The town does not have a central sewer system; the town is looking to fund this type of project through user fees.

Dick White, City of Durango:

- Broke ground in May at the new Santa Rita water facility.
- A resource management plan was approved for Lake Nighthorse.
- There is a major study session being done on the housing and homelessness issues.
- There has been discussion with the fire protection district about a new site for a downtown fire station.

Fred Brooks, Town of Mancos:

- The new pedestrian crossing at 160 will open this week.
- The 4th of July fireworks are still a go in Mancos.
- The school is working on a grant for campus improvement.
- There was a fire that caused the loss of many jobs. Ann asked if the insurance is a factor. Fred said there has not been much luck with communication between the company and town.

John Egan, Town of Pagosa Springs:

- Pagosa has been flooded with tourists, which is great for sales tax revenues.
- Last month the mayor Don Volger initiated a beautification campaign. There has been great participation from local businesses and individuals. This will be ongoing annually.
- The 8th street project that was shut down last November has recommenced. At this point, contractors are working with a completion date of late October or early November.
- Greg Schulte is retiring; the town is in process of looking for a new town manager.

Karen Sheek motioned to adjourn the meeting, Chris La May seconded, unanimously approved.

The next meeting is August 3, 2017.

End 2:50 pm

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
August Board Meeting
Thursday, 03 August 2017, 1:30pm
1188 E. 2nd Ave., Carnegie Bldg., Durango, CO 81301

In Attendance:

John Egan – Town of Pagosa Springs
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio
William Tookey – San Juan County
Fred Brooks – Town of Mancos
Lana Hancock – Town of Dolores
Greg Schulte – Town of Pagosa Springs
Karen Sheek – City of Cortez
Ron LeBlanc – City of Durango
Dick White – City of Durango
Gwen Lachelt – La Plata County

Staff in Attendance:

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Dennis Wegienek – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Sara Trujillo – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Guests in Attendance:

None

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm, everyone introduced themselves.

II. Consent Agenda

a. 26 June, 2017 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes

The June meeting minutes were accidentally excluded from the board packet; Miriam said these minutes will be presented at the September board meeting for review and approval.

b. June 2017 Financials

Mark Garcia motioned to approve the June 2017 financials, William Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.

Dick White said he was surprised to see that some budget items are underspent, including salary and wages. Sara explained that the approved budget from August 2016 is the budget in QuickBooks. Because this budget has changed significantly, the budget versus actual will not be accurate, but Sara cannot input a budget other than what was last approved by the board. However, Sara said she recently did a budget versus actual with the updated 2017 budget numbers presented to the board in March 2017 (not an amendment but simply an update) and the budget is on track and actually looking better as the updated budget estimated a deficit of -\$26,000, and with some small adjustments and the \$5,000 fee for service from the RHA, the deficit estimate is now at -\$20,000.

III. Reports

Director's Report

Miriam said there were only 2 weeks between the last director's report and this one due to vacation, so there is not much to report. Miriam did share some pictures from her Alaskan vacation.

Broadband Report

Miriam reported that the Colorado Telehealth Network (CTN) approached the COG about assisting with the FCC grant application. Previously Miriam had reported talking to CTN about them completing the complicated application but CTN's fee is 5%, which is a large fee on a \$40 million application that is not covered by the grant. CTN is willing to discuss a reduced flat rate fee that may be something covered by a DoLA grant. Miriam said she will gather more information from CTN and have the board decide in September or October if we want to apply ourselves or through CTN.

Miriam said she is continuing work on the aggregation of services. Mammoth bought Skywerx and is a wholesaler, which will help negotiations and providing services. The cost could be reduced to \$1 per Mb depending on how many gigabytes are aggregated together. The goal is to have this sorted out by quarter 1 of 2018.

Miriam reported that Century Link will be attending the September COG board meeting to discuss the CAFII funding and how they are using or not using those funds in our area. More and more residents are stating that they are losing services. Miriam said another concern is that Century Link was previously using county-wide areas for developing new infrastructure but are reporting on municipal levels. For example, Durango is not eligible for the CAFII funding project because they are not an underserved or unserved area; however, Century Link is reporting to the FCC that they increased broadband in Durango. John said the Executive Committee talked about this and the efficacy of which Century Link is performing that led to the decision to ask Century Link to attend a meeting and discuss. Miriam said members of the state legislature will be attending as well. John encouraged all members to attend the September meeting and bring any and all elected officials. Miriam said she will talk with the county about reserving the board room for this meeting. William suggested inviting Region 9 and other economic development organization to this meeting. Miriam will send out invites.

Miriam reported that there may be a transfer of Eagle Net assets. The National Telecommunication Information Association (NTIA) does not want to break up the network so is working to see where assets could be transferred. Miriam will keep the board updated as more information is known.

Karen Sheek said she recently attended the Club 20 meeting in Montrose where Century Link proposed a resolution for government un-involvement in broadband matters as broadband should not be considered a utility. As Miriam said previously, Club 20 did not vote on this resolution. Karen said other items were discussed such as easements and how to change the use of easements to accommodate internet and electricity among other things. There has been a state successful in the restructuring of easements that could serve as a blue print for Colorado. Karen said she has been asked to serve on a broadband development board; the first meeting will be sometime in October. Lastly, Karen reported that public private partnerships were discussed at the Club 20 meeting. It was emphasized that rural area folks need to better educate their state legislators.

Transportation Report

Jessica reported that the TPR met in the morning. There was a presentation on expected impacts of SB267. There was also a presentation from CDOT regarding preparation for the

statewide planning processes. CDOT will be doing a series of trainings. Miriam said she will send out the presentations to COG members via email.

VISTA Report

Dennis reported that the RREO grant is now complete with all funds spent. Teachers are looking at curriculums and how to incorporate recycling into their education plans. All recycling bins have been ordered and received for classrooms to help kids learn to sort. Dennis announced that he will be moving to the Denver area and starting grad school in a couple of weeks. He thanked the board for their support throughout the last year.

IV. Discussion Items

None.

V. Decision Items

a. 26 June, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Gwen Lachelt motioned to approve the June 26, 2017 Executive Committee meeting minutes, John Egan seconded, unanimously approved.

VI. Other Items

Miriam presented thank you gifts to both Dennis and Greg.

VII. Community Updates

Karen Sheek, City of Cortez:

- There are several big construction projects underway including the county courthouse and a new facility for medical professionals closer to the hospital.
- The planning and zoning committee is looking at a 3-mile plan.

Greg Schulte, Town of Pagosa Springs:

- The town is on track to have another record year for sales tax.
- There are 2 road projects and 2 trail projects underway that should be complete this year.
- There have been a lot of improvements done to parks and installation of new playground equipment.
- A comp plan update should be complete in the next 2 months.
- Andrea Phillips was hired as the new town administrator and will be starting August 17.

Dick White, City of Durango:

- The Fire Protection District has been financially troubled by the Gallagher Amendment along with the decrease in oil and gas revenues. The city is proposing to amend their contract with the Fire Protection District in order to assist financially. In addition, the existing fire station shares a space with River City Hall, which was a temporary solution 30 years ago. A new downtown fire station and a couple city properties are being considered.
- Durango was named the 3rd best Colorado community for sustainability. An objective to provide cross training to staff will help deepen the understanding across organizations about climate goals.

Gwen Lachelt, La Plata County:

- Joanne Spina was hired as the new county manager. She had been the assistant county manager for many years. The county will advertise for a new assistant county manager in early fall.

- The EPA administrator, governor of Colorado, and Senators Bennet, Tipton, and Gardner will be in town tomorrow to do an EPA mine tour. With the EPA proposing to slash the 2018 budget by 30%, it is essential we make it known how important superfund funding is in our region.
- The county is in process to completely rewrite the land use code.
- A consultant will be doing an impact fee study as the county is considering implementing impact fees.
- The city and county had talked about a marijuana tax; however, the county decided against this as these companies cannot deduct business expenses and cannot bank because they are not legal at the federal level. The county is hoping to support these businesses.
- The county is hosting an economic roundtable on September 8 from 8:30am – 12pm. There will be a panel.
- Dick added to Gwen's report that he received an email just this afternoon from John Whitney with a press release from Governor Hickenlooper that there will be a town hall meeting after the Silverton mine tour from 2:15pm – 3:00pm. Miriam will send information to COG board members.

Lana Hancock, Town of Dolores:

- A vacant building has been purchased by the Southwest Health System.
- Escalate days is coming up next weekend.

William Tookey, San Juan County:

- A sales tax increase will be put on the November ballot. The increase amount is still being discussed but will be between 1-2%. The increase will be used solely for emergency services.
- The county is overwhelmed with OHV issues as these vehicles are aggressive on the back county roads to the point where 2-wheel drive vehicles cannot access any longer; roads need repair.

Fred Brooks, Town of Mancos:

- Mancos days has completed and was successful.
- The school system got a grant for \$19 million that will be matched with a \$5.4 bond issue. The bond will be put on the November ballot.
- A street study was conducted and some stop signs removed as every intersection was a four-way stop.
- There have been proposals to pave a couple sections of road. This has been met with some opposition.
- The town is looking to do a land use code as some ordinances are from 15 years ago.
- The town is doing well without an administrator so plans to continue without and reassess the need at the beginning of next year.

Mark Garcia, Town of Ignacio:

- Ignacio will be going out for a recycling RFP.
- There had been a public outreach to build support for a home rule charter commission; unfortunately, this did not work out and the town will not be moving forward with this endeavor.
- The town is about to wrap up their branding and wayfinding signage study.

William Tookey motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mark Garcia seconded, unanimously approved.

The next meeting is September 7, 2017.

End 2:38 pm

July 2017 Financials

To: SWCCOG Board of Directors
From: Sara Trujillo
Date: 7 September 2017

Comments: The following attachments include:

- Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2017
- January – July 2017 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

Items to Note:

Balance Sheet: The bank account balance is back up with grant reimbursement funds being received.

P&L Budget vs. Actual: As promised, the negative net income from June was resolved in July with final invoices being processed for 3 grant close outs.

Fiscal Impact: High, Budget changes throughout the year

Staff Recommendation: Approve the July 2017 Financials allowing staff to move forward with the 2017 budget.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Balance Sheet

As of July 31, 2017

	Jul 31, 17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Alpine Bank	
Alpine Bank Account (UR)	90,059.73
Total Alpine Bank	90,059.73
Petty Cash	
AmeriCorps VISTA	348.58
Jessica Laitsch	35.39
Petty Cash - Other	29.07
Total Petty Cash	413.04
Total Checking/Savings	90,472.77
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	73,236.58
Total Accounts Receivable	73,236.58
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid Expense	11,994.00
Total Other Current Assets	11,994.00
Total Current Assets	175,703.35
TOTAL ASSETS	175,703.35
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	11.79
Total Accounts Payable	11.79
Credit Cards	
Credit Cards	
Miriam	28.00
Sara	23.49
Total Credit Cards	51.49
Total Credit Cards	51.49
Other Current Liabilities	
Deferred Revenue	-6,540.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	-6,540.00
Total Current Liabilities	-6,476.72

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Balance Sheet

As of July 31, 2017

	<u>Jul 31, 17</u>
Total Liabilities	-6,476.72
Equity	
Retained Earnings	85,735.42
Net Income	96,444.65
Total Equity	<u>182,180.07</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>175,703.35</u></u>

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January through July 2017

	Jan - Jul 17	Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
All Hazards			
2015 SHSP	78,155.11	75,000.00	104.2%
2016 SHSP	131,279.91	134,283.00	97.8%
2017 SHSP	0.00	100,000.00	0.0%
Total All Hazards	209,435.02	309,283.00	67.7%
Broadband Infrastructure Grant	0.00	1,100,000.00	0.0%
CDOT Grants			
SWTPR Grant	13,856.19	22,100.00	62.7%
Transit Coord Grant	0.00	24,239.00	0.0%
Transit LCC Grant	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total CDOT Grants	13,856.19	46,339.00	29.9%
DoLA Grants			
DoLA 8010	6,200.00		
DoLA 8011	14,496.54	100,000.00	14.5%
DoLA 8330	21,518.80	50,000.00	43.0%
DoLA 9038	44,954.54	25,000.00	179.8%
Total DoLA Grants	87,169.88	175,000.00	49.8%
Dues Revenue			
Admin Position	12,200.00	12,200.00	100.0%
COG Dues	114,000.00	114,000.00	100.0%
SWTPR Contributions	7,607.00	7,679.00	99.1%
Total Dues Revenue	133,807.00	133,879.00	99.9%
EPA Grant - 2017	0.00	50,000.00	0.0%
Grant Match			
COG Member Match	15,000.00	10,000.00	150.0%
Total Grant Match	15,000.00	10,000.00	150.0%
Misc. Income	5,393.44		
RREO Grant			
RREO 2016-2017	28,161.60	17,459.00	161.3%
Total RREO Grant	28,161.60	17,459.00	161.3%
SCAN Services			
Dark Fiber Leasing	13,398.00	36,276.00	36.9%
e-TICS	0.00	8,400.00	0.0%
Fiber Equipment Repair Fund	0.00		
Internet & Transport	4,140.00	10,000.00	41.4%
Total SCAN Services	17,538.00	54,676.00	32.1%
Total Income	510,361.13	1,896,636.00	26.9%

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January through July 2017

	Jan - Jul 17	Budget	% of Budget
Gross Profit	510,361.13	1,896,636.00	26.9%
Expense			
Advertising and Promotion	78.72	600.00	13.1%
All Hazards Projects			
All Hazards 2015 SHSP			
Grant 2015 Project 1	691.82		
Grant 2015 Project 3	66,959.88		
Grant 2015 Project 4	8,692.28		
All Hazards 2015 SHSP - Other	-12,656.00	75,000.00	-16.9%
Total All Hazards 2015 SHSP	63,687.98	75,000.00	84.9%
All Hazards 2016 SHSP			
Grant 2016 Project 1	4,568.33		
Grant 2016 Project 2	19,942.50		
Grant 2016 Project 3	8,774.54		
Grant 2016 Project 4	23,661.83		
Grant 2016 Project 5	5,167.25		
Grant 2016 Project 6	23,879.11		
Grant 2016 Project 7	46,440.30		
All Hazards 2016 SHSP - Other	-23,879.11	127,569.00	-18.7%
Total All Hazards 2016 SHSP	108,554.75	127,569.00	85.1%
All Hazards 2017 SHSP	0.00	92,320.00	0.0%
Total All Hazards Projects	172,242.73	294,889.00	58.4%
AmeriCorp VISTA	8,000.00	8,000.00	100.0%
Bank Service Charge	0.00	225.00	0.0%
Broadband Expenses			
SCAN Dark Fiber Lease	0.00	9,069.00	0.0%
Total Broadband Expenses	0.00	9,069.00	0.0%
Conference Fee	199.00		
Consulting	67,892.70	1,248,035.00	5.4%
Employee/Board Appreciation	78.88	200.00	39.4%
Information Technology (IT)			
Internal IT Consulting	50.00		
Software	969.00	2,300.00	42.1%
Total Information Technology (IT)	1,019.00	2,300.00	44.3%
Insurance Expense			
General Liability	2,234.75	2,274.00	98.3%
Health	15,291.50	35,649.00	42.9%
HSA	0.00	6,000.00	0.0%
Worker's Compensation	1,668.00	1,808.00	92.3%
Total Insurance Expense	19,194.25	45,731.00	42.0%
Internet Connectivity			

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January through July 2017

	Jan - Jul 17	Budget	% of Budget
Fast Track	6,300.00		
Internet Connection (AT&T)	226.41	10,000.00	63.0%
Total Internet Connectivity	6,526.41	10,000.00	65.3%
Meetings	540.65	7,000.00	7.7%
Memberships	5,673.00	3,200.00	177.3%
Misc. Expense	3,502.60		
Office Equipment	-36.34	4,050.00	-0.9%
Office Supplies	321.41	1,500.00	21.4%
Postage and Delivery	67.15	100.00	67.2%
Professional Development	1,676.51	4,000.00	41.9%
Professional Fees			
Accounting Software	0.00	14,000.00	0.0%
Audit	6,750.00	15,000.00	45.0%
Legal	2,203.20	3,000.00	73.4%
Misc.	331.41	1,000.00	33.1%
Total Professional Fees	9,284.61	33,000.00	28.1%
Rent	0.00	81.00	0.0%
Salary and Wages			
457 Retirement	3,719.89	8,161.00	45.6%
Car Allowance	2,100.00	3,600.00	58.3%
Cell Phone Allowance	1,820.00	3,120.00	58.3%
Housing Allowance	0.00	3,250.00	0.0%
Payroll Processing Fee	968.75	1,600.00	60.5%
Payroll Tax	6,499.85	13,955.00	46.6%
Salary and Wages - Other	76,342.18	163,219.00	46.8%
Total Salary and Wages	91,450.67	196,905.00	46.4%
Software Maintenance e-TICS	15,162.00	8,400.00	180.5%
Team Building	0.00	800.00	0.0%
Travel	11,042.53	16,620.00	66.4%
Total Expense	413,916.48	1,894,705.00	21.8%
Net Ordinary Income	96,444.65	1,931.00	4,994.5%
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Interest Earned	0.00		
Total Other Income	0.00		
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Net Income	96,444.65	1,931.00	4,994.5%

Reports

Director Report

To: SWCCOG Board of Directors
From: Miriam Gillow-Wiles
Date: 7 September 2017

Comments: This month has been a busy month with working on the normal projects, the beginning of legislative session (too soon, too soon) and onboarding our 3rd year VISTA, Dylan Lucas.

3rd Year VISTA

Dylan started on August 28th, and like Shannon and Dennis, will be with us for a calendar year. He will be continuing the work from Shannon and Dennis started with the recycling education project. Dylan will start the pilot elementary school education project with Kemper Elementary in Cortez. He will also be helping Jessica on the Transit Planning project as well as aspects of the Tourism Website and grant writing. He comes to us via Houston as well as San Diego, Tennessee, Virginia, and Bahrain. Additionally, his girlfriend has moved to Durango as well, and is working at the City of Durango Rec Center.

Legislative Session 2018

The first discussions of what legislation might be run in Denver is beginning. As we get more details of the legislation, we will convene the Legislative Committee to talk about specifics. The current Committee members include Ron, Shane, Gwen, Michael, and John.

Presenting and Facilitation

I have been asked to facilitate at the National Association of Developmental Organizations (NADO – Region 9’s national association) for their broadband development discussion. I have also been asked to present on creating partnerships at the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) at the Executive Director’s Conference in October.

Budget

We have been working on the 2018 budget, there are currently a number of moving parts, including state and federal grants and assumptions about ongoing federal funding (TPR and Homeland Security funding). Due to the CenturyLink presentation at this meeting, we will have the 2018 Budget presentation at the October Board Meeting.

Broadband Report

To: SWCCOG Board of Directors
From: Miriam Gillow-Wiles
Date: 7 September 2017

Comments: Once again we have spent a significant amount of my time on broadband in some capacity. Much of this much was relationship development and engagement. This may not have an immediate impact, but being able to have a strong and collaborative group of agencies and organizations will be vital for development.

Enterprise Zone

Staff is working on guidelines to create some equity and transparency for approval of Enterprise Zone projects. We are working closely with Region 9 to create these, as they are the Administrator of the EZ.

Region 9 and the SWCCOG are working on a contract for the Administration of the Enterprise Zone. The Contract has been through legal, but Region 9 did not have time for their input at the time of publishing of the Board Packet. This will be in the October Board Packet.

Coordination with other Governmental/Quasi-Governmental entities

Staff has been busy working with a few other agencies to create partnerships for the development of Broadband across the region. These include other governmental entities, such as CDOT and Region 10, as well as quasi-governmental entities. Relationship building and maintenance is going to be very important to creating solutions for our broadband needs.

Aggregation of Services

I am still working on the aggregation of services. NWCCOG has also started doing this with their project THOR (unsure of acronym). This is useful as they are a few steps ahead and we borrow some of their work.

Transportation Report

To: SWCCOG Board of Directors
From: Jessica Laitsch
Date: 30 August, 2017

Comments: Transportation:

The SWTPR met on 3 August, 2017. The topics included:

- CDOT staff presented an update on SB 267.
- CDOT is requesting information for its Priority Intersection and Corridor Study.
- CDOT staff presented the Transportation Planning Toolkit #1, the first part of their education process prior to the statewide planning process.

The next SWTPR meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, 5 October, 2017 at the Carnegie Building, 1188 E 2nd Ave., Durango.

Transit:

Staff is working with CDOT and other partner organizations on the Four Corners Coordinated Transit Plan funded through FTA section 5304 funds.

VISTA's Report

To: SWCCOG Board of Directors
From: Dylan Lucas
Date: 31 August 2017

Comments: **On-site Orientation and Training**

I officially started my service for SWCCOG Monday, August 28th, 2017. I moved to the area from Houston, TX and have been learning about the area since my arrival. My first week has been focused on learning how the COG as an organization operates and its role within southwest Colorado.

Conservation

The area that I am most looking forward to during my service with COG is in regards to conservation. In one of my previous jobs I worked in electronic recycling and that kick started a passion for helping create a greener world. I got the opportunity to tour the recycling facility with the manager Joey Medina and was incredibly impressed by the entire operation. They are doing a great service for the community and I look forward to working more with the sustainability team.

Steward's Training in North Carolina

Currently, I am in Sherrill's Ford for training from September 5th to September 8th. I am attending seminars to enhance grant writing skills, program development, and how to best serve the organization. The training will enhance any weak points that I may have and foster a bond with the rest of the VISTAs that are serving this year.

Discussion Items

DOLA December Grant

To: SWCCOG Board of Directors
From: Miriam Gillow-Wiles
Date: 7 September 2017

Comments: The SWCCOG would like to request funding from DOLA for broadband development. Funding from DOLA would provide money for existing staff and consulting, such as a broadband coordinator. NWCCOG and Region 10 both used DOLA funds to start a permanent position as a contract position. DOLA only has a very small amount of money in the Broadband Fund, and as a result the SWCCOG may need to apply during the standard grant cycle.

As all the members utilize this same DOLA funding, I wanted the Board to have a discussion about the SWCCOG potentially applying for DOLA funding at the same time as the membership. It would be preferable to not be in that position, and utilize the Broadband Fund money, but in the event that is unavailable, we would need to apply at a regular grant cycle.

Items to consider for discussion:

- Does the membership agree to apply for lower grants and SWCCOG apply for larger grant if/when the SWCCOG applies for regular DOLA grants?
- Should the SWCCOG not apply for regular DOLA grant cycles?

Decision Items

SWCCOG Executive Committee Minutes

To: SWCCOG Board of Directors
From: Sara Trujillo
Date: 7 September 2017

Comments: Executive Committee Minutes from July 20, 2017 for approval.

Legal Review: None

Fiscal Impact: None

Staff Recommendation: Executive Committee approve the attached minutes from July 20, 2017

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, 20 July 2017, 1:30 p.m.**

In attendance:

Gwen Lachelt – La Plata County

John Egan – Town of Pagosa Springs (via phone)

Chris La May – Town of Bayfield (via phone)

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Sara Trujillo - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

The meeting began at 1:40 p.m.

Miriam said the August agenda is currently comprised of the basic items of minutes and financials. No other items are known at this time.

Miriam said there is some concern with Century Link and the Connect for America II funds (CAFII). Miriam reminded the committee of several meetings with Century Link the COG had in 2016 where Century Link said they would like a partnership but refused to share any information, such as maps. Since those meetings, Century Link has done work in the area; unfortunately, both Miriam and Roger Zalneraitis with the Economic Alliance have been receiving larger than normal emails and phone calls about Century Link's service slowing down or people losing connectivity completely.

In June 2017, Miriam said Senator Bennett's office had a meeting with Century Link and Miriam was asked to write a letter of concern regarding the CAFII funds and Century Link's ability to provide service to the underserved and unserved areas in rural southwest Colorado. Miriam said she outlined broadband speed concerns and concerns of how the CAFII funding has been allocated to a major ISP leaving local company ineligible to compete. Miriam said Century Link responded to her letter saying if they had known her concerns, they would have met with the COG. John asked if there is anything the COG can do to get more attention on this matter. Miriam said the state has been reluctant to take Century Link to task because although Century Link is inhibiting broadband growth, Century Link threatens to leave Colorado, which would create an enormous loss of jobs. Gwen asked why some are losing service. Miriam said folks in the Lemon and Vallecito areas along with some in La Plata County and Pagosa Springs have been losing service since Century Link received CAFII funding and began work. The only conclusion Miriam can reach is that Century Link has been over-selling services to where there is more demand than supply although they received CAFII funding specifically for the Lemon and Vallecito areas.

Miriam said Century Link has fiber lines between Durango and Pagosa and into Bayfield. There is also fiber to Telluride; however, it is not used to service residential areas. The infrastructure was put in with public funds but is now considered private holdings, so Century Link will not share the maps. Miriam is unsure where infrastructure lies and said Durango is not allowed access although the infrastructure is in Durango's right of ways. John asked if this has been reiterated to the congressional delegation. Miriam said yes and that Century Link had told Darlene Marcus at Senator Tipton's office that they had reached out to the COG several times for meetings and were ignored. Miriam said this is not true. In addition, at the Mountain Connect conference, Century Link staff would not talk to Miriam. John suggested writing Century Link a letter of having no record of meeting attempts. Chris suggested inviting them to the next COG meeting. Miriam will write a letter, send it to John who will sign and send.

Miriam said Century Link intends to run more legislation to undo SB152 and make it more difficult for local governments to solve broadband issues. Club 20 had a telecom meeting that Century Link attended to introduce a resolution saying broadband is not a utility and therefore local governments should not be involved with broadband. This resolution was similar to what Century Link tried to run through legislation in the last session. Club 20 chose to not vote on the resolution.

Miriam reported that she is just back from Alaska as of yesterday. A preliminary budget will be presented to the board in September. Dues letters will be sent out soon.

Gwen asked for an update on the FCC grant. Miriam said Region 10 would like to pursue funding as well. There will be 2 ways to go about applying, one being that the COG applies on their own, or two, the COG submit a joint western slope application with Region 10. The only issue with doing a joint application is the amount of funds that would be requested. Requesting a smaller amount individually might look better than a larger amount. This will be a complicated application so Miriam said she has checked into hiring Colorado Telehealth Network (CTN) to write the application. Unfortunately, CTN charges 5-6%, which on a \$40 million application is quite a large fee that the grant will not pay for. However, with Region 10's interest in doing a joint application, this may help with finding match to pay CTN's fee. Miriam said she will see if a fee negotiation with CTN is possible.

Miriam said 2 RFPs will be require, one for locations we want to serve and another for how much money it will take to do the build. The plan is to go out in early October with an RFP as it must be open 28 days minimum, close the RFP mid-November, and have the board vote in December then apply in January. Miriam said she is working with healthcare providers to have a local consortium that so far includes Cortez SW Memorial, San Juan County Health Department, a health clinic in Silverton, Dolores County Health Department, and San Juan Basin Health. There have been 5-6 entities that have sent letters saying they are interested in participating. John asked if Pagosa Springs has been contacted. Miriam said yes. Mercy and Animas Surgical are on the list as well. San Miguel Health Department is interested too as the plan is to go over Lizard Head to San Miguel then Region 10 will go into San Miguel from Telluride. John said Miriam should keep pushing forward and keep the board advised.

Miriam reminded all that there is a CCUA meeting tomorrow in Durango, 2pm at City Hall. Lunch will be provided by CCUA and dinner at Mutu's paid for by Durango.

The meeting ended at 2:20 p.m.

Cascade Village Broadband Letter of Support

To: SWCCOG Board of Directors
From: Miriam Gillow-Wiles
Date: 7 September 2017

Comments: Forethought/Brainstorm Internet approached the SWCCOG requesting a letter of support to the Broadband Fund for funding to help offset the cost of the two mile build from Purgatory Ski resort to Cascade Village in San Juan County. Cascade Village is the only population center outside of Silverton in San Juan County is currently under/unserved (depending on location). Funding requests to the Broadband Fund are due September 12th.

Attached

- Letters of Support Policy Questions and Answers,
- Letter of support from a resident at Cascade Village
- Draft letter of support from the SWCCOG.

Additional Details:

- We have requested that Forethought discuss partnerships with CDOT for this build. They have reached out to CDOT to begin that conversation.
- Forethought had been developing fiber builds across rural Colorado, including San Juan County for several years
- San Juan County pledged \$20,000 in financial support for this build
- San Juan County will own part of the build as a result of their financial investment.
- Likely the first use of the SWCCOG new Enterprise Zone for broadband development.

Legal Review: Not applicable at this time

Fiscal Impact: None.

Staff Recommendation: Approve Letter of Support

SWCCOG Letter of Support – Request and responses to policy questions

Cascade Village/South San Juan County Community Broadband Project

Purpose

The Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (SWCCOG) is often asked to provide a letter of support for an organization seeking funding, specific legislation, and/or a recommendation. In order the SWCCOG to respond appropriately in a timely manner, these policies and procedures are provided as criteria and guidelines to process requests.

The following questions and response below are intended to give Board and staff members some context to evaluate a decision. All letters of support must be approved by the Board. Answers to the first four steps, and potentially step five, should be included with communication to the Board regarding the letter of support.

Steps

1) Is it a proposal from one or more members?

If yes, the Board should consider a letter of support if the fits within questions two and three.

APPLICANT RESPONSE: The proposal is not affiliated with any members.

2) Does the proposal have a regional impact?

If yes, proceed to question three.

If no, the SWCCOG may not be the appropriate organization to be writing a letter of support.

APPLICANT RESPONSE: Yes. Cascade Village has no access to modern broadband. This make it infinitely difficult for home and business owners to operate locally. Additionally, many of the townhomes and condos are leased throughout the year. The lack of modern broadband puts Cascade Village at the bottom of the list when people are searching for a rental property, particularly through our tourist season. Modern Broadband would eliminate this problem and foster economic growth for the area.

SWCCOG STAFF RESPONSE: This project is in line with SWCCOG’s goal of expanding broadband service throughout the region. While this project will impact a limited geographic area, if the resulting network is open access it could be tied in with the SWCCOG’s larger fiber network, therefore providing benefit for the larger region.

3) Is it a proposal that involves the SWCCOG, the SWCCOG’s established goals, existing SWCCOG projects, and/or existing or previous advocacy?

If yes, the Board should consider a letter of support.

If no, staff should ask why the requestor is approaching the SWCCOG and determine if the ideas are sound and reasoning behind requesting a letter of support from the SWCCOG.

APPLICANT RESPONSE: We believe we are aligned with the SWCCOG’s goals and objective. Although we are not directly involving the SWCCOG, we are requesting support for the project. We believe our project meets the SWCCOG vision to work directly with local entities, governments and stakeholders to provide solutions to the lack of broadband availability. We are doing so by involving San Juan County into the project, the impact upgraded broadband will provide to local businesses and the community as a whole. Taken directly off the SWCCOG’s website (below), we feel we meet this criteria. “The Southwest Colorado Council of Governments promotes regional cooperation and coordination among local governments and between

levels of government for the geographic area comprising the Counties of Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan. The need for a SWCCOG is based on the recognition that the people of the Region form a single community and are bound together not only physically, but economically and socially. It is the purpose of the SWCCOG through its participating membership, staff and programs, to provide local public officials with the means of responding more effectively to the local and regional problems of this Regional community.”

SWCCOG STAFF RESPONSE: Provided this project is set up as an open access network, it is in line with the SWCCOG’s goal to expand access to high speed internet in southwest Colorado.

4) Has the proponent consulted with SWCCOG members or other agencies that might have jurisdiction over decisions that could impact the implementation of the proposal?

If yes, and the consultations identified no obstacles, then the Board should consider a letter of support.

If no, the request is premature.

APPLICANT RESPONSE: I have contacted Miriam Gillow-Wiles and informed her of the project. I will keep her apprised of the plan and project.

SWCCOG STAFF RESPONSE: The project coordinator has indicated that they have been working with San Juan County. We strongly recommend that they also work closely with the Colorado Department of Transportation. After providing such recommendation, the applicant has engaged with CDOT.

5) Other questions to consider, and potentially include in Board communication.

What is the impact on the region if the proposal succeeds? Fails?

APPLICANT RESPONSE: Cascade Village resides in San Juan County, but outside of municipal bounds. They are a small community that mainly consists of townhomes and condos and a few houses. Some of the residents are permanent and some are either part time residents, and/or lease/rent their homes throughout the year. If the project succeeds, it will allow local residents to conduct business at their homes rather than finding a location they can work, or not coming at all. Additionally, having modern broadband will provide a much greater opportunity for owners that are renting/leasing their condos and townhomes. Not having broadband is the single most reason people look elsewhere when searching for a rental property. We already know what would happen if the project fails. Cascade Village are currently dealing with no access to modern broadband and the economic decline will continue.

SWCCOG STAFF RESPONSE: If this project succeeds, a currently underserved area would have access to high-speed internet.

In what areas of the region, if any, will the proposed activity take place?

APPLICANT RESPONSE: New fiber will be run from Purgatory to Cascade Village. This fiber run is approximately two miles. From there, we are going to construct fiber to the home. Slack loops will be provided along the aerial portion of the middle mile fiber run. This is approximately 1 mile of aerial. There are no other homes, or businesses between Purgatory and Cascade Village.

Is there a fiscal impact for the SWCCOG and or SWCCOG members?

APPLICANT RESPONSE: At this time, we are only asking for a support letter. Given the time constraint, we feel we would be pushing the SWCCOG too hard within that time frame to ask for a capital commitment. However, if this is possible, we would be happy to discuss it.

SWCCOG STAFF RESPONSE: There will be no fiscal impact to the SWCCOG.

Does the proposal fit within the mission and vision of the SWCCOG?

APPLICANT RESPONSE: As stated earlier, we feel our project dovetails nicely with the SWCCOG vision and mission statement. We are attempting to provide modern broadband services where they are currently not available as well as working with local governmental agencies, Cascade Village as a whole and supporting businesses.

SWCCOG STAFF RESPONSE: Provided this project sets up an open-access network and work closely with the Colorado Department of Transportation and, the SWCCOG if applicable in the future, then yes, this supports the SWCCOG's mission and vision.

Is one or more SWCCOG member working on a similar activity or goal?

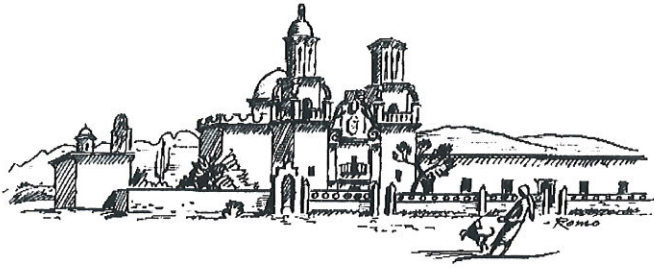
APPLICANT RESPONSE: Not that we are aware of.

SWCCOG STAFF RESPONSE: The SWCCOG is working to expand broadband access throughout the region.

If so, does this letter of support potentially support or undermine the Member activity/goal?

APPLICANT RESPONSE: We are not aware of any SWCCOG projects, currently in play, that directly undermine the member activity/goal. We have also not seen, or heard of any plans to provide a solution for Cascade Village. However, we believe, this project would fit nicely within the SWCCOG vision.

SWCCOG STAFF RESPONSE: This project has the potential to support the SWCCOG's goal of the expansion of a broadband fiber network throughout the region.



Thomas M. Brunner, Ph.D.
Psychology

August 28, 2017

RE: Letter of Support for the South San Juan County/Cascade Village Community Broadband Project

Dear Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (SWCCoG) Board Members,

As a Cascade Village Board Member, and as the Fiber Optic Project Point person working closely with Sid Arnold of Brainstorm Internet, I am asking that you write a Letter of Support from SWCCoG to show support for this necessary and collaborative project among Brainstorm Internet (formal applicant), San Juan County, and Cascade Village. Updating the currently antiquated broadband service is critical to ensure South San Juan County's main economic hub (i.e., Cascade Village's Benchmark Events Center) will exponentially expand its already rapidly growing role as a major events, meeting, and cultural Community anchor.

Given that the San Juan County (SJC) Board of Commissioners has formally agreed - at their August 23, 2017 meeting - to donate \$20,000.00 to this project, this project will generate a multifaceted Return on Investment (ROI) that SJC already recognizes. Moreover, Cascade Village has - over its approximately 30 year period - generated several million dollars in tax revenue to strengthen the area's infrastructure, schools, emergency response, and governmental branches.

This project's investment in the communications infrastructure for Cascade Village and the surrounding area would address the major criticism that Cascade Village's 16,000 annual visitors have voiced: lack of high speed internet. Meanwhile, continuing to attract these multitudes of guests to San Juan County and Purgatory Mountain helps Cascade Village continue to funnel people to some of southwest Colorado's most impactful economic and Community building engines, such as neighboring Purgatory Mountain - a nationally award winning family oriented outdoor mecca.

This private business/governmental collaboration would help San Juan County achieve its promise to Community residents to cultivate its cultural and economic resources by infusing its major economic hub in the County's South Economic Development Corridor (SEDC) with what it needs most - modern internet technology - in order for it to go to the next level of economic and cultural impact. For example, Cascade Village currently generates - for SJC - 50% of its lodging revenue, 23% of its sales tax, and 18% of its property taxes. Funding this project is a decision to invest in one of the County's most impactful - and long standing - institutions.

Years of collected data clearly prove that the only roadblock to SJC and partner Cascade Village reaching their shared Community generating vision is the severely deteriorated and defective broadband public utility. Please consider funding a project that is based on many years of close, thoughtful, and intensive collaboration among San Juan County, Brainstorm Internet, and Cascade Village. Your support of this future focused investment will have a resounding and multiplicative economic effect on tens of thousands of people for many generations, and will seed a memorable Legacy.

Thank you for giving the South San Juan County/Cascade Village Community Broadband Project serious consideration as a visionary project deserving SWCCoG's Board support.

Respectfully,



Dr. Thomas M. Brunner, PhD
Cascade Village Board Member
& Broadband Project Point Person

Colorado Residence Address:

Cascade Village
50827 North Highway 550, Unit 349
Durango, CO 81301



SOUTHWEST COLORADO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

7 September 2017

Broadband Fund
Department of Regulatory Agencies
1560 Broadway, Suite 1550
Denver, CO 80202

RE: Cascade Village/South San Juan County Community Broadband Project

The Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (SWCCOG) supports the Cascade Village/South San Juan County Community Broadband Project request for funding through the Broadband Fund program.

This project will improve connectivity for residents that currently may not even have hardline phone service because of vastly antiquated wiring technology. In remote areas such as this, improved connectivity may not only mean better access to information but also serve a critical role in communication in the event of an emergency. In addition to safety reasons, access to adequate communication are important to economic vitality. Cascade Village serves as one of the primary lodging facilities for Purgatory Resort and their Benchmark Building regularly hosts community and regional events. Our region is critically dependent upon tourism and amenities such as reasonable internet speeds are important to make the region attractive to potential visitors. Additionally, residents of Cascade Village, and the southwest as a whole, are in need of affordable high speed internet for work and conducting day to day business.

This project supports the SWCCOG's goal of facilitating regional communication, cooperation, planning and action by bringing together the San Juan County government, the town of Silverton, regional emergency personnel, Cascade Village, and a large number of businesses and individuals in this region. We also strongly encourage the partners on this project to work closely with the Colorado Department of Transportation to increase efficiencies and reduce redundancies as they lay fiber.

This project also supports SWCCOG's specific goal to expand high-speed internet throughout the southwest Colorado region by building broadband in this underserved area. We strongly encourage this project be established as open access fiber to allow integration with future fiber network expansions in the region.

The SWCCOG supports the Cascade Village/South San Juan County Community Broadband Project and encourages the Broadband Fund program to fund the request.

Sincerely,

Miriam Gillow-Wiles
Executive Director
Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

PO Box 963, Durango, CO 81301
970-779-4592
2017-09-04

Colorado Tourism Office Grant

To: SWCCOG Board of Directors
From: Miriam Gillow-Wiles
Date: 7 September 2017

Comments: The Colorado Tourism Office has a marketing grant available. Staff propose this as the match for the DOLA Technical Assistance 2018 Grant. Details about the grant and SWCCOG request (preliminary) are below.

Staff proposes to create a regional tourism website, ideally we would be able to provide this to an existing agency rather than starting from scratch. In addition to a website there would be significant marketing to increase traffic to the website, this marketing may include advertising, promotional materials, printed materials, and even media placement (radio, TV, digital etc). This grant also provides funding for planning and research.

This idea came about from the CCUA meeting that was held in Durango in July. The CCUA had asked for information on regional activities. It took about two hours to put together regional information, and not just community specific information. If it took us 2 hours, it is easy to assume the average tourist would not have the knowledge of where to look. We have already started reaching out to the agencies working on tourism, such as the Durango Area Tourism Office (DATO) and the Pagosa Springs Chamber.

Overview

- Maximum grant request: \$25,000
 - o SWCCOG Request: up to \$10,000
- 50% match requirement (cannot come from State General Fund)
 - o DOLA Request: \$6,000
 - o SWCCOG in-kind \$4,000
- Due Date: September 15, 2018

Legal Review: Not applicable at this time

Fiscal Impact: This is part of the match for the DOLA 2018 Technical Assistance Grant. Without the Tourism grant we will have to adjust the grant request for the DOLA grant.

Staff Recommendation: Allow staff to apply for the Colorado Tourism Office grant.

2018 DOLA Technical Assistance Grant

To: SWCCOG Board of Directors
From: Miriam Gillow-Wiles
Date: 7 September 2017

Comments: The DOLA Technical Assistance Grant is due October 2nd. This year we are proposing several projects that fall into our Critical Success Factors (CSF) decided on at the 2017 Board Retreat, both the proposed regional tourism development and facilitation between SWCCOG and Region 9 fall into the CSF section of leveraging partnerships. The SWCCOG-Region 9 Facilitation falls into State and Federal Legislative Action, as federal cuts will impact both entities. The numbers in the budget below are estimates, and not yet concrete. However, we will work with the ExCom to solidify the request, and report on the grant application at the October Board Meeting.

SWCCOG – Region 9 Facilitation:

This funding will help provide a path forward for the two organizations to work together. Currently, both Executive Directors and Executive Committees have seen this as needed work, but we have been unable to move forward on this for multiple reasons. These include, ED time constraints, and focuses of the EDs – our allegiances lay with our specific organization, we are unable to be completely unbiased. As a result staff would like to use the bulk of the grant funding for to provide facilitation over 2018, this will create a road map of solutions for the two organizations to be more resilient. Region 9 will be providing a cash match. SWCCOG management and coordination of the project will provide matching funding. The DOLA TA grants require a 50-50 split of funding and match.

Regional Tourism Website:

This idea came about from the CUA meeting that was held in Durango in July. The CUA had asked for information on regional activities. It took about two hours to put together regional information, and not just community specific information. If it took us 2 hours, I would assume the average tourist would not have the knowledge of where to look. We have already started reaching out to the agencies working on tourism, such as the Durango Area Tourism Office (DATO) and the Pagosa Springs Chamber. Ideally we would be able to provide this to an existing agency rather than starting from scratch. Match is provided by the Colorado Office of Tourism grant (see Board Packet for more information). This funding includes website development, heavy marketing, and coordination between tourism agencies.

AmeriCorps VISTA Support:

This funding is for the housing and cell phone support of \$265/month for our new VISTA Dylan Lucas. The RREO grant was slated to cover it, but due to the timing of Dylan's start date and the RREO grant ending June 30th, we were unable to use it for

2018 DOLA Technical Assistance Grant

that. The match is TPR funding, as Dylan will be working closely with Jessica during the upcoming planning process for TPR.

Personnel Costs:

These projects and programs will take additional staff resources. We have requested additional funding to help support the organization through funding for staff (not additional, only existing staff, as per DOLA) for staff for working on the Tourism and facilitation projects. Previously we have used existing staff time as in-kind and had to use the SWCCOG’s revenues to do so, we are requesting the funding to from DOLA to help offset this expense.

SWCCOG DOLA TA 2018 Grant				
No Grant Match From Communities				
Project	DOLA	Cash Match	In Kind	Total Per Project
Consultant Services				
R9-SWCCOG Facilitation	\$ 35,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 51,000
Tourism Website	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
VISTA Support	\$ 3,200	\$ 22,100		\$ 25,300
Personnel Costs	\$ 4,000			\$ 4,000
Total DOLA Request	\$ 48,200			
Total Cash/In-Kind	\$ 48,100			

Additional Information:

- No additional funding from SWCCOG Members
- Strengthens the region
- Establishes and maintains additional partnerships across region

Legal Review: Not applicable at this time

Fiscal Impact: High.

Staff Recommendation: Allow staff to apply for the DOLA Technical Assistance grant due October 2, 2017.

Other Items

Community Updates
