Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

7 March 2014 Board Meeting

La Plata County Court House

Board in Attendance:

Michael Whiting – Archuleta County

Bentley Henderson – Archuleta County

Ernie Williams – Dolores County

Margaret Daves – Dolores County

Bobby Lieb – La Plata County

William Tookey – San Juan County

Dick White – City of Durango

Michelle Nelson – Town of Bayfield

Chris La May– Town of Bayfield

Alison deKay – Town of Ignacio

Andrea Philips – Town of Mancos

Shane Hale – City of Cortez

Lana Hancock – Town of Dolores

David Mitchem – Town of Pagosa Springs

Chris Tookey – Town of Silverton

Staff in Attendance:

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Executive Director

Antony Casale – Housing Coordinator

David Liberman – Attorney

Guests in Attendance:

Ken Charles – DOLA

Ed Morlan – Region 9

Wanda Cason – Senator Udall’s Office

JJ Sanders – Public

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm

***Motion to add Southwest Connect to the Decision section of the Agenda: Dick White. Second: Shane Hale. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.***

1. **Consent Agenda: Minutes & Financials**

***Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda with items in the Minutes: Bobby Lieb, Second: Lana Hancock. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.***

1. **Executive Session**

***Motion to go into Executive Session under CRS Section 24-6-402(4)(b): XXXX. Second: XXX. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.***

The Board, Executive Director, Attorney, and Housing Coordinator were present.

1. **Decision Items:**

SWConnect:

***Motion to direct the Executive Director to contact the web developer to see if we can an invoice and bring back a release with the amount owed at April meeting: Shane Hale, Second: Ernie Williams. Passed by unanimous voice vote.***

Discussion continued about the analytics to help decide who can take the website. The Board wanted to see if staff could get analytics, bring back an action item for the April 2014 meeting with people or organizations who could take over the website, and to create a plan to sever the ties with the website.

Fiber Repair Fund Agreement:

There was much discussion and concern about the fiber repair fund, as some communities thought it might be more beneficial than others. Other concerns were raised if it was in the Policies adopted in 2013, if communities would actually use the fund, would the funds actually be enough to cover the cost of fiber repair, and finally if communities could opt in/out. Other concerns that were raised regarded the hub routers located at La Plata County and City of Cortez. Chris La May questioned who paid the match of the DOLA grant for the hub routers. Shane Hale answered that Durango and Cortez paid the match. Other questions about the hub routers were asked, namely who was responsible and would pay for the costs involved if they go down or break. It was stated that the smaller communities did not have money in the budget for fiber repair. Concerns about asking the communities for more money were stated. Staff was directed to find the 2013 Policies.

***Motion to table until April 2014 Meeting: Shane Hale. Second: Bobby Lieb. Passed by unanimous voice vote.***

Broadband Service Agreement:

There was discussion regarding the service agreement and the agreement between the SWCCOG and FastTrack Communications. Staff was directed to look at the Policies from 2013 to better understand how the Broadband Service Agreement should be crafted and to make sure it fit within the policies.

***Motion to table until April 2014 meeting: Bobby Lieb. Second: David Mitchem. Passed by unanimous voice vote.***

Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act Letter of Support:

In January Michael Whiting brought this to the Board’s attention. He stated the importance for this region because it would provide 25-35% of renewable energy projects on Federal Lands to counties and that currently there was no real formula as to how those dollars could come to the counties. Ernie Williams asked if there was any severance tax for renewable energy, like there was for oil and gas. There is not.

***Motion to authorize the Executive Director’s Letter: Ernie Williams, Second: Shane Hale. Passed by unanimous voice vote.***

Health Insurance Renewal:

Staff explained that the overall costs of insurance, including health, vision, and dental was going up 5% on July 1. There was some discussion about the costs of insurance and how other communities viewed increases.

***Motion to approve CEBT increase: David Mitchem Second: Ernie Williams. Passed by unanimous voice vote***

TIGER Grant Application

Staff brought forward a call for applications for planning and operational grants, though with only the intention of applying for a planning grant. There were questions from the Board about what that would mean, how staff was working with the current State Wide Transit Plan and CDOT, as well as how the SWCCOG was going to find a 20% match. It was suggested that we work with the Southwest Transportation Planning Region and that local/state CDOT buy in was necessary. Concern was also raised as to the competitiveness of the Federal grant process and if this was a good use of resources for what would likely be an unproductive grant application. Staff was directed to bring back more information at the April meeting, including obligation for the match, tie into CDOT transit program, and an outline.

SWConnect Memo

At this time the SWCCOG’s Attorney, David Liberman, came into the meeting, and presented an email thread with Terry Woodward of SWConnect. The email thread stated that Mr. Woodward was not seeking compensation for his time working on SWConnect, and would donate it to the community.

***Motion to accept Mr. Woodward’s terms and have the attorney draft a release: Shane Hale. Second: Ernie Williams. Passed by unanimous voice vote.***

1. **Reports**

Director’s Report:

There was little discussion regarding the Director’s Report. Shane Hale suggested Miriam Gillow-Wiles contact the Upper Arkansas COG to discussion transportation.

Housing Report:

Tony Casale updated the Board that twelve of the fifteen VASH (Veterans) Vouchers had been committed, but they were in need of landlords who would accept the vouchers. He asked the Board to discuss the benefits of the vouchers with any landlords they knew and to direct any questions his way.

There were other discussions at this point regarding the FastTrack Communications contract, the Telecom Grant budget and if communities had over spent what would we do, and who would get what funding. And finally Michael Whiting, mentioned Rural Philanthropy Days and that if the counties and communities were asked to donate, to please do so to make it a successful event.

1. **Adjourned at 3:20pm**