Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

January Board Meeting

09 January 2015

La Plata County Court House

Board in Attendance:

Dick White – City of Durango

Andrea Phillips – Town of Mancos

Ernie Williams – Town of Dolores

Michael Whiting – Archuleta County

William Tookey – San Juan County

Lee San Miguel – Town of Ignacio

Chris LaMay – Town of Bayfield

Greg Schulte – Town of Pagosa Springs

Shane Hale – City of Cortez – (Via Phone)

Julie Westendorff – La Plata County

Michelle Nelson - Town of Bayfield

Joe Kerby – La Plata County

John Egan – Town of Pagosa Springs

Staff in Attendance:  
Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Executive Director

Sara Trujillo – Assistant/Accountant

Guest in Attendance:  
James Torres – La Plata County IT

Dr. Rick Smith – Representing the Association

Ken Charles - DoLA

Sarah Rank – 4CORE

Eric Pearson - City of Durango IT

Darlene Marcus – Congressman Scott Tipton’s Office

John Whitney – Senator Michael Bennet’s Office

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm; everyone introduced themselves.

1. **Disaster Recovery Panel Presentation: Ken Charles**

There will be a meeting held January 29at the La Plata County Fairgrounds presenting a Colorado Disaster Panel. This meeting was spurred by the flooding disaster in the North Front Range. Please email your RSVP to [trevor.denney@state.co.us](mailto:trevor.denney@state.co.us). The meeting is free and lunch will be provided.

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

**Motion to approve minutes and financials as presented: Michael Whiting, Second: William Tookey. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

1. **Discussion Items:**

Broadband Non-Profit:

In trying to figure out how to use the SCAN network but unable to do so because of SB152, it has been found that a non-profit status is a work around. The options, if the COG chooses, would be to partner with a non-profit to gain 501C3 status or the COG can set up or change its own status to a 501C3. The following chart depicts the pros and cons discussed for the two options:

Partnering with an already established non-profit:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| SB152 work around | Legal risks |
| No set up costs |  |

COG sets up or changes its own status to non-profit:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| SB152 work around | Work around may be recognized and diverted in the near future by additional and change in regulations |
| Access to non-profit grants | Limits access to some grants and to lobby |
|  | Costly to set up |

The COG’s position is to repeal SB152 or make necessary modifications to allow communities to operate. Because future legislation is unknown, Miriam is to follow any changes with SB152 and gather information to report on what direction the legislation is heading.

1. **Decision Items:**

4CORE CNG Letter of support: Sarah Rank

4CORE is seeking a letter of support on behalf of Sparq natural Gas to cover equipment costs to set up CNG fueling station. This letter will enhance their application.

**Motion to provide a letter of support to 4CORE: Michelle Nelson, Second: Ernie Williams. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

Bobby Lieb Letter of Support:

Bobby Lieb will be applying for the position of Director of Department of Local Affairs and is asking for a letter of support for his application.

**Motion to provide a letter of support to Bobby Lieb: Ernie Williams, Second: Michael Whiting. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

Resolution 2015-01:

This resolution authorizes Julie Westendorff as new signature authority as treasurer of the COG.

**Motion to approve resolution: William Tookey, Second: Lee San Miguel. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

MOU for Dark Fiber Leasing:

A basic MOU template was created for dark fiber leasing. MOU can be modified to accommodate specific community details. The board would like to see each individual contract for approval versus having a basic template for all communities as verbiage used would need to be changed for each entity and contract.

**Motion to table this item until the February meeting where a draft can be put in front of respective boards for feedback: Michael Whiting, Second: John Egan. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

AAA – SWCCOG MOU for bookkeeping:

The AAA board did not approve the bookkeeping contract. This item has been tabled on the AAA agenda until March, 2015.

**Motion to table this item until the AAA approached the COG: John Egan, Second: Michael Whiting. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

Telecom Grant Opportunities:

Two grant opportunities are available. The first being a USDA grant. Upon further investigation, Miriam does not feel a USDA grant would be a good fit at this time for the COG. The minimum grant is $100,000 and 15% would be required as match, which is not obtainable at this time.

The second opportunity is an IBM Smarter Cities grant. This will be a more competitive grant but if we apply as a rural region we would have a greater chance. This grant would allow for an IBM professional to come in and evaluate how well we use our telecom networks and provide technical assistance for how to use our network more effectively. This will be an intensive 3-week analysis where IT staff would be included. This grant must be written by February 6.

**Motion to authorize Miriam to apply for IBM Smarter Cities grant: Julie Westendorff, Second: Lee San Miguel. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

1. **Reports:**

Director’s Report:

RREO:

There will be a meeting held January 27 from 9am – 11pm at the Carnegie Building to present the data compilation from the waste sorts. Local government and private service providers working on recycling will be coming. A final presentation will be scheduled around the May-June time frame.

P/T Assistant:

We may be bringing on a part-time assistant to help with administrative assistant tasks. However, with the AAA contract not being obtained, Sara’s time will not be as constricted, so a part-time assistant may not be needed. More discussion of this assistant position will be had and budget assessed for feasibility with an additional employee.

TPR/Transit:

The Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe received a grant to do transit planning and is interested in working with the COG on this endeavor. The tribe is also interested in both broadband and recycling.

Time did not allow for community updates.

**Adjourned at 3:30pm**