Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

December Board Meeting

12 December 2014

La Plata County Fair Grounds

Board in Attendance:

Michael Whiting – Archuleta County

Dick White – City of Durango

Michelle Nelson – Town of Bayfield

John Egan – Town of Pagosa Springs

Shane Hale – City of Cortez (via phone)

Ron LeBlanc – City of Durango

Andrea Phillips – Town of Mancos

Bobby Lieb – La Plata County

Lee San Miguel – Town of Ignacio

Lana Hancock – Town of Dolores

Chris LaMay, Town of Bayfield

Chris Tookey – Town of Silverton  
William Tookey – San Juan County

Julie Westendorff, La Plata County

Greg Schulte – Town of Pagosa Springs

Joe Kerby – La Plata County

Staff in Attendance:  
Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Executive Director

Sara Trujillo – Assistant/Accountant

Guest in Attendance:  
Ken Charles - DoLA

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:57pm. No introductions were necessary as everyone knew each other.

1. **Budget Hearing**

Questions were raised about the All Hazards funds allocation. Miriam sent the board an Excel sheet Sara created that gave more in-depth explanation of allocation of funds.

It was suggested that a 2016 and 2017 budget may help with future budget planning.

The budget hearing was opened up for public comment. No comments were made. The budget hearing closed to public comment at 2:10pm.

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

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

1. **Discussion Items:**

Telecom Grant:

Miriam requested that communities let herself or Sara know how they would like their money owed handled, either through a donation to the COG or a refund prior to the end of the year.

1. **Decision Items:**

SWCCOG 2015 Executive Committee:

The nominating committee met and chose to nominate Julie Westendorff as the 2015 Treasurer. Dick White will move to Chair and Andrea Phillips to Vice Chair.

**Motion to accept SWCCOG 2015 Executive Committee: William Tookey, Second: Michelle Nelson. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

January 2015 Meeting:

After looking at calendars and schedules, it was determined that Friday January 9 will be the next SWCCOG board meeting.

**Motion to the next meeting on January 9: Andrea Phillips, Second: Michelle Nelson. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

SCAN Policies and Procedures:

The backup connect will remain at 10Mbps. If this connect is needed at a higher Mbps, a call will be placed to Fast Track to increase from 10Mpbs to what is needed at the time. Whichever community needs the increase will pay the increase in the usage bill.

There was discussion if this redundant connection is needed. The City of Cortez may seek out other backup connection. Other communities feel the price to pay for this backup is worth the security.

There was mention of upkeep maintenance that may be needed in 2015. This maintenance would cost $27,000 and was not included in the budget. Miriam will get with tech team to find out if this maintenance is necessary and will seek out a second opinion. It was recommended the tech person come to next meeting to present findings and reasoning.

**Motion to approve the SCAN as recommended by the tech team: Greg Schulte, Second: William Tookey. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

Approval of 2015 Budget:

**Motion to approve budget as presented in public hearing: Michelle Nelson, Second: William Tookey. Passed by unanimous voice vote.**

1. **Reports:**

Director’s Report:

TPR/Transit:

Miriam spent some time with the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe who showed much interest in transit. Miriam and staff will work closely with this group to try and get transit to the area.

The Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe also expressed interest in having a vote at STAC conferences. This change will have to happen at the legislative level. Miriam will speak with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to see if they too would like to further pursue the legislature for a vote.

AAA:

Next month the COG will have a contract with AAA for bookkeeping to present to the board for approval.

All Hazards:

The COG received a great review of AH grant management.

RREO:

By the end of January a RREO presentation will be prepared.

Out of Office:

Miriam will be out of the office December 18-25.

Other – Community Updates:

Chris LaMay – Town of Bayfield:

* A grant was approved to purchase property on the Pine River.

Ken Charles – DoLA:

* Have been doing planning projects throughout the state and are setting aside $20 million for broadband.

Michael Whiting – Archuleta County:

* Doing geothermal research. The wells being drilled are temperature gradient wells to get a 3D map of the geology. When this map is in hand, production holes will be drilled.

Lee San Miguel – Town of Ignacio:

* Residents are excited; the foundation of the new grocery store will be poured. August is the projected grand opening. This store will be a Farmers Fresh Market.

Andrea Phillips – Town of Mancos:

* The first adult retail marijuana location was just approved. There is already a medical location, but not a retail.

Dick White – City of Durango:

* One more vote on budget next Tuesday night, but the budget is essentially done.
* The city is looking at assessing the housing in Durango. This is an expensive place to live and we have a very low rental rate. We need to understand the market and how the city can facilitate affordable housing across the board.

Joe Kerby - La Plata County:

* Wrapped up construction projects between Ignacio and Durango realigning some county roads and how they intersect with the highway.
* At the end of negotiations with GSA and leasing out the county court house to the federal government. Hoping to have a lease signed by the end of summer if the most recent proposal is accepted.

1. **Adjourned at 3:30pm**