

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
May Board Meeting
Thursday, 9 May, 1:30pm
295 Girard Street, Durango, CO 81303**

In Attendance:

Karen Sheek – City of Cortez
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs
David Black – Town of Bayfield
Willy Tookey – San Juan County
Ronnie Maez – Archuleta County

Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance:

John Dougherty – City of Cortez
Paul Roithmayr
Ann McCoy-Herald – Senator Gardner’s Office
Diane Kruse – NEO Connect (by phone)

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 pm, everyone introduced themselves.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda

April 2019 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes

March 2019 Financials

Willy Tookey motioned to approve the consent agenda, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.

Decision Items

USAC Broadband Contractor Selection(s):

Miriam described the status of the USAC bid process, the proposed bids, and the recommendations from staff and the consultant. Andrea asked for confirmation that the requested action is to award bids from LightWorks. Miriam confirmed that the request is to accept the bids from LightWorks from the 2018 bids process and reject the equipment and lit services bids.

Andrea Phillips motioned to award the USAC bid to LightWorks for Cortez to Dove Creek, Cortez to Telluride, and Durango to Silverton and reject the bids for lit services and equipment and authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.

USAC Broadband Contracting:

Addressed in previous item. Willy asked about the Durango to Cortez route which had been determined to not be feasible. Miriam replied that the proposed route through San Juan County, New Mexico would achieve the goal.

Accountant Contract:

Karen explained the purpose behind this request. Miriam clarified that the amount on the memo should be \$52,500 and the amount for 2019 will be half because the contract is beginning mid-year. She added that the contract would be ongoing unless ended by either party. Andrea asked where the savings would be seen. Miriam replied that the savings are related to staff benefits cost. Andrea asked if this is sole source and whether that should be included in the motion. Miriam replied this is sole source due to her knowledge of the organization and therefore savings related to training.

Andrea Phillips motioned to approve the accounting contract with BookKey LLC for contracted accounting services and motion that this is a sole source purchase due to the intimate knowledge that the contractor has of the COG with a cost not to exceed \$52,500 annually prorated for this year, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.

Reports

Director's Report:

Miriam reported that April was busy. San Juan County, NM and Farmington have each approved \$15,000 for grant match. She summarized the upcoming economic workshop in New Mexico. There was discussion about education costs for training for new career paths. Staff is working with the local food initiative, she will share more information as it is available. There will be a meeting with Pew Charitable Trusts later in May. Andrea asked about next steps on SB 19-107. Miriam replied that this would go into effect on July 1 and the electric cooperatives will be working to determine next steps. There was discussion about the previous challenges with perfecting easements. There was discussion about the challenges with the legislative session this past year.

Legislation Report:

Transportation funding was not addressed. A question to allow the State to retain excess funds, part of which would go to transportation, will be on the ballot. Willy described efforts to address Gallagher as that has become the major issue for rural communities. Miriam described various possible approaches that have been discussed. There was a discussion about the history and effects of Tabor and Gallagher.

Discussion Items

Strategic Planning:

Miriam described that DOLA has approved the COG to move forward with strategic planning. Paul explained that he and Karen Thompson have been working on the approach for strategic planning and described their proposed approach. Karen suggested that the final product should be easily accessible and usable. Paul replied that in the past he has used Smartsheet to allow everyone to track progress with live updates. He also suggested periodic check-ins on progress on an ongoing basis. There was discussion about developing a survey to include non-member jurisdictions and other organizations. David suggested including large, non-municipal population centers as members. Andrea asked if special districts could be members. Miriam replied that special districts are not typically members in COGs. There was discussion about increasing representation while keeping the organization at the right size. There was discussion about possible meeting dates for the strategic planning sessions. The consensus was to schedule the first session on Friday, June 28, with any COG business to be addressed at the beginning of the day. There was discussion about scheduling the second session on Thursday, July 11, pending confirmation.

Miriam asked about thoughts on the discussions with San Juan County New Mexico. David mentioned that it makes sense to work with them considering the closely tied economies. Andrea expressed concern about allowing a-la-carte membership. Miriam mentioned that they have expressed interest in becoming members and she had recommended ensuring the relationship works well before becoming full members. There was discussion about the potential value from working together. There was discussion about whether to invite potential future members such as San Juan County and Farmington to the retreat. There was discussion about inviting non-member jurisdictions from within the region to the retreat and if the invitation should extend to both sessions. The consensus was to invite non-members from within the region and from New Mexico to both sessions of the retreat.

Miriam mentioned that she was invited to discuss broadband issues with the Attorney General.

Adjourned at 3:34 p.m.