

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
September Board Meeting
Thursday, 12 September, 1:30 p.m.
295 Girard Street, Durango, CO 81303**

In Attendance:

Karen Sheek – City of Cortez
David Black – Town of Bayfield
Gwen Lachelt – La Plata County
Willy Tookey – San Juan County
Chris Tookey – Town of Silverton
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio
Ronnie Maez – Archuleta County (by phone)
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs (by phone)
Steve Garchar – Dolores County (by phone)

Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance:

John Dougherty – City of Cortez
John Reiter – Town of Silverton
Andrew Atchley – Department of Local Affairs
Paul Roithmayr
John Whitney – Senator Bennet's Office
Janet Wolf – Senator Bennet's Office
Elizabeth Salkind – Housing Solutions

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Strategic Plan Overview

Paul summarized that the purpose of this item is to make decisions because there was not a quorum at the strategic planning meeting. He summarized the outcomes of the strategic planning sessions. Karen suggested possible options for addressing board participation. Andrea added that she and Liane have been working on possibilities related to the composition of the board. Paul summarized the strategic goals and objectives that had been identified and some proposed adjustments. There was discussion about including survey questions, such as whether the communities would recommend membership in the COG to other organizations. There was discussion about the frequency of presentation to member jurisdictions, the consensus was once per year plus any additional needed. The board confirmed that the key performance measures would be helpful to track. Paul summarized the proposed goals, objectives and strategies. He recommended periodic strategy review meetings. There was discussion about possible tools to track status on the various goals and objectives.

DOLA Housing Presentation on Upcoming State Funding

Andrew Atchley summarized the work done by the DOLA Division of Housing. He presented an overview of new funding available for affordable housing development. There was discussion about local challenges, such as infrastructure, that impact the development of more affordable housing.

Consent Agenda

August 2019 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes and August 2019 Financials

Mark Garcia motioned to approve the consent agenda, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.

Reports

Director's Report:

Miriam reported that she is working on a contract for grant writing support with Martina. There will be an item regarding the San Juan RC&D on the October agenda. She will be taking vacation in early October. She met with USDA representatives. Mark suggested that the upcoming Colorado Municipal League meeting would be a good opportunity to talk to non-member municipalities.

Broadband Report:

Miriam reported that she is working on a fiber route from Cortez to San Juan New Mexico. She mentioned that letters regarding 5G may be coming in and that local governments can't regulate radio frequency. David mentioned challenges with 5G in rural areas. Ronnie mentioned that the technological capacity will not be available in the region for years. Miriam agreed that this is true and mentioned that she sent out information for responding to comments about 5G. Miriam will send additional information related to 5G to the Board. There was discussion about the limitations on local government authority with respect to various technology. There was discussion about limited access to cellular connectivity in the region.

Grant Updates:

Miriam reported that there was an increase to the TPR funding for FY19-20. The COG was awarded CDOT funding for a part time staff position for transit. Staff is working on a census grant, administrative costs up to 10% are eligible. There was discussion about possible uses for the census funding, the importance of accurate counts, and some of the challenges getting accurate counts.

Transportation Report:

Written report only.

Discussion Items

Proposed 2020 Budget:

Miriam summarized the proposed 2020 budget. There was discussion about the budget process, such as timeframes.

2018 Budget Amendment:

Mark asked if the auditors had said anything about needing to do a budget amendment. Jessica replied that they had mentioned the expenditures were within budgeted amounts and otherwise not mentioned a requirement to do an amendment.

Karen expressed the importance of participation by members. She asked for the board to think about how the COG could add value. There was discussion about having information covering important topics through the COG, such as presentations at meetings.

Decision Items

SWCCOG DOLA 2020 Technical Assistance Grant:

Miriam explained that the grant application is due on October 10. Staff is looking at shared services, resiliency, regional housing planning, and various shared services.

David Black motioned to allow staff to apply for the DOLA Technical Assistance Grant with any changes needed to be communicated with the Executive Committee and reported back at the next meeting, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.

Miriam asked if the board would like to do the budget amendment. The consensus was not to amend the budget.

SWCCOG Strategic Plan:

Willy Tookey motioned to adopt the strategic plan with the proposed changes, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.

Karen asked if board members were available for lunch before the next meeting. There was discussion about details for setting this up.

The meeting ended at 4:13 p.m.