

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
December Board Meeting 06 December 2013
La Plata County Court House

Board in attendance:

Bryce Capron – Town of Dove Creek
Michael Whiting – Archuleta County
Dick White – City of Durango
Alison deKay – Town of Ignacio
Andrea Philips – Town of Mancos
Lee San Miguel – Town of Ignacio
Chris Lemay – Town of Bayfield
William Tookey – San Juan County
Chris Tookey – Town of Silverton
Lana Hancock – Town of Dolores
Shane Hale – City of Cortez
Bobby Lieb – La Plata County
Todd Starr – Archuleta County

Staff in attendance:

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Executive Director
Tony Casale – Regional Housing Coordinator
Dr. Rick Smith – Telecom General Manager

Guests in attendance:

Darlene Marcus – Congressman Tipton’s Office
John Whitney – Senator Bennet’s Office
Scott Brandstetter – Region 9 / SWCCOG Bookkeeper
Cathy Calderwood – Rural Philanthropy Days
Beth Lamberson – Rural Philanthropy Days
Teresa Malone – Rural Philanthropy Days
Chuck Slothower – Durango Herald
Ed Morlan – Region 9
Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9
Sherri Dugdale – City of Durango
Drew Peterson – City of Durango

I. Call to Order

II. Agenda Approval:

Motion to Approve the Agenda: Chris Lemay, Second: Bobby Lieb. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

III. Presentation by Beth Lamberson and Cathy Calderwood on 2014 Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) which will be held in Pagosa Springs.

There was a brief history of RPD and recognizing a need for funds in non-metro communities. The Intent of RPD is to build capacity and increase knowledge around grant opportunities for rural non-profits. Major funders are in attendance and guests leave with knowledge of who is

appropriate to contact for specific grant opportunities. Representative from each jurisdiction represented by the SWCCOG could benefit from attending RPD. The importance of elected / appointed officials participating is to show support for local non-profit organizations. Demonstrated knowledge of non-profit capacity by Government Officials can eliminate potential doubt from funders and non-locals. Funders will be in the area February 5-7 to tour Ignacio, Montezuma County, La Plata County, and San Juan County. The purpose of this visit is to hear from officials and community members about priorities for funding opportunities. RPD will take place in Pagosa Springs June 11-13, 2014. Event will include social events with an estimated 400 attendees. There were no questions discussed from Board or audience

IV. Consent agenda:

November Minutes Approval:

There were no minutes to approve from November. They will be in January Board Packet

Financial Report:

Bobby Lieb expressed concerns regarding page 3, Telecom P&L Budget vs Actual. Mr. Lieb was concerned the telecom appears \$600K under spent – are we going to spend this out. Ms. Gillow-Wiles referred to the 90 day extension requested and approved from DOLA. She also stated there have been some drawdowns since numbers presented in packet, as these were October’s numbers, and it should not be an issue spending out remaining funds once all invoices are submitted / paid out. The unforeseen event of death in one of the telecom companies due to plane crash has delayed finish of project in Cortez and Durango. Mr. Lieb also had questions regarding page 4, SCAN P & L. He asked if the negative \$8000 was going to increase and if there was going to be a greater loss from picking up the dark fiber. Ms. Gillow-Wiles replied that the loss is not expected to when communities begin purchasing internet from the COG. Mr. Brandstetter said the total fund for 2013 is under \$590,000 and that the telecom expenses should be right around expected numbers. Ms. Lewis Marchino reminded the Board that the DOLA sustainability grant will reimburse for Dr. Rick’s time. Mr. Lieb ended the conversation with caution regarding the SCAN being a continuous drain and it would be better to deal with it sooner rather than later.

Motion to Approve Financial Report: Dick White; Second: Michael Whiting. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

V. Public Hearing on 2014 Budget: Statement of Public Hearing by COG Chair

There were no questions from the audience regarding the 2014 Budget.

VI. Decision Agenda:

2014 Budget Approval

DOLA sustainability grant under admin for \$25K is in the process of being amended and potential extension from DOLA. The TPR budget line is for 6 months. Mr. Hale asked when the TPR would come in front of the COG Board as a potential component of the COG. It was stated that it would be important for COG members/representatives attending TPR meetings to communicate benefit of COG and TPR joining. Mr. Lieb asked if the TPR has to be formally released from Region 9, and Mr. Morlan said probably not as long as someone else is ready to take on the contract. Mr. Hale asked Mr. Morlan if Region 9 felt strongly either way. Mr. Morlan answered no, Region 9 expected this transition years ago. Similar concerns with AAA and TPR regarding perceived value from entities not represented in COG and potential impact on services. This lead to discussion about communities in/out of COG: Ernie Williams (Dolores

County) – on the fence, Dove Creek has not committed yet, and everyone else is committed. Staff answered other questions.

Motion to Approve 2014 Budget: Michael Whiting; Second: Shane Hale. Passed by a unanimous voice vote

Personnel Policy:

The Executive Director suggested to remove Grievance Board from COG Board roles. Board Members asked questions regarding if personnel were laid off if that should go to the board. Shane Hale said if appealed up to Director, and they do not like Director's opinion it may be time for Court review not Board review; Bobby Lieb, Chris LeMay, & Dick White agreed. The Board went through and added some clarity and some corrected typos, including things such as part time hours, role of the Executive Director without staff, and the interaction of staff and elections/becoming an elected official. Bobby Lieb asked if it had been vetted by admin committee? Ms. Gillow-Wiles answered yes.

Motion to Approve with suggested changes made: Dick White; Second: Shane Hale. Passed by a unanimous voice vote

MOU with Region 9:

Board Members asked questions regarding the MOU. Discussions centered around an audit on the Telecom Grant, if the three month extension of the Telecom Grant was actually long enough, and details of Region 9 MOU including a bookkeeper and grant reporting. Dick White – No expense noted on cost of audit

Motion to Approve MOU with Region 9: Shane Hale; Second: Bobby Lieb. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Committee Selection:

Executive Committee: Shane Hale state that there has been a 'ladder system' of rotating positions. Andrea Phillips, Town of Mancos, was nominated to become Treasurer for 2014. It was suggested to change the Telecom Committee title IT Committee, members include Ernie Williams, Dolores County, David Mitchem, Pagosa Springs, Willy Tookey, and San Juan County. Proposed Housing Committee: Andrea Phillips, Town of Mancos, Chris La May, Town of Bayfield, Lee San Miguel, Town of Ignacio; the formation is on hold until SWCCOG revisits priorities regarding housing. Staff and Board members asked if the COG needs a Transit Committee and an Aging Committee. Bobby Lieb asked if the SWCCOG needs an Administrative and Executive Committee. It was discussed that they could be combined. There was discussion about a Shared Services Committed. Vice Chair Michael Whiting emphasized the importance of vetting the processes and figuring out where the COG wants to go during the first quarter. Treasurer Dick White suggested to defer committee until priorities are revisited. Ed Morlan of Region 9 would like to be added to the Aging Committee. The Executive Director will be the CARO representative.

Motion to appoint Andrea Phillips as Treasurer, Mayor Dick White as Vice Chair, and Commissioner Michael Whiting as Chair: Shane Hale; Second: Bobby Lieb. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to abolish Telecom & Administration Committees: Bobby Lieb; Second: Shane Hale Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to add Michael Whiting to the Legislative/Policy Committee: Bobby Lieb, Second: Andrea Phillips. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2013-05: Check Signers:

Check signers to include: Executive Director Miriam Gillow-Wiles, 2014 Chair Michael Whiting, 2014 Vice Chair Dick White, and 2014 Treasurer Andrea Phillips.

Motion to approve Check Signers listed above: Bobby Lieb, Second: Dick White. Passed by a unanimous voice vote

Bylaws/IGA update to include DOLA Language:

It was discussed that this still seemed a bit ambiguous to need to revisit with all the jurisdictions and the concern about potential losing membership if the SWCCOG changes the IGA, though it would be easier to change the Bylaws. Laura Lewis Marchino reminded the Board that technically DOLA will not accept audit without language included. Other questions regarding DOLA grant eligibility, being considered a governmental entity were brought up, and if legal has reviewed the requested change.

Continued until next meeting

VII. Discussion:

SWIMT Bank Account

Sherri Dugdale was present to give an update on the needs of the SWIMT and answer questions from the Board regarding a separate bank account. Dick White asked since the SWMIT is already part of the budget, does anything need to be done. Staff stated that it just needed a separate line item, not a separate bank account. It was also discussed that trainings are pre-approved for related expenses and that they would like all the expenditures to run through the COG rather than individual agencies.

VIII. Reports:

Director Report:

January COG meeting, 3rd or 10th. The meeting will be moved to 10 January 2014. The Executive Director requested a Board Retreat. It was decided the 7 February 2014 Meeting will be the Retreat.

Housing Coordinator Report:

The Board was interested in more information on housing gaps that the COG could most effectively fill regarding housing in the region.

Telecom General Manager Report:

Dr. Rick Smith stated that the biggest difficulties are related to the death of a contractor who has been doing work for the Cities of Durango and Cortez. He also stated that Pagosa Springs, Mancos, Dolores should be all set, and the conduit in Dove Creek / Dolores County is in. Finally, he reminded the Board to get their bills in for reimbursement asap.

William Tookie thanked Bryce Capron for serving as SWCCOG Chair.

IX. Meeting Adjourned