**Minutes for August 16, 2012 SWGCOG Board meeting**

**Anasazi Room, La Plata County Courthouse (and by teleconference)**

**1:30 pm to 2:00 pm**

**COG Board Members (& Alternates) Present:**

Tom Yennerell, Town of Mancos

Michael Lee, Town of Ignacio

Shale Hale, City of Cortez

Ernie Williams, Dolores County

Rachel Davenport, Town of Bayfield

Chris La May, Town of Bayfield

Greg Schulte, Archuleta County

Willy Tookey, San Juan County

David Mitchem, Town of Pagosa Springs

Bobby Lieb, La Plata County

Ryan Mahoney, Town of Dolores

Bryce Capron, Town of Dove Creek

Jason Wells, Town of Silverton

**Guests:**

Drew \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Southwest All-Hazards Group Co-Chair

Laurie Johnson, Southwest All-Hazards

John Trocheck, Southwest All-Hazards Group Co-Chair

**Staff/Consultants:**

Susan Hakanson

Laura Lewis Marchino

Shirley Jones

John Ehmann

**Call to Order & Introductions:** This special meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. by Tom Yennerell, Chair. A quorum was present. Introductions were made by those present and those on the phone were also recognized.

Tom Yennerell referenced the materials that were sent out on this topic in advance of the meeting. He explained that the special meeting would be focused on the issue of whether to agree to become the fiscal agent for the Southwest All-Hazards Group. The decision request is an urgent one. The COG recently learned that there was previously awarded funding for the Southwest All-Hazards Group in excess of $100,000 that would get re-allocated to other regions without a designated fiscal agent in place and just in the past few days learned that the deadline for appointing such a fiscal agent was in fact Friday August 17. He opened the floor to comments and questions.

Greg asked what the money would go for and if there was a reason the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe no longer wants to be the fiscal agent. John Trocheck, Southwest All-Hazards Group Co-Chair indicated that the fiscal agent responsibility had moved to the Southern Ute Tribe. He explained that some previously allocated funds were “lost” but they rallied support and made a successful appeal to get it restored. There was a program coordinator position that was previously full-time to help the fiscal agent do parts of the work but it got knocked down to part-time and that became an issue. Despite some requests, they were unsuccessful in getting a city or county to become the fiscal agent. Laurie Johnson added detail about the specific planned uses of the 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 funds.

Ernie Williams explained his recent efforts to get this issue addressed. Dolores County is willing to call a special meeting to discuss the matter if the COG doesn’t accept the fiscal agent responsibility but Ernie hopes that the COG will. He feels it would be an appropriate role for the COG. Bobby Lieb asked for clarification about what prevented the spending from being made. Laurie Johnson clarified that necessary paperwork had not been submitted to the state to allow its expenditure despite repeated attempts to get the material submitted. Greg asked Laura Lewis Marchino if she has a good understanding of what is involved and is ok with accepting the fiscal agent responsibility. Laura explained that September would be busy in getting the 2009 expenditures made but that the later grant years could be handled on a less pressured basis. After some back n forth it appeared that Region 9 staff are willing to undertake this work at the

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COG’s direction and on the COG’s behalf. She noted that the Southwest Region All-Hazards

Council’s meeting coordination duties would take some time and if Region 9 staff are to do them, a contract for such support should be prepared. Susan Hakanson noted the funds available in the later contract years for administration but indicated that the Southwest All-Hazards Group would need to further explain the extent of the support requirements. She noted the relevant experience she and Laura have with similar type grant administration work and thought that working together they could save this funding for the region. Greg asked if the resolution would be to accept the fiscal agent responsibility for just the 2009 grant or for 2010-12 as well. It was noted that the draft resolution covered 2009-2011 but omitted 2012. Laura explained that the intent was to assume the fiscal agent responsibility on an on-going basis unless otherwise directed by the COG Board. Drew \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the other Co-Chair of the Southwest All-Hazards Group noted that he now had working cell-service and was on the call. He said the rationale was to get a fiscal agent for all of the years because administrative support money is not available in the 2009 grant but some is available in the later years and it could support the overall work. Laurie noted that she served as the region’s Homeland Security Coordinator before 2009 and she has permission with her employer to provide technical assistance to help get the ordering and paperwork done. Laura noted that Shirley Jones, the accountant for Region 9, had joined the call and she happens to know Laurie, which could help in working together to get the ordering and paperwork done.

Bobby noted that one of his interests for the COG is to strive for independence. Undertaking this fiscal agent work continues to join the COG at the hip with Region 9 staff to do the administrative work. He would like the COG to move toward distancing itself from Region 9. He wants the COG to continue look for and work toward being able to handle these types of work scenarios on its own in the future. Ernie noted that Region 9 could not do this fiscal agent work directly, that it must be a governmental entity. Bobby understood this but indicated that the work would be done largely by Region 9, as it is being done for the telecommunications project, despite it being a COG project. Susan indicated that she would look carefully at what Region 9 was asked to do and what the COG can get done be other means (by its own staff or from support secured from its members). Ernie indicated that he understood Bobby’s perspective and agreed with his objective. Tom noted that the Region 9 Board has expressed a similar desire to reduce Region 9 staff involvement in COG work and asked Laura if she agreed with that characterization. She did.

Greg asked long it would take to get all the way thru all the work need for the later grant years. John and Laurie provide information suggesting that even though the grants might allow processing into 2014 (with extension requests in some cases) that it should be possible to get it all done in 6-9 months. Their intent is to close the grant and reporting out as soon as possible.

Greg moved that the Board approve Resolution 2012-12 to accept the fiscal agent responsibility for the Southwest Region All-Hazards Advisory Committee grant funds. Ernie asked if he wanted to specify the years involved. Greg amended his motion to specifically include the grant years of 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. David Mitchem seconded the motion. Ernie suggested that after this work is done, the COG Board should be asked whether to extend the fiscal agent work beyond 2012. A roll-call was made and all voting members present (other than the Chair whose vote is reserved to break ties) voted aye for a 11-0 approval. Ernie thanked Tom, the COG Board and all staff who worked on the issue for getting this fiscal agent responsibility handled.

**Adjourn-** **The Chair adjourned the meeting by consensus shortly after 2:00 p.m.**

Minutes submitted by John Ehmann

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