

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
February Board Meeting
Thursday, 13 February, 2020, 1:30 p.m.
295 Girard Street, Durango, CO 81303**

In Attendance:

Karen Sheek – City of Cortez
David Black – Town of Bayfield
Katie Sickles – Town of Bayfield
Alvin Schaaf – Archuleta County
Chuck Stevens – La Plata County
Chris Tookey – Town of Silverton
Willy Tookey – San Juan County
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio (by phone)
Steve Garchar – Dolores County

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
Chris La May – Town of Bayfield
Ed Mills – State of Colorado Broadband Office (by phone)

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Presentation: Arcadian Infracom Broadband Development in 4 Corners:

Ed Mills explained that the State has been in communication with Arcadian about building broadband in the four corners region. Miriam added that the purpose is to establish direct lines for major data centers.

Consent Agenda

December 2019 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes and December 2019 Financials

David Black motioned to approve the minutes from December 2019, Karen Sheek seconded, unanimously approved.

David Black motioned to approve the financials for December, Karen Sheek seconded, unanimously approved.

David Black motioned to approve the financials for January, Karen Sheek seconded, unanimously approved.

Discussion Items

Member Representation for Small Jurisdictions:

Miriam described the challenges for small jurisdictions to have representatives attend regular meetings. There was discussion about who the jurisdictions might appoint, various concerns related to whether private citizens could truly represent the jurisdictions, and how citizens could get up to speed to understand what is being discussed. Miriam will follow up with legal and with other small COGs to get more detail about how such an arrangement might work.

Decision Items

Census Grant for Aging Population:

Miriam described the intent of the grant. Katie mentioned working with libraries. Miriam replied that some libraries are working with the County Complete Count Committees. Willy pointed out that the DOLA census grant was not awarded at the full requested amount. Karen asked if the funds could be used to pay people to reach out, or only for materials. Miriam will check on this.

Andrea Phillips motioned to direct staff to apply for the NextFifty Initiative Census Grant for up to \$25,000, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.

DOLA Grant for Shared Services:

Miriam explained that the COG had not been awarded for shared services projects through the DOLA Technical Assistance grant, the planned projects include software, grant writing services, and various membership fees. She explained that she is concerned about whether DOLA would fund this request. There was discussion about the recent challenges between DOLA and COGs. There was discussion about possibly using the grant match set aside in each of the member's budgets.

Karen Sheek motioned to direct staff to apply for a DOLA grant in the amount of \$39,200, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.

Executive Committee Treasurer Selection:

Miriam explained that there had been discussion about selecting a treasurer at this meeting. There was discussion about tabling the discussion until after the local government elections in April.

David Black motioned to table selection of a treasurer to the April meeting, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

Civil Rights Act, Title VI Policy:

Jessica explained that having an updated Title VI policy is a requirement for CDOT funding.

Andrea Phillips motioned to approve the Title VI policy, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.

Letter of Support CDOT INFRA Grant:

Jessica explained that CDOT, NMDOT and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are working on road improvements in Montezuma County and into New Mexico. They had also requested a letter of support from the SWTPR and Montezuma County.

David Black motioned to approve the letter of support for this project, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

Letter of Support Table to Farm Compost RREO Grant:

Miriam explained that the Board had previously provided a letter of support for the same organization when it had a different name. Chris La May asked for assurance that supporting this would not conflict with La Plata County's land use requirements. Willy suggested approving the letter contingent on no opposition from La Plata County.

David Black motioned to provide a letter of support contingent on approval from La Plata County, Steve Garchar seconded, unanimously approved.

Reports

Director's Report:

Miriam described the importance of help with engagement with non-members by board members. She reported that staff is moving forward with working with the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council. There was discussion about the upcoming local elections. She commended Chris La May on his efforts over the years on behalf of the COG.

Broadband Report:

Chris La May asked if the COG is still in the running for FCC funding. Miriam replied yes, they had requested some additional information, but have not sent notifications at this point. She mentioned that she has been in communication with another company about a potential partnership. She described the status of various FCC rulemaking efforts.

Grant Updates:

Miriam summarized the written report.

Legislation Updates:

Miriam explained that the COG tries to avoid advocating for legislation that could negatively impact any of the member jurisdictions. There was discussion about a wildfire prevention bill. Andrea asked about the status of recycling. Miriam replied that staff is working to identify match.

Transportation Report:

Jessica reported that the February TPR meeting would instead be held in March. A SWTPR review committee reviewed applications for the Multi Modal Options Fund and decisions would be made at the next SWTPR meeting. She reported that the Regional Transit Council is looking at setting up a transportation and healthcare forum with providers throughout the region.

Community Updates:

Chuck reported that the 416 Fire started nearly two years ago and gave an update on La Plata County's progress on the after-fire flood mitigation.

David reported that Chris is leaving the Town of Bayfield and commended him on the work he has done. The Town received a \$3 million loan for upgrades to the water system. The upcoming local election will include replacing the mayor and one term-limited member. Chris added that they are working on fiber to the home, and will work together to develop a Request for Proposals.

Steve reported that Dolores County will be working on the Emory project. TriState has announced that they will be taking bids to build a solar farm.

Andrea reported that the Town of Pagosa Springs has an upcoming election for three seats in April. They are preparing to break ground on a new maintenance facility. They will be hiring a new, local attorney. McCabe Creek work is moving forward. They will be looking at new marijuana license types. They are putting together an urban renewal authority. They will be considering hosting a fast charging station.

Karen reported that the City of Cortez has 5 council seats open and 14 people running. The Council voted down the proposed land use code. She added that they have two fast charging stations.

Alvin reported that Archuleta County is scheduled to have the new jail finished in the summer and will soon begin building a new courthouse. There has been discussion about new marijuana license types.

Chris reported that the Town of Silverton will have skijoring this weekend. The upcoming election will include 8 people running for 4 seats. She reported that they have good staff in place. She reported that sales tax collections are up. There was discussion about hosting fast charging stations.

Willy reported that San Juan County received money to make repairs to the courthouse. He reported that snowfall has been about average. He summarized the history and issues related to the new rental units.

Miriam and the Board commended Chris Tookey on her efforts over the years on behalf of the COG and the Town of Silverton.

The meeting ended at 3:55 p.m.