

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments  
October Board Meeting  
Thursday, 8 October, 2020, 1:30 p.m.  
Video Conference**

In Attendance:

David Black – Town of Bayfield  
Mike Lavey – City of Cortez  
Willy Tookey – San Juan County  
Alvin Schaaf – Archuleta County  
Steve Garchar – Dolores County  
Katie Sickles – Town of Bayfield  
Gwen Lachelt – La Plata County  
John Dougherty – City of Cortez  
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs  
Shari Pierce – Town of Pagosa Springs  
Rachel Medina – City of Cortez

Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance:

José Madrigal – City of Durango  
John Whitney – Senator Bennet’s Office

**Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Consent Agenda**

- a. August 2020 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes
- b. August 2020 Financials

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

**Decision Items**

- a. EDA STEM Grant

Miriam described the intent and the planned collaboration with Region 9 Economic Development District, Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE), and the education providers.

**Willy Tookey motioned to submit the EDA STEM Grant, Alvin Schaaf seconded, unanimously approved.**

b. SWIMT Contract

Miriam summarized the purpose for the contract.

**David Black motioned approve the Memorandum of Understanding for fiscal management for the Southwest Incident Management Team, Steve Garchar seconded, unanimously approved.**

c. Martina LLC Scope of Work Addendum

Miriam described the proposed expanded scope of services.

**Willy Tookey motioned to approve the amended contract agreement between the SWCCOG and Grantwriting by Martina LLC, Steve Garchar seconded, unanimously approved.**

### Reports

- a. 2020 Attendance Report
- b. Director's Report
- c. Broadband Report
- d. Fiscal Administration Report
- e. Grant Updates
- f. Transportation/Transit Report

Miriam mentioned that staff is preparing a template work from home policy for use by the SWCCOG and member jurisdictions. Miriam reported that the RCAC applied for additional funding to continue work on economic diversification and workforce development, some of those funds will be used in southwest Colorado. She added that she may need to take time off for a family issue. Miriam and David summarized the discussion at the SWTPR meeting related to the Federal Lands Access Plan. Miriam reported there are updates on the FCC rulings. John commended Miriam on her help with Cortez's broadband issues.

John Whitney described delays with getting Covid relief funding to move forward, it is uncertain when anything might happen. Gwen asked about the potential for an extension on existing funds. John responded that it is currently unknown if a deadline extension is possible, and recommend that agencies try to spend the funds as soon as possible.

### Community updates

- a. Board Member update on Strategic Plan Initiatives

Mike reported that the City of Cortez will be appointing a council member to fill a recent vacancy. They will also be selecting an operator for the airport.

David reported that the Town of Bayfield also has a board vacancy, they will make an appointment at the next meeting. They are working on a water line. They need to replace an irrigation culvert that collapsed in the spring, the road has been closed since.

Steve reported that today irrigation will be ending in Dolores County. The social services building is nearly complete. He reported that Emery Communication will be building broadband to the home in Dove Creek and nearby communities and middle mile to Lewis, hopefully they will have service within a year.

Willy reported that tourism in San Juan County in the summer was busy, it is starting to slow down, but the impact to the backcountry was significant. There are two commissioner seats up for election.

José reported that the City of Durango is working on the budget, things are going well.

Alvin reported that Archuleta County spent their CARES funding. They are working on building the courthouse, the jail is finished, they are scheduled to move inmates back from La Plata in a few weeks.

Andrea reported that the Town of Pagosa Springs is working on the budget, sales tax collections have been higher than expected. They are working on a maintenance facility project, and some road projects before winter. They are working with the Archuleta Housing Authority to build workforce housing. They are working on policy issues. They have used CARES funds.

Gwen reported that La Plata County approved a new land use code. They are close to breaking ground on a housing development in Durango. They are working on the budget and are on track to spend CARES funds. The health department is facing significant financial challenges, the County anticipates funding increases into the future. Two commissioners are term limited.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.