

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
February Special Board Meeting
Monday, February 14, 2022
Video Conference**

In Attendance:

David Black – Town of Bayfield
Katie Sickles – Town of Bayfield
Mike Lavey – City of Cortez
Drew Sanders – City of Cortez
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs
Alvin Schaaf – Archuleta County
Willy Tookey – San Juan County
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio
Olivier Bosmans – City of Durango
Gloria Kaasch-Buerger – Town of Silverton
Matt Salka – La Plata County

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Guests in Attendance:

Laura Vanoni – Archuleta County
Helen Katich – Senator Hickenlooper's Office

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:57 a.m.

Updates

a. DOLA Grant Updates:

Laura described her discussion with DOLA staff on the COG's current grants. She detailed her recommendations based upon this discussion.

Mark Garcia motioned to approve the recommendations to end the DOLA 8824 grant as detailed, Willy Tookey seconded. Laura clarified that the recommendation is to remove the hard to recycle items project but keep the CDL project. **Unanimously approved.**

Laura provided an update on the DOLA grant for remote worker readiness and upskilling. She summarized that the recommendation is to have SCAPE invoice for expenses to date, then deobligate the remainder of the funds.

Andrea Phillips motioned to approve the recommendations for the DOLA 9318 grant as detailed, Mark Garcia seconded, unanimously approved.

Laura provided an update on the discussion related to the DOLA broadband grant and the recommendation to rescind the dispute resolution.

Andrea Phillips motioned to rescind the letter of dispute resolution, Drew Sanders seconded. Mark asked if it would be possible to request cost sharing of this project from Montezuma County and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. There was discussion about the actual benefit of the study. Laura added that the contract with Montezuma County includes 144 strands of fiber for the SWCCOG. **Unanimously approved.**

Laura asked if the Board would like Patrick to attend the next Board meeting. The consensus was to invite him.

Decision Items

a. DOLA Dispute Resolution
Addressed earlier in meeting.

b. Election of Officers

David reported that he would not be running for the Town Trustee position. Andrea thanked David for his service and offered to serve on the Executive Committee. Olivier mentioned that Durango intends to rotate liaison assignments in April. He asked how the Executive Committee would operate with respect to the transition with Region 9. Laura suggested it may make sense to eventually join the Boards. David suggested electing officers after municipal elections. There was discussion about proceeding with elections. Andrea asked if Willy would like to serve as Chair. Willy replied that he could remain Vice-Chair but is currently serving as Chair for Region 9.

Mark Garcia motioned to appoint Andrea Phillips as Chair and Willy Tookey as Vice-Chair for 2022, Gloria Kaasch-Buerger seconded, unanimously approved.

c. Meeting dates:

Jessica described recommended options for a meeting schedule for 2022. Mark asked if it is necessary to set a schedule with the potential for a merger. Laura replied that it may be helpful for the Board to set a schedule since a merger would not happen immediately. There was discussion about holding the next meeting on March 17.

Updates

a. DOLA EIAF Application Direction:

Jessica described the purpose of the request. There was discussion about and general consensus to proceed with the application.

a. Staffing needs:

David summarized that staff would bring a recommendation to the next meeting.

a. Future Agenda Items:

Laura suggested it may be valuable to evaluate the dues structure to ensure equitability if new members join.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.