

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
July Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, 13 July, 2021, 1:30 p.m.
Video Conference**

In Attendance:

David Black – Town of Bayfield
Marsha Porter-Norton – La Plata County
Mike Lavey – City of Cortez
Drew Sanders – City of Cortez
Olivier Bosmans – City of Durango
Katie Sickles – Town of Bayfield
Willy Tookey – San Juan County
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs
Gloria Kaasch-Buerger – Town of Silverton
Rachel Medina – City of Cortez
Shari Pierce – Town of Pagosa Springs

Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance:

Virgil Turner – Region 10
Jim McClain – Montezuma County
Diane Kruse - NEOFiber
John Whitney – Senator Bennet’s Office
Helen Katich – Senator Hickenlooper’s office
Eric Hittle – Archuleta County Broadband
Mike Segrest – La Plata County
Eric Pierson – City of Durango
Rick Smith – City of Cortez
Jason Cox – Archuleta County Broadband
Ken Charles – Town of Dolores

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Discussion Items

David suggested reaching out to Representative Boebert to invite to SWCCOG meetings.

- a. Overview and discussion of responses to the Request for Information for Middle Mile Broadband Public-Private Partnerships
Miriam explained the purpose for issuing the RFI and briefly summarized the responses. There was discussion about what is known about each of the respondents.

Decision Items

a. Direction to staff regarding responses to the Request for Information for Middle Mile Broadband Public-Private Partnerships

Andrea asked that Pagosa Springs and other underserved areas be included in any eventual solutions. Marsha requested more specific information. Miriam suggested working with Arcadian and Deeply Digital for the central portion of the region, Arcadian and Visionary/Mammoth in the Archuleta/Pagosa Springs area, and Emery on the west side of the region based on existing relationships. She mentioned that due to the vast distances, it seems unlikely one company would be able to address the entire region. There was discussion about pending deadlines for grant opportunities. Miriam explained that the COG may only submit one application for the upcoming grant opportunity, so the intent is to apply as a consortium and to include any potential partners.

John reported on the progress of various efforts by the Senator to support broadband funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.