

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments  
June Board Meeting  
Thursday, 11 June, 2020, 1:30 p.m.  
295 Girard Street, Durango, CO 81303**

In Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance:

Patrick Rondinelli – DOLA  
John Whitney – Senator Bennet’s Office  
Karen Barger – Representative Tipton’s Office

**Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Consent Agenda**

- a. May 2020 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes
- d. May 2020 Financials

**David Black motioned to approve the consent agenda, Willy Tookey seconded.** Mark asked why the negative net balance is increasing. Miriam replied that this is related to grants received in 2019 for expenses in 2020. Staff described a number of other outstanding revenues including grant reimbursements and dues.

**David Black amended his motion to approve the minutes and table the financials, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.**

**Discussion Items**

- a. COG Dues/Future

Miriam described the scenarios for various levels of proposed dues developed by staff. There was discussion about the inclusion and exclusion of non-member jurisdictions in the calculations. There was discussion about the potential for working with jurisdictions in New Mexico. There was discussion and general consensus to move forward with the moderate increase, including only current members, with the intent to expand membership.

## Decision Items

- a. Ratification of Letter of Support for Libraries as Launchpads Program

Miriam explained the request for the letter of support. Andrea asked for confirmation that there were no fiscal impacts. Miriam confirmed there are no impacts for the COG.

**Andrea Phillips motioned to ratify the letter of support for the Libraries as Launchpads Program, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.**

- b. Renewal of Zoom Software

Miriam described the value of purchasing licenses up-front and described the quote. There was discussion related to the costs and benefits of the Zoom licenses.

**David Black motioned to proceed with the renewal for three years and bill the entities using the licenses, Mark Garcia seconded, unanimously approved.**

## Reports

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

Miriam reported that she had not included a legislative report due to the speed items are currently moving. She summarized some of the discussion related to Gallagher.

Andrea asked about the collaboration with Region 9. Miriam explained that they have had preliminary discussions to coordinate in order to limit overall costs and enhance resiliency. She and Laura have had ongoing discussions to ensure activities are not duplicative.

## Community updates

David reported that the Town of Bayfield is working on a water line. There was also a road failure.

Steve reported that Dolores County has no Covid cases. They are strongly encouraging avoiding fires, although no ban. Irrigation water was cut by 25%.

John reported that the City of Cortez cancelled the fireworks display. There are three new council members. Mike added that the Rec Center opened with distancing and cleaning requirements in place. Singles sports, such as tennis, have been expanded to allow doubles. The County has a fireban.

Willy reported that it is quiet in San Juan County. Most of the backroads are open. They are seeing some tourists despite the train not running. They have a fireban.

Andrea reported that the Town of Pagosa Springs is working on economic recovery. They had some peaceful protests. They have cancelled the July 4 parade, but they will try to have fireworks. The consolidated maintenance facility is moving forward.

Mark reported that the Town of Ignacio is working on signalized intersection. Town hall is closed without an appointment. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is offering free testing.

Alvin reported that Archuleta County has cancelled a number of July 4<sup>th</sup> events. They are making plans for the fair. The jail is on track for completion in July.

John Whitney reported that the Senate is working on a land and water conservation bill. The HEROS Act included local funding, but the Senate is not moving forward. They are seeking flexibility on uses for CARES funding. They are working on a broadband bill and a racial justice bill.

Karen Barger reported that Representative Tipton is working to get funding to rural parts of the state.

Miriam reported that Senator Gardner's office reported that they are working on the Great American Outdoors Act.

Meeting adjourned 3:08 p.m.