**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments**

October 14, 2011, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

La Plata County Courthouse, Anasazi Room, Durango

**Members Present:**

Ron LeBlanc, City of Durango

Pat Senecal, Town of Ignacio

Clifford Lucero, Archuleta County

Dr. Rick Smith, Town of Bayfield

Bryce Capron, Town of Dove Creek

Chris LaMay, Town of Bayfield

Tom Yennerell, Town of Mancos

Jason Wells, Town of Silverton

Rick Smith, City of Cortez David Mitchem, Town of Pagosa Springs

Willy Tookey, San Juan County

Ryan Mahoney, Town of Dolores

Ernie Williams, Dolores County

**Guests:**

Gary Shaw, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

David Bygel, La Plata County

**Staff/Consultants:**

Laura Lewis Marchino

Paul Recanzone, Mid State

**Call to order and Introductions:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Dr. Rick Smith, Chair. Introductions were made.

**Additions or Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Consent Agenda:**

The Consent Agenda included the minutes for Friday, September 9, 2011 and the Financial Report for September. **Ron LeBlanc made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Willy Tookey seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.**

**Decision:**

**Draft 2012 Budget** --There was a lot of discussion about the budget. Region 9 cash of $12K was included, and the telecom grant numbers itemized into more specific catagories. Willy Tookey stated that Region 9 is willing to provide up to $20K, but only to provide funds to pay someone to replace Laura’s time on the SWCCOG. Region 9’s Board would like her more focused on Region 9 activities.

Ron LeBlanc said he would like to include the SWCCOG priorities into the new budget. Ron asked if there had been any discussion about moving the TPR under the SWCCOG. This was only discussed in the Administrative Committee, and Ernie Williams said if the SWCCOG is looking that way, then a lot of work needs to be done ahead of time. The SWCCOG needs to make a proposal to the TPR and explain the benefits. Currently Montezuma is a member of the TPR, but not the COG. The TPR contract with CDOT renews in July of each year. The funding covers travel and meeting expenses as well as a very part-time person. Bobby Lieb said that he has spoken to Larry Rule about the COG and Larry thinks it needs another election or two for Montezuma to come around and participate. It was brought up that maybe the governments could rotate having someone do the minutes. It was also brought up that Laura Lewis Marchino is currently Chair of the Colorado Association of Regional Organizations.

4CORE was also discussed as whether they were supposed to be in the budget. Ron LeBlanc asked what communities would be funding 4CORE. Ignacio was in the affirmative and Pat Senecal provided a lot of reasons why 4CORE is of value to them. This included them bringing $6.5 M into the region in grants over the last few years.

The SWCCOG budget also requires a budget hearing. Notices will go out and the budget hearing will occur at the November meeting. **Bryce Capron made a motion to table the budget until next month but to include the Region 9 funds and any other priorities. David Mitchem seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.** Ron LeBlanc asked that the SWCCOG write a letter to Region 9’s Board accepting the offer of $20K.

**Elected Officials Forum** -- The group decided that having a forum sponsored by the municipal/county elected officials to assist with education and reach some of their objectives to involve the elected, and also Montezuma County. There would be an update on SWCCOG activities, a presentation from a member of a more successful COG in our state, distribution of the matrix of regional services provided by COGs. The event will be tied into a regional activity such as the Economic Forum sponsored by Fort Lewis College that occurs in January. **Pat Senecal made the motion that an Elected Forum be held and Ron LeBlanc seconded the motion that passed with all in favor.**

**HUB equipment analysis and distributed match** – Paul Recanzone provided a spreadsheet that could address different scenarios for the HUB equipment match. A decision made by the SWCCOG at an earlier meeting has each government owning their equipment. Distributing the hub equipment match requirement across the multiple COG members makes it difficult to manage single COG member ownership of each SCAN element. However, as the hub equipment is required to extend the benefits of the SCAN throughout the region and to create greater aggregation savings, staff recommends the COG select a distribution method based on one of the options presented in the accompanying workbook. Paul Recanzone provided the options. The hub match (Hub match includes both Durango and Cortez per Paul) could be distributed pro rata per the grant budget per community, a flat fee, or a usage fee. Discussion on these options occurred. Bobby Lieb asked about maintenance costs and Paul said that Durango and Cortez may be responsible for maintenance. This proposal is only covering the capital costs. The flat fee or pro rata fee models can be paid up front or through time. The usage fee can be paid through time.

**Jason made the motion to go with usage based costs on the hub equipment. Ernie seconded the motion.** Bobby asked for clarification about the distributed model. Paul explained that the model would show the cost differences per community based on the option that was chosen. He said that it listed institutions are the potential subscribers that the governments would pass along the user fees to. David said several of the institutions on the list for Archuleta are not correct. Paul will update the list. **The motion passed with all in favor.**

**Priorities of the SWCCOG** –**Ron LeBlanc made a motion that the SWCCOG reaffirm their priorities to be telecommunications, housing, transportation, seniors and the environment. Ryan Mahoney seconded the motion that passed with all in favor.** How these will be reflected in the budget was not determined.

**Request for Legislative Committee to develop position on SB 152** -- The recommended action was for the COG Board to take a position that C.R.S. 29-27-103(1)(a) a.k.a. the Qwest Law and to partner with other organizations like Club 20, Colorado Municipal League (CML), or Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) that may also wish to advocate for changes in this law. Jason Wells said there are some real obsticles to this project. **Ron Le Blanc made a motion to arrange a meeting with our State Legislators and take the opportunity to talk about all our concerns, not just SB 152. Ryan Mahoney seconded the motion that passed with all in favor. Ron Le Blanc made another motion that the SWCCOG partner with the CML, CCI, on supporting changes to SB 152. Jason Wells seconded the motion that passed with all in favor.**  CML was instrumental in the compromise that was brought to the legislatures but Rick Smith said the bill still has unintended consequences. Laura Lewis Marchino will contact Ellen Roberts, J Paul Brown and Don Coram to try and schedule a meeting.

**Revised 2011 Budget** – **David Mitchem made the motion to approve the revisions to the 2011 SWCCOG budget. Ernie seconded the motion that passed with all in favor.** The primary changes reflect more detailed line items.

**Scope of Work for General Manager** – The Job description was presented to the group. Ernie said the SWCCOG needs a business plan. Paul Recanzone agreed saying he is working on the sustainability plan which focuses on capital expenditures into a Business Plan which focuses on operations, revenue and a marketing plan. The project needs someone proactively engaged in generating new revenue

The GM job is higher end but the group agreed that this level of person was needed. There was discussion about how much money we had for this position and what time frame was appropriate. The position needs to be able to sell excess capacity to private providers and help develop some of the policies, procedures and business plan. The group wanted the 2012 budget to reflect this position, using the contingency fund that was in the budget. Tom Yennerell asked when the RFP would come out. The group requested that the RFP be presented at the next meeting as well as the budget. **Ernie Williams made a motion that a one year contract position be approved, an RFP be developed and put in the 2012 budget. Bryce Capron seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.**

**Southwest Community College SCAN participation** – (\* This item was done prior to approval of the Hub equipment.) The proposal is to take $150K of the funds allocated to the Community College Mancos Campus and reallocate to the Durango hub equipment. The additional match for this amount will need to be raised as well. Paul said that they spoke with Brian Crawford with the Community College and he was ok with the reduction. They realize that the Community College does not have a vote. David Mitchem thought that a reallocation proposal for those funds would be brought to the SWCCOG. Reallocation of grant funds requires either abandoning SCAN provided Pueblo Community College connectivity, identifying a less expensive connectivity option like a joint build or alternative infrastructure, or finding some other solution.

Dr. Rick Smith reviewed the meeting minutes per David’s question. They stated that no governments would be dropped from the project this year, unless they choose not to participate. Paul said that they are looking at joint-build opportunities for Pagosa and Bayfield that would cut the budget in half. They have distributed an RFP for this proposal and asked several vendors about participating. Silverton is also included. Tom Yennerell said he would like to talk with Paul about whether Mancos can be included. **Ernie Williams made the motion and Tom Yennerell seconded that $150K** ($112,500 of grant funds and $37,500 of matching funds)**be moved from SW Colorado Community College line item to the Durango Hub equipment. An amendment was made and seconded that written confirmation from the Community College must be received from their Board. The motion passed with Clifford Lucero and David Mitchem opposed.**

**Reports:**

Written reports were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. The list is below.

Management and Administrative

* 1. CARO meeting
  2. DoLA monitoring visit/ TA grant close-out
  3. Legal counsel contract
  4. Region 9 Board meeting decision
  5. Sustainability Council Follow-up
  6. Transit/AmeriCorps member
  7. Website status

Telecommunications

* 1. Business plan development
  2. Colorado Broadband Knights of the Roundtable – Presentation on SCAN
  3. Community Updates
  4. Eagle Net IGA
  5. Seminar on Open Access

Administration Committee

* 1. Committee meeting summary
  2. Member orientation
  3. TransferBigFiles

**Discussion:**

**Telecommunications Chairman Report:**

Jason asked that the members of the SWCCOG on the Telecom Committee to more actively participate. **Jason Wells also made the motion that Shane Hall, the incoming Manager for the City of Cortez serve on the Telecom Committee Ron LeBlanc seconded the motion that passed with all in favor.**

There were questions regarding the fact that Packet Rail is no more. The City of Durango will be going with Fast Track and Cortez will be using Brainstorm. Rick Smith said that it didn’t affect Cortez too much, but agreed with Paul that it is hard when a regional vendor doesn’t make it.

There were questions on E-TIC with discussion about whether the software and mapping are being used. A training is being scheduled and there were questions about who was going to be trained.

**SWCCOG Officers:**

New Officers will be in place in January and Ron asked whether the SWCCOG would consider a Nominating Committee again. Willy Tookey, Ron LeBlanc both volunteered. They will see who is interested is serving by the next meeting.

Gary Shaw with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe asked about the difference between microwave and broadband. Paul Recanzone responded that microwave is usually cheaper and more flexible, however if you are looking to be more interactive, using 21st century technology, then fiber is a better option.

**Announcements:**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, November 4th at the La Plata County Courthouse.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Laura Lewis Marchino