

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
May Board Meeting
2 May 2014
PCC Mancos Campus

Board in Attendance:

Michael Whiting – Archuleta County
Ernie Williams – Dolores County
Bobby Lieb – La Plata County
William Tookey – San Juan County
Dick White – City of Durango
Ron LeBlanc – City of Durango
Michelle Nelson – Town of Bayfield
David Mitchem – Town of Pagosa Springs
Brian Carlson – Town of Silverton

Staff in Attendance:

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Executive Director
Sara Trujillo – Admin/Accountant

Guests in Attendance:

Ken Charles – DoLA
Gloria Kaasch-Buerger – City of Durango
Shirley Jones – Region 9
Lori Johnson – All Hazards

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:47pm

II. Introductions

III. Consent Agenda: Minutes & Financials

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda: Willy Tookey, Second: Ernie Williams. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

IV. Strategic Plan

Staff to send thank you card to DoLA staff, Elyse; Michael Whiting to sign. Dick White mentioned the “last next step” dealing with the bi-annual budget. A bi-annual evaluation of budget information was suggested to help form the 2016 budget. A present evaluation will give logical time to review budget information and would be revisited and revised mid next year. Miriam to get draft to Will (Michael Whiting’s business partner) and they will work together, with potential help from the Board to provide a polished version of the Strategic Plan.

V. Discussion Items:

SCAN:

SCAN business plan was received late and needs revision of numbers, verbiage tense, and rate information. Dr. Rick is to update and send to Miriam who will email the SCAN business plan.

This is not time sensitive as it is mostly rate information. Noted was that Dr. Rick's contract ended March of 2014. The original intention of plan was to identify the cost to operate, maintain, anticipate maintenance, and recognize revenue sources. This has not been provided and should be. It is believed there was such a document; staff to search for updated information, as last document was dated 2013.

Broadband White Paper:

Miriam spoke with Roger with the La Plata Economic Development Alliance regarding the lack of education with state elected officials. Correspondence will be sent to officials to explain and provide knowledge pertaining to the importance of broadband with a focus on Southwest Colorado.

Housing Coordinator Funding:

Housing Coordinator, Antony Casale (Tony), is funded through May 2014 with anti-homelessness initiative funds ending June 2014. Jennifer Lopez of the Department of Housing has suggested Tony's position be moved to the Community Foundation. However, moving the position does not change the funds involved or the work commitment as neither SWCCOG nor the Community Foundation provide direct service. Michael Whiting noted that Tony's position and mission is more in alignment with the COG rather than the Community Foundation as the Community Foundation can help acquire funds but not take on more admin or complexity.

It was discussed that Tony's position and progress have created lasting value for communities and this position should be preserved. However, last minute funds and decisions on this position should be avoided in the future. David Mitchem recommended the COG coordinate ongoing funding for this position to the point of the next budget cycle in a manner in which the COG does not put forth funds for this position. In addition, as the next budget cycle is handled, all parties will be put on notice that if this position has not identified a full year of funding, the position will be terminated.

Motion to Approve Recommendation: Dick White, Second: Michelle Nelson. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

VI. Decision Items:

New Plan - Regional Trails:

To increase tourism, boost economic wealth and growth, and promote healthy environment and personal lifestyles, creating and marketing regional trails was discussed. Creating multi-use trails to accommodate off-road vehicles, equine, hiking, and cycling can increase the region's standing as a boundless recreational destination. Ernie Williams pointed out that the forest service and BLM have put something similar in the works. Staff will continue research to ensure plans do not overlap with the forest service or BLM and that trail goals work in conjunction with these organizations.

SW Connect:

Both Durango Adult Ed and the COG expressed interest in nullifying the contract from October 2013 since the COG no longer is involved with SWConnect.

Motion to Nullify Contract: Ernie Williams, Second: Bobby Lieb. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CIRSA:

Renewal of CIRSA contract for 2015 was presented for signatures and renewal authorization. There is not an increase in premium.

Motion to Renew CIRSA Contract: Michael Whiting, Second Ernie Williams. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

VII. Reports

RREO Grant:

The SWCCOG has received a new grant, the Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Grant (RREO), to do a waste audit at the region to find out how successful a region recycling facility and single stream recycling across the region would be. Michael Whiting stated that Archuleta County would have a high level of interest in this subject.

AAA:

Michael Whiting would like AAA and seniors to be put back on priority list for next meeting discussion. The staff is to coordinate with Christina at AAA.

RPD:

Rural Philanthropy Days will be held in Pagosa Springs June 11-13. This is a great opportunity to get involved with some of the prominent philanthropists in the area. Early childhood education and daycare along with housing were two top areas on the philanthropists' interest list, which is in conjunction with SWCCOG efforts. Michael Whiting encourages all to attend RPD.

Community Updates:

Ernie Williams would like to see community updates as taking back information to his community of special events happening shows progress and initiative of the SWCCOG and will help communities communicate and support each other.

DoLA News:

Ken Charles commented that DoLA isolates funds from time to time and awards those funds for certain initiatives. Currently, the initiatives encompassing compressed natural gas are getting attention, specifically in the area of the school district busses. Collaborating with the energy office would be a great opportunity for our region to take advantage of in the near future.

Future Meetings:

Scheduled meeting locations are requested to be put out a year in advance for more notice to assist in personal planning of board members. Due to the holiday schedule for July, the board meeting may be cancelled. Staff to email an updated year-long meeting schedule.

VIII. Adjourned at 3:34pm