

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
February Board Meeting
Thursday, 11 March, 2021, 1:30 p.m.
Video Conference**

In Attendance:

David Black – Town of Bayfield
Mike Lavey – City of Cortez
John Dougherty – City of Cortez
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs
Willy Tookey – San Juan County
Alvin Schaaf – Archuleta County
Katie Sickles – Town of Bayfield

Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance:

Rachel Medina – City of Cortez
Ken Charles – Town of Dolores
Mike Segrest – La Plata County
John Whitney – Senator Bennet’s Office
Helen Katich - Senator Hickenlooper’s Office
Jude Schuenemeyer – Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project
Chuck Forth – Onward A Legacy Foundation

Introductions

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

Public Comment

None.

Mark Garcia motioned to add the contract with Montezuma County to the agenda, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

- a. January 2021 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes
- b. January 2021 Financials

Willy Tookey motioned to approve the consent agenda, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

Decision Items

- a. Contract with Montezuma County for Fiber Development

Miriam described the project and the planned partnership with Montezuma County.

Willy Tookey motioned to approve the contract as presented, Andrea Philips seconded, unanimously approved.

b. Grant approvals

Miriam explained the requests for the remote work project and for the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project. Jude described the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project and the purpose of this construction project. Mike Lavey asked where the facility would be located. Jude described the site. Mike Segrest asked about eventually developing a vineyard cooperative. Jude briefly described their long-term plans.

Willy Tookey motioned to approve an application for the OEDIT grant, Mark Garcia seconded, unanimously approved.

Mark Garcia motioned approve an application for the DOLA REDI Grant, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.

Contract with Housing Solutions

Miriam described the request. Mark asked about the performance period. Miriam replied that the work needs to be complete by the end of August.

Mark Garcia motioned to approve the contract with Housing Solutions, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.

Contract with RCAC

Miriam explained that this is going through attorney revisions.

Contract with Element Consulting for IT services

Miriam described purpose of request and specified that there is no ongoing cost, only as services are needed. She added member jurisdictions could also receive services. Mark asked what services might be available for member jurisdictions. Miriam explained the contractor has experience with exchange server and desktop support. Mark asked what the rate would be. Miriam replied that she could work with members to arrange rates and scope of work.

Alvin Schaaf motioned to approve the contract with Element Consulting as the IT consultant for the SWCCOG, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

Reports

Director's report:

Miriam described the funding available in the December stimulus for projects without other identified funding, which may be useful for middle mile broadband. Miriam added that the COG has been working with Arcadian Infracom regarding fiber over Wolf Creek Pass, however DOLA has recently indicated that they would prefer that the SWCCOG not apply for funding for this project. She is seeking direction from Board whether to submit the already written grant. David and Mark suggested to move forward with the application. Mark asked about the status of the Eagle fiber. There was general consensus from the Board to proceed with the application.

Community updates

Mike reported the City of Cortez have been discussing water issues. They will be establishing a parking lot for use during a highway project. They approved a donation for the July 4 fireworks. Approved purchase of new police equipment and a request for a fulltime assistant police chief. The local hospital presented various precautions for reopening to the public.

Willy mentioned that San Juan County is still waiting for snow. They are working on a restoration project for the courthouse. The snowmobile club's equipment was vandalized.

Andrea reported that the Town of Pagosa Springs sales tax came in strong. They are completing the maintenance facility. They will be putting out an RFP for mill and overlay for several town streets. They are working on housing, looking at utilizing property owned by the Town. They are looking at salary ranges for police officers. They are exploring in-person meetings while still allowing for Zoom.

Mark reported that the Town of Ignacio issued an award for the Becker/Goddard intersection project. They have a broadband grant in with DORA for fiber to the premises. They approved a 5-year strategic plan. The draft land use code will be moving to the Town Board for review. The Town is participating in a community vaccination clinic, in total they will deliver over 2000 vaccines.

Miriam mentioned that Montezuma County notified her that the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe would hold another open vaccine clinic.

David reported that the Town of Bayfield are completing installation of a water line. Sales tax collections have been good.

David expressed gratitude for the Senators' efforts. John thanked the SWCCOG for letter on the Outdoor Restoration Fund. He mentioned that President Biden has signed the American Rescue Act into law and described various elements including direct payments to local governments specific to pandemic impacts and expansion of the child credit. They are working include broadband into the infrastructure bill and Miriam was helpful in supporting this effort.

Helen introduced herself and her background. She updated the Board on the committees Senator Hickenlooper has been assigned to. They are compiling a list of entities interested in federal transportation funding.

Miriam asked about the Wolf Creek Pass DOLA grant application. She mentioned that a number of people have been contacting various communities regarding 5G, and that members should contact her if they need backup information. David replied that the consensus was to move forward with the Arcadian project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.