

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments**  
**August Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, 13 August, 2020, 1:30 p.m.**  
**295 Girard Street, Durango, CO 81303**

In Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance:

Jamie Jones – Archuleta County  
Adam Wilkes – Haynie and Company  
Ann McCoy-Harold – Senator Gardner’s Office  
Laura Lewis – Region 9 Economic Development District

**Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None.

**2019 Audit Presentation**

Adam Wilkes, Haynie and Company, reported that the audit went smoothly and it was a clean audit. There were three audit adjustments, two were related to opening balances and one was to move some grant revenue from 2019 to deferred revenue in 2020. They recommend the COG consider adding account numbers. In future audits will begin including key audit matters, such as key areas of risk. He detailed the financials presented.

**Good Food Collective – Local Food Planning Presentation**

Rachel Landis, Good Food Collective, presented the progress in the last year on this project and the next steps. Gwen asked what geographic region is included. Rachel replied that the original thought was to include the entire southwest region, but initial feedback showed a desire to work within individual counties. David asked if the goals are similar among the groups. Rachel replied the goals are arrived at collaboratively. Rachel will share a report concerning the impacts on farming of COVID-19.

**Consent Agenda**

- a. June 2020 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes
- d. May 2020 Financials
- c. June 2020 Financials
- d. July 2020 Financials

Miriam explained that there had been a question about the May financials at the last meeting related to net negative income, this was related to some revenue that had not been received. **Willy Tookey motioned to approve the consent agenda, Steve Garchar seconded, unanimously approved.**

#### **Discussion Items**

a. 2021 Draft Budget

Miriam described how the draft budget was set up and provided an overview of various assumptions included. Andrea asked what percent the dues increased. Miriam replied that she does not have the percentage, the increase was based on direction at the last meeting for a moderate increase. Andrea asked about the revenue assumptions for the shared services. Miriam replied this is based on existing contracts.

#### **Decision Items**

a. Accept 2019 Audit

**David Black motioned to accept the audit as presented, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.**

b. Auditor Selection

Miriam summarized the proposals received and the staff recommendation.

**Andrea Philips motioned to award a one-year audit contract to Haynie and Company and direct staff to work with Region 9 EDD on a joint auditor selection process for 2021, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.**

c. Approval of grants

Miriam described the grants requested for ratification and approval to apply. David asked if, as a partner, the COG would own a portion of the fiber. Miriam replied the COG's proportion of the cost is very small, but that the partners would have an ownership stake in the project, and this would help create a more robust network in the region.

**Willy Tookey motioned to ratify and approve the grants as submitted, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.**

d. NeoConnect Contract

Miriam explained the purpose behind updating the contract. David asked about the cost. Miriam replied there is no specific cost, rather work orders would be executed under the contract with specific costs attached.

**Andrea Phillips motioned to approve the contract with NEO Fiber dba NEO Connect as the broadband consultant for the SWCCOG, Mark Garcia seconded, unanimously approved.**

e. Ratify letters of support

Miriam described the requests for letters of support.

**Mark Garcia motioned to approve the letters of support, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.**

## **Reports**

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

Miriam mentioned that southwest Colorado is currently very undercounted on the census. She reported that there has been an update to the 6409 rulemaking on wireless facility siting. There is a new purchase order pending from CDOT to help create a CDL program as part of a DOLA funded project.

## **Community updates**

Mark reported that the Town of Ignacio would be meeting with the school district to secure funding for an intersection project. They are working with some businesses that are non-facemask compliant. The Board is working on strategic planning. They are working on a number of grant funded projects.

Mike reported that the City of Cortez is planning a formal opening of Veterans Park.

David reported that the Town of Bayfield is working on a waterline replacement, including the under highway and under irrigation pieces.

Willy reported that San Juan County is seeing high levels of motorized and non-motorized traffic in the backcountry. Tourism is not as bad as expected, particularly considering the train is stopped.

Andrea reported that the Town of Pagosa Springs is busy. Sales tax and lodging tax projections are not as bad as expected, up from last year. They are working to complete maintenance projects; the McCabe Creek project was delayed due to lack of funding. They are watching case numbers. They held a strategic planning retreat and developed new goals.

Steve reported that conditions in Dolores County are better than expected, the impacts of the drought have been more significant than the pandemic. They are seeing a lot of out of state traffic. They are building a new human services building. They have had one COVID case.

Gwen reported that La Plata County is nearly complete updating their land use code. They are considered to be at a medium transmission rate, seeing a number of non-resident cases, though there is concern about hospital capacity if there is a surge.

Laura reported that Region 9 is working to connect businesses with funding from CARES and working with communities on distribution of their CARES funding.

Ann reported that Senator Gardner is in the state this week. He met with agricultural community on east side of the State. Announced the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. The BLM headquarters is officially in Grand Junction.

Miriam reported will be on vacation next week. The next meeting will be held October 8.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.