

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
June Board Meeting
Thursday, 28 June, 8:30 a.m.
1101 East Second Ave, Durango, CO 81303**

In Attendance:

Karen Sheek – City of Cortez
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs
David Black – Town of Bayfield
Gwen Lachelt – La Plata County
Willy Tookey – San Juan County
Steve Garchar -Dolores County
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio

Staff in Attendance:

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Sara Trujillo – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Martina Pansze - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Guests in Attendance:

John Dougherty – City of Cortez
Chris LaMay – Town of Bayfield

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:53 am.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda

May 2019 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes and April 2019 Financials

Willy Tookey motioned to approve the consent agenda, David Black seconded,

Andrea asked about the travel expenses that would not be covered by TPR. Miriam replied that she traveled to Washington DC to work on federal transportation issues, and the TPR determined they would not reimburse for travel outside the state.

Unanimously approved.

Reports

Miriam reported that she has been in discussions with the Animal-La Plata Water Conservation District, they have recently lost their Executive Director and they may be interested in contracting with the SWCCOG to provide administrative services. Additionally, the San Juan RC&D will be closing, they provide financial services for a number of small local non-profits. She has been in discussions about the possibility of the SWCCOG taking over the San Juan RC&D to allow the service to continue to help alleviate overhead costs for the local non-profit community. She is seeking feedback from the Board. David expressed support because it would be providing valuable services while bringing in revenue. Gwen asked if this is generally in the purview of COGs. Miriam replied that many COGs include non-profits in their structure. Karen expressed her concern whether there is staff capacity to take this on and shared that Miriam assured there is, and the revenue would cover the staff support. Andrea asked for more information. Willy added that RC&D provided a vehicle for the region to bring in federal grants.

Miriam added that there is concern that if the organization dissolves it could impact the current federal funding coming in. Mark asked what other organizations these types of services are provided for. Miriam replied that the SWCCOG provides these services for All Hazards, Southwest Incident Management Team, the Regional Housing Alliance, and the SWTPR.

Broadband Report:

Miriam reported that there is information about Gallagher in the meeting packet. Karen mentioned the possibility of TABOR being on the ballot for repeal, although there was concern about that being successful, it may be better to try to make it work better moving forward rather than eliminate it.

Miriam reported there is an FCC rulemaking regarding Over the Air Reception Devices (OTARD) which would usurp local control, at this point it is likely to be ruled in favor of local governments.

Mark asked about Fasttrack installing fiber to Arboles. Miriam replied that she was not aware of this, she would look into it. There was discussion about franchise agreements with LPEA and fiber builds through the region.

Transportation Report:
Written report.

VISTA Report:

Martina reported that she worked with the Good Food Collective for a grant to create a coalition to develop a strategic plan to address food insecure, vulnerable populations. The original intent was to have the SWCCOG as the fiscal agent for this grant and to apply for USDA funding to expand the project regionally, however there was concern about the local capacity to manage both grants at the same time.

Decision Items

Letters of Support: Archuleta Bus Facilities, Regional Food Systems, and Housing Solutions of the Southwest:

Karen summarized that there are three letters of support attached.

Mark Garcia motioned to approve the three letters, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.

MOU for Grant Fiscal Agent:

Miriam explained that the intent is to have the SWCCOG be the fiscal agent for the regional food systems project mentioned by Martina. Andrea asked if they are a non-profit. Miriam replied that they are not a non-profit, they are using their relationship with RC&D for non-profit status. Miriam added that the grantee and the attorney have confirmed that the SWCCOG could act as fiscal agent. Mark asked if action could be postponed until funding is awarded. Miriam replied that this agreement would only be applicable in the event funding is awarded, however the grantee requested that there be an agreement in place.

Willy Tookey motioned that the SWCCOG enter into the MOU, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.

Andrea asked about the Audit presentation. Miriam replied that there were some issues to be addressed, so the presentation was postponed.

The meeting ended at 9:31.