

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
December Board Meeting
Thursday, 6 December, 1:30pm
1101 E. 2nd Ave., La Plata County Training Room, Durango, CO 81301**

In Attendance:

Chris La May – Town of Bayfield
Ron LeBlanc – City of Durango
Gwen Lachelt – La Plata County
Joanne Spina – La Plata County
Karen Sheek – City of Cortez
John Dougherty – City of Cortez
Michael Whiting – Archuleta County
Steve Garchar – Dolores County
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs

Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance:

Mindy Nelson

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 pm, everyone introduced themselves.

II. Consent Agenda

October 2018 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes

October 2018 Financials

Gwen Lachelt motioned to approve the consent agenda, Karen Sheek seconded, unanimously approved.

Reports

Director's Report:

Miriam reported that COG staff have officially moved out of the Carnegie Building and will work remotely until able to move into the new office space in Bodo Park in January 2019.

Miriam said the initial contractor for the Region 9-SWCCOG Facilitation Project, Place Dynamics, was terminated due to lack of communication and work product. In an attempt to settle as the grant funding will only run through June 2019, staff offered \$8,276.08 for work provided and some travel costs. This offer was sent October 22 with no response. Legal recommended sending a check with language printed on the back stating that by cashing the check full payment is accepted in accordance with the contract. Miriam is assuming the check will be cashed.

Miriam reported that staff submitted an application for a Housing as Health in Southwest Colorado project in partnership with Housing Solutions for the Southwest, Region 9 Economic Development District, and Axis Health System with the aim to establish systems to directly increase affordable housing stock in southwest Colorado.

Miriam stated that she was approached by New Mexico's San Juan County and City of Farmington interested in becoming members of the SWCCOG. Although currently members of the NW New Mexico COG located in Gallup, they feel their economies and goals are more in alignment with the SWCCOG. The board discussed what an IGA might look like and how dues could be calculated. Initially, the board suggested inviting those interested NM jurisdictions to a meeting with the COG board so all can better understand the wants and needs. Miriam will arrange a date and meeting space.

Miriam said she will be taking PTO at the end of December.

Broadband Report:

Miriam reported that on September 25, 2018 the FCC released new rules that, if adopted, would likely have a significant impact on cable franchise fees, PEG channels and other common cable-related obligations in cable franchise agreements. The proposed rules also would preempt local regulations of non-cable services provided by certain incumbent cable operators, potentially creating disparities between cable operators and non-cable operators in the applicability of these regulations.

Transportation Report:

Jessica reported that the SWTPR met earlier that morning. CDOT provided some updates. The 4-Corners Transportation Plan is wrapping up; the consultant team will have a draft plan soon that will be rolled out to stakeholders early 2019.

VISTA Report:

Martina said she has been researching potential grants and writing an article on broadband in Cortez.

III. Discussion Items

Strategic Planning:

Chris said there had been discussion about using remaining DoLA 8573 funding for long-term strategic planning. Miriam said she talked to Patrick, DoLA Regional Manager, who said he would support this idea. Chris asked what remaining funds are in grant. Miriam said this depends if Place Dynamics cashes the check staff will send. Andrea asked if the agreement had already been terminated. Miriam confirmed, yes, in August. Sara said there is approximately \$30,000 left in grant funds.

Andrea Phillips motioned to move this item from discussion to decision, Karen Sheek seconded, unanimously approved.

IV. Decision Items

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2018:

Karen Sheek motioned to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes from November 15, 2018, Chris La May seconded, unanimously approved.

Adoption of 2019 Budget:

Chris said the 2019 budget includes the assumption that FCC funding will be awarded. The exact amount is not certain. Miriam said the budget also includes the assumption that a DoLA grant will be awarded to help support the FCC project. Andrea asked if member dues would be increasing with some members not participating in 2019. Miriam said no. Dues for Durango, Mancos, and Silverton were left out of the budget although Mancos and Silverton have not confirmed non-participation in 2019 as of yet. Miriam said reduction in 2019 expenditures

include reduction in salary as Sara will be decreasing in hours from 40 to 32, reduction in COG retirement match from 5% to 4%, and reduction in cell phone allowance from \$65 to \$50 per month until a VOIP system can be obtained. However, the rent expense will be increasing as a new space had to be acquired. There was no other discussion; Chris closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing for the 2019 budget. Hearing no comments, Chris closed the public hearing and returned to the regular COG session.

Michael Whiting motioned to approve the 2019 budget, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

Final 2019 Executive Committee Selection:

Chris said he spoke with the nominating committee and current Executive Committee; it was agreed that to create continuity, the Treasurer, Karen Sheek, would move into the Chair position and Gwen Lachelt would stay in her current Vice Chair position for 2019. Chris asked Steve Garchar if he would be willing to accept the role of 2019 Treasurer. Steve requested further discussion post meeting.

Andrea Phillips motioned to approve Karen Sheek as the 2019 Board Chair and reappoint Gwen Lachelt as the 2019 Vice Chair, Michael Whiting seconded, unanimously approved.

Approval of 2019 Meeting Schedule:

Chris said the 2019 meeting schedule includes two combination meeting dates suggesting June 20 and October 24 for those meetings. The 2019 meeting dates will be:

Thursday, January 3

Thursday, February 7

Thursday, March 7

Thursday, April 4

Thursday, May 2

Thursday, June 20

Thursday, August 1

Thursday, September 5

Thursday, October 24

Thursday, December 5

Gwen Lachelt motioned to approve the 2019 meeting schedule with June 20 and October 24 as the combination meeting dates, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

2019 Agenda Posting Location(s):

Chris said with the COG office relocating, the board needs to reestablish the agenda posting location. He recommended moving the posting location to 295 Girard St., Durango. Miriam said the Transit and TPR posting location would be the same.

Andrea Phillips motioned to approve moving the agenda posting location to the new office location at 295 Girard St., Gwen Lachelt seconded, unanimously approved.

Animas Crossing Project Letter of Support:

Chris said this is the same letter of support the TPR approved. Andrea asked if there is a local match request. Jessica said no, just support.

Gwen Lachelt motioned to approve the Animas Crossing Project Letter of Support, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

Aggregation of Services Pricing Schedule Update:

Miriam said at the June board meeting the board approved a contract for services so staff has been working on a pricing schedule with ForeThought. The board discussed the fiber project,

fiber routes, SCANS fiber, and reviewed the pricing schedule included in the board packet. Andrea asked when this would take effect. Miriam said January 1 quarterly billing will start. **Andrea Phillips motioned to approve pricing schedule 1 to include pricing for COG as presented and merge the other 2 columns into 1 non-COG member pricing column at \$2.63, Gwen Lachelt seconded, unanimously approved.**

2019 SWCCOG Rental Lease:

Miriam said the new office space provides approximately 300 square feet of office space (2 offices), a kitchen, and 2 conference spaces for \$700/month. Legal has reviewed the lease agreement. Chris asked if staff would need furniture. Miriam said no, all current furniture is owned by the COG. The board thanked Durango for the Carnegie space provided for the last 5 years.

Andrea Phillips motioned to approve the 2019 SWCCOG Rental Lease, Steve Garchar seconded, unanimously approved.

Strategic Planning:

Chris reminded the board that this item was moved from discussion to decision and involves changing the scope of DoLA Grant 8573 from the Region 9 – SWCCOG Facilitation to long-term strategic planning with a final check being sent to Place Dynamics.

Andrea Phillips motioned to direct staff to send a check to Place Dynamics to settle a final payment in the amount of \$8,276.08 and to direct staff to write a letter to DoLA requesting to use the remaining grant funds for long-term strategic planning, Karen Sheek seconded, unanimously approved.

Executive Session:

Andrea Phillips motioned to move into Executive Session at 2:47 p.m., Gwen Lachelt seconded, unanimously approved.

The Executive Session was concluded and the board returned to the regular board meeting at 3:19pm.

V. Community Updates

Andrea Phillips, Town of Pagosa Springs:

- Pagosa is closing year-end projects.

Gwen Lachelt, La Plata County:

- The budget will be adopted on Tuesday next week.
- The county is in the process of developing a new land use code.
- The county is looking forward to legislative session and hoping for bills that will address issues with the Gallagher Amendment that is hurting their revenue stream.
- Joanne Spina will be retiring January 2, 2019; the county will begin recruitment to hire a new county manager with the application closing February 8, 2019.

Ron LaBlanc, City of Durango:

- The city adopted the budgeted and is looking for a police chief.

Michael Whiting, Archuleta County:

- The county is looking for a county administrator.
- Being Michael's last meeting he thanked the COG and is grateful for the working relationships and friendships developed.
- Votes were passed on 12/12/2018 for a \$35 million budget that will include \$10 million for a jail facility.

Steve Garchar, Dolores County:

- The county will pass the budget on 12/17/2018. The budget will be used to upgrade their transfer station as they have no landfill. There will also be an initiative to offer recycling.
- Through a Farm Bill, the county will receive 3 acres of land from the Forest Service to build a fire station.

Karen Sheek, City of Cortez:

- The city will approve the budget on Tuesday.
- The annual parade of lights was on Saturday.

Chris La May, Town of Bayfield:

- The town adopted the budget.
- A 10% increase in water and sewer rates is coming.

Adjourned at 3:34 p.m.