

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
March Board Meeting
Thursday, 7 March, 1:30pm
295 Girard Street, Durango, CO 81303**

In Attendance:

Karen Sheek – City of Cortez
Steve Garchar – Dolores County
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs
Willy Tookey – San Juan County (by phone)
Chris Tookey – Town of Silverton (by phone)

Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance:

John Dougherty – City of Cortez
Payton Heitzman – City of Cortez
Jenn Lopez
Janet Wolf – Senator Bennet’s Office

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 pm, everyone introduced themselves.

II. Update on Private Activity Bond Caps – Jenn Lopez

Jenn explained that she recently was informed of a local project set to expire, and she is working to set up private activity bonds to fund it. She explained the purpose and function of private activity bonds. Andrea asked if these require voter approval. Jenn replied that they do not, this is a federal program. Miriam asked how communities can access these. Jenn replied that communities should work with DOLA. Jenn summarized her experience in housing. There was a discussion about addressing housing needs.

III. Consent Agenda

February 2019 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes
January 2018 Financials

Andrea Phillips motioned to approve the consent agenda, Steve Garchar seconded, unanimously approved.

Reports

Director’s Report:

Miriam reported that she is waiting for information on various funding opportunities through DOLA. A funding application was submitted through the RREO for a glass reuse study. Andrea mentioned some possible options related to glass recycling. Karen added possible options for tire recycling. Miriam reported that Senator Gardner’s Office mentioned that they do use the COG’s input when making decisions.

Broadband Report:

Miriam reported that there is a proposed State bill to allow existing electrical easements add commercial uses without easement perfection. Mark asked about underground. Miriam replied that this was not included, there is work being done with the sponsor to include any easements including municipal and underground. There was discussion about property owners' rights on this issue. Mark asked what CML's position is. Miriam replied that CCI is leading this and CML has not yet taken a position. Miriam added that she can provide updates to the 5G and cable franchising if members are interested.

IV. Decision Items

SWCCOG Board Meeting Schedule:

Jessica explained the purpose of this request. There was discussion about who would be impacted. There was general consensus that either week would be fine and that it would be acceptable to move the SWCCOG meetings.

Andrea Phillips motioned to move the SWCCOG meeting schedule to the second Thursday of the month, with the June and October meetings remaining as previously approved, Steve Garchar seconded, unanimously approved.

USDA Grants:

Miriam described a number of funding opportunities that the COG may wish to apply for. Karen asked how the FCC views the discrepancy between reported speeds from companies versus local entities. Miriam replied that this is a major issue and there are efforts at the federal level to address this. There was discussion about local expertise to manage technology infrastructure and to train people to use technology. Andrea mentioned that the communities may want to apply for one of these grants with a different focus. Miriam replied that it may be worth asking the local coordinator if a joint application would be an option or whether two applications would be viewed as competition. Mark asked if there is more funding available than requested. Miriam replied that it depends on the grant. There was discussion about the technology available in the region. Miriam mentioned that some of these applications are due later in the year, staff is seeking input about whether to begin working on them. John asked who is expected to manage the glass recycling. Miriam replied that this would need to be determined, but the CDPHE does not fund mobile equipment. Mark asked if only meeting two criteria on speeds would be problematic. Miriam replied that the COG would be running speed tests for the public and the results would be available to use.

Mark Garcia motioned to approve COG staff writing grants for the programs detailed, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

Enterprise Zone MOU:

Miriam explained that this is the same memorandum that has been signed in the past. If members are aware of any businesses that may be interested, they should contact Miriam.

Mark Garcia motioned to approve the Region 9 and COG Enterprise Zone management for 2019, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

CDOT Required ADA Procedures:

Miriam explained that CDOT requires procedures for filing complaints under the ADA. Andrea asked where complaints are submitted. Jessica replied they are submitted to the COG or the FTA. There was discussion about situations when these procedures would be applicable. Jessica added that this is a modification to the previously approved Title VI procedures to include ADA.

Andrea Phillips motioned to approve the revised ADA and Title VI procedures, Mark Garcia seconded, unanimously approved.

V. Community Updates

Willy Tookey, San Juan County

- They have had a considerable amount of snow and several snow slides
- The new affordable housing apartments are in use

Andrea Phillips, Town of Pagosa Springs:

- The Town is addressing concerns related to economic development
- Submitted an Energy Impact grant for a consolidated maintenance facility
- Working on street maintenance

Chris Tookey, Town of Silverton

- Seeking a Town administrator
- The Town planner resigned

Steve Garchar, Dolores County:

- The Town of Dove Creek resolved the bakery issue
- The County will be submitting feedback to the state legislature regarding the red flag gun bill and the oil and gas bill. Andrea asked about the oil and gas bill. Steve explained that the oil and gas bill would increase setbacks which would have significant impacts in the County. There was discussion about local control and potential impacts of the bill. Mark asked about the biodiesel facility. Steve replied the machinery has been sold and they are looking for a buyer.

Mark Garcia, Town of Ignacio:

- Working on a land use code update
- Working with CDOT on a new signal

Karen Sheek, City of Cortez:

- The City met with the county commissioners to discuss common concerns, such as broadband, water, recycling, and a proposed convention center
- A climatologist will be presenting to City Council in April about potential regional impacts from climate change
- The City received a GOCO grant for a community park

Andrea asked about legislation to reallocate GOCO funds. Jessica replied that the concurrent resolution was postponed indefinitely. Miriam mentioned that there would be a presentation on the 2020 census at the next meeting, Andrea asked about San Juan County, New Mexico. Miriam replied that she will be meeting with them soon to discuss broadband.

Karen asked about meeting for lunch prior to the board meetings. There was general discussion about setting this up. Staff will post public notice of a worksession immediately prior to the next meeting.

Adjourned at 2:57 p.m.