

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
April Board Meeting
Thursday, 6 April 2017, 3:15pm
1101 E. 2nd Ave., La Plata County Administration Bldg., Durango, CO 81301**

In Attendance:

John Egan – Town of Pagosa Springs
Dick White – City of Durango
Michael Whiting – Archuleta County
Gwen Lachelt – La Plata County
William Tookey – San Juan County
Larry Gallegos – Town of Silverton
Chis La May – Town of Bayfield
Fred Brooks – Town of Mancos
Karen Sheek – City of Cortez
Joe Kerby – La Plata County
Lana Hancock – Town of Dolores
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio
Greg Schulte – Town of Pagosa Springs

Staff in Attendance:

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Dennis Wegienek – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Sara Trujillo – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Guests in Attendance:

Laura Lewis – Region 9
Ken Charles – Department of Local Affairs
Karen Thompson – Board Retreat Facilitator

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 3:09pm. Introductions had already been done in the morning when the annual retreat began.

II. Consent Agenda

John requested a motion to approve the consent agenda with an amendment to move the Broadband Next Steps meeting minutes from decision items to the consent agenda.

Michael Whiting motioned to accept the consent agenda as amended, William Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.

III. Reports

Director's Report

Miriam reported that the All Hazards is a Homeland Security block grant to the State, which is then a competitive grant process for funding in the various regions. The state has told the All Hazards group that there may not be any funding for the regions this grant cycle. While the majority of the funding has been going to the Front Range, the SW is the least connected in terms of communications. The AH group have asked the SWCCOG to work with the Federal and State delegations to ensure the receipt of appropriate funding. In addition, Miriam reported that the auditors will be at the COG next week for the annual audit.

Broadband Report

Miriam said there are several upcoming sessions regarding broadband funding, one specifically with the NTIA on broadband infrastructure funding.

Legislation Report

This report was read only; there were no questions.

Transportation Report

Jessica reported that the TPR held a meeting earlier in the morning. A large topic of discussion entailed a sales tax increase for transportation funding. Greg said the TPR board passed a motion directing staff to compose a letter to state legislators and committee members of the senate Transportation Committee supporting HB 1242 with a couple nuances including 1) to consider broadband improvements as multimodal since it can help get people off the road, and 2) consideration for how the legislation is written in regards to FASTER funds. FASTER funds currently in place would dissolve although there are specific projects that FASTER funds are slated for. If legislation is passed dissolving these funds, the projects could also dissolve. The TPR is recommending that FASTER funding should taper off over time. 3) Transit is looking to have funding for operations and maintenance versus just capital improvement in an effort to maintain what we have versus expanding routes. Greg said the TPR is generally supportive but with these suggestions to consider.

VISTA Report

Dennis reported that since spring break is over, he is receiving more communication from teachers to help develop the curriculum for the recycling education project.

IV. Discussion Items

None

V. Decision Items

a. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

There were no questions or comments regarding the Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Chris La May motioned to approve the 16 February 2017 Executive Committee meeting minutes, Gwen Lachelt seconded, unanimously approved.

b. Resolution 2017-01 Enterprise Zone

Dick White motioned to accept Resolution 2017-01, William Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.

VI. Executive Session

Miriam said a board update for the in-process RHA contract is necessary and will put this item under an executive session on the agenda unless the board thinks this is not necessary to be held in executive session. The board agreed to not enter into executive session. Miriam reported that the RHA-COG contract for services has gone through the RHA board and will be presented to the COG board in May for approval. However, Miriam said she has some concerns: 1) the contract has not been reviewed by legal because the RHA and COG share the same legal counsel, but it will be reviewed prior to the May contract presentation, 2) the RHA wants to pay the annual \$10,000 to the COG on a bi-annual basis; Miriam would prefer one payment be complete at the beginning of each fiscal year, and 3) there is a termination clause stating that the RHA can terminate the contract at any time, which does not give the COG funding stability or established expectations. Dick asked what the RHA's fiscal year is currently.

Miriam said a calendar year. Dick asked what the term of the contract will be. Miriam said 4 years and will confirm that the contract end date of June 30, 2021 is stated in the contract. Chris said with the RHA maintaining its own board and control over the organization there need not be much concern regarding these aspects of the contract. As a member of the RHA board, Chris said the COG would get the agreed upon compensation whether the payment is annual or biannual. Miriam said the RHA would be paying for legal and audit costs outside of the \$10,000 management fee. If the legal cost does not involve the COG the RHA will use David Liberman, same as the COG. If legal involves the COG, the RHA will seek out a different attorney. Dick said the RHA is constituted as a La Plata County entity and asked if there has been conversation about the RHA evolving into a more regional organization. Chris said the La Plata Homes Fund (LPHF) is growing into a regional organization. Greg confirmed the LPHF has begun classes in Archuleta County. Miriam added they are also working in Montezuma County.

John asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mark Garcia motioned to adjourn the April regular COG board meeting, Gwen Lachelt seconded, unanimously approved.

End 3:35 pm