

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
August Board Meeting
Thursday, 2 August, 1:30pm
1188 E. 2nd Ave., Carnegie Bldg., Durango, CO 81301**

In Attendance:

Chris La May – Town of Bayfield
Willy Tookey – San Juan County
Chris Tookey – Town of Silverton
Steve Garchar – Dolores County
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio
Ron LeBlanc – City of Durango
Karen Sheek – City of Cortez
John Dougherty – City of Cortez
Kari Distefano – Town of Rico
Melissa Youssef – City of Durango
Heather Alvarez – Town of Mancos (via phone)

Staff in Attendance:

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Sara Trujillo – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Dylan Lucas – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Guests in Attendance:

Peyton Heitzman – City of Cortez
Ashely Greco – Representative Tipton’s Office
Ann McCoy-Herald – Senator Gardner’s Office
Nita Purkat – Dolores County Senior Services
Chuck Stevens – La Plata County
Adam Wilkes – Haynie & Company (via phone)

I. Introductions

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

II. 2017 Budget Amendment and 2017 Audit Presentation

Miriam said the 2017 budget amendment information is in the board packet. An amendment was needed as there were two adjusting entries having to do with payroll and software that changed the 2017 expenses. Miriam asked for questions. There were none.

Willy Tookey motioned to approve the 2017 budget amendment, Mark Garcia seconded, unanimously approved.

Adam Wilkes introduced himself and said the audit went well. Adam went through each section of the audited financials pointing out there were no disagreements between the auditor team and management. There were no questions.

Willy Tookey motioned to approve the 2017 audited financial statements, Karen Sheek seconded, unanimously approved.

III. Consent Agenda

- a. June 2018 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes
- b. June 2018 Financials

Mark Garcia motioned to approve the consent agenda, Chris Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.

IV. Reports

Director's Report:

Miriam reported that the USAC funding request has wrapped up and been submitted giving staff a broadband break. CCI and CML are working on broadband legislation development for the respective organizations to potentially incorporate into their legislative docket for 2019. Miriam said a document included in the board packet is a letter to Senator Gardner about the STREAMLINE Act, which is attempting to help the adoption of 5G wireless technology. However, the legislation has a number of challenges, including preemption of state and local control, shot clocks, and other such things that make it a very industry favorable bill. Miriam said in regards to transportation funding the state is still working on two proposed ballot measures to increase transportation funding, one is only bonds, the other is bonds with a tax increase to pay back the bonds. Miriam wrapped up her report thanking Dylan for his VISTA work as he will be rotating out and the new VISTA rotating in later in August 2018.

Broadband Report:

Miriam said funding requests for the USAC Rural Health were submitted on June 28th for self-provisioned fiber for the following routes:

- Dove Creek to Cortez
- Cortez to Durango
- Durango to Silverton

Award information will be announced sometime between December and February 2019. Miriam said that CDOT has finalized their Statewide Fiber Plan and will publish it in mid-August. This will help when communities, counties, and regions that need to develop broadband within a CDOT corridor, and outline where those priorities fall and how public agencies can work with CDOT.

Transportation Report:

Miriam said the TPR elected a new board chair, Amber Blake. There were no questions.

VISTA Report:

Dylan said he is wrapping up his work and getting ready to pass down to the new VISTA. He thanked all for the support and opportunity.

V. Discussion Items

VI. Decision Items

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from June 14, 2018:

Karen Sheek motioned to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes from June 14, 2018, Chris La May seconded, unanimously approved.

Water Quality Improvement Act Letter of Support Ratification

Miriam said the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and other organizations have been working with Congressman Bob Gibbs (R-Ohio) to develop bipartisan water quality improvement legislation. Members of NARC, including the SWCCOG, were asked to encourage their Representatives to co-sponsor this legislation. The board packet included the letter SWCCOG sent to Congressman Tipton on July 13, 2018.

Willy Tooked motioned to ratify the Letter of Support, Karen Sheek seconded, unanimously approved.

STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act Letter

Miriam said the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act, S. 3157, was recently introduced. As currently written, this legislation includes a number of elements that limit local control while increasing expectations upon local agencies. Senator Gardner is a member of the Senate Commerce Committee and sits on the subcommittee that will first hear this bill. The purpose of this letter is to share a number of concerns about the bill and encourage Senator Gardner to oppose it as currently written.

Willy Tookey motioned to approve the letter be sent to Senator Gardner, Mark Garcia seconded, unanimously approved.

2019 COG Dues

Miriam said that staff sends out an annual dues estimation letters to help communities with their budgets and would like to get these letters out soon. Staff suggests keeping dues the same as 2018. As has been done in the past, staff will ask that member match be held in the member's budget unless needed. Miriam said there were minor changes due to population changes provided from the DoLA website. Ron asked if Montezuma County paid TPR contributions in 2018. Miriam said no, that the COG cannot force TPR contributions and cannot oust a community for not paying as these are federal funds passed through CDOT and the SWCCOG simply acts as the fiscal agent with no rule-making authority. Some board members feel this unfair and requested that staff research more about what other COGs have done in this situation and gather more information from CDOT.

Mark Garcia motioned for staff to send out the 2019 dues letters at staff recommendation amounts, Karen Sheek seconded, unanimously approved.

VII. Other Items

None

VIII. Community Updates

Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio

- Hiring new staff in Public Works and Administration
- Recently had a meeting with the Southern Ute Tribe; working on rate analysis with Tribe
- There have been a lot of improvements to facilities

Ron LeBlanc – City of Durango

- Working on the broken sewer line, hoping to have traffic back to the usual pattern by Tuesday next week
- The fire closed the train for 41 days; significant impact on sales tax
- Remainder of 2018 budget will be a challenge; budget cuts are being made

Willy Tookey – San Juan County

- Working on affordable housing project; end of September apartment install; open for rent in November
- June was devastating with mud slides
- 2019 budget will be difficult

Chris Tookey – Town of Silverton

- The town is maintaining; many folks coming from Durango and Grand Junction

Chuck Stevens – La Plata County

- 2019 budget is very challenging

- 416 fire 100% contained
- Helping residents with resources as damage to private property has been significant

Keri Distefano – Town of Rico

- A new bed and breakfast is open
- Replaced a failed pump to well
- Preparing ballot to include infrastructure

John Dougherty and Karen Sheek– City of Cortez

- Sales and lodgers tax is down; sales tax a bit up
- Starting into 2019 budget
- Community event held every 3rd Thursday at park is growing
- Gathering community input for park on south side of town

Steven Garchar – Dolores County

- Completing parking lot for Pioneer Center; pushing landscaping off due to lack of water

Chris La May – Town of Bayfield

- Schools and roundabout projects continue but are getting close to wrapping up before school starts
- Marijuana will be on the November ballot
- Struggling with the water shortage and preparing for additional water restrictions

Adjourned at 2:58 p.m.