



~ Agenda ~
For a Regular Meeting of the
SOUTHWEST COLORADO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PO Box 963
Durango, CO 81302
<http://co.laplata.co.us>

Friday, March 6, 2015

9:00am

Durango Rec Center

[The Board reserves the right to hold Executive Session per CRS 24-6-402(4)]
[To participate via teleconference, please call 661-673-8600 and enter participant code 850589#]

I. Introductions

II. Consent Agenda

1. February 2015 Minutes

III. Discussion Items

IV. Decision Items

1. IT Contractor Approval

V. Reports

1. Transportation Report

ITEM NO. (ID # 2383)

DATE: 03/6/2015

AGENDA REQUEST

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MEETING GROUP: Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

STAFF RESOURCE: Miriam Gillow-Wiles, Director

REQUESTING DEPT: Southwest Colorado Council of
Governments

TYPE: SWCCOG Item

SUBJECT: February 2015 Minutes

BACKGROUND:

FISCAL IMPACT:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

ATTACHMENTS:

- SWCCOG Meeting Minutes 2-6-15 (DOCX)

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
February Board Meeting
06 February 2015
La Plata County Court House

Board in Attendance:

Dick White – City of Durango
Andrea Phillips – Town of Mancos
Ernie Williams – Dolores County
Michael Whiting – Archuleta County (via phone)
William Tookey – San Juan County
Chris Tookey – Town of Silverton
Lee San Miguel – Town of Ignacio
Chris LaMay – Town of Bayfield
Greg Schulte – Town of Pagosa Springs
Shane Hale – City of Cortez
Julie Westendorff – La Plata County
Joe Kerby – La Plata County
John Egan – Town of Pagosa Springs
Ron LeBlanc – City of Durango

Staff in Attendance:

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Executive Director
Sara Trujillo – Assistant/Accountant

Guest in Attendance:

Ken Charles - DoLA
Hannah Oliver – Program Associate, Western Lands and Communities
Ralph Marra – Contractor, Western Lands and Communities
Jessica Laitsch – SWCCOG consultant, Western Lands and Communities Grant
Mark Thompson – Phoenix Recycling

I. Call to Order/Introductions

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

II. Western Lands and Communities (WLC) Presentation

The WLC grant was the COG's first successful grant last year. The purpose of this grant is to produce a document about how our communities can be more resilient in the face of an uncertain future. To help us reach this goal is Hannah Oliver from the Sonoran Institute and Ralph Marra, a consultant with Western Lands and Communities.

Hannah and Ralph flew in from Tucson, Arizona and gave a presentation on scenario planning as a flexible way of dealing with an uncertain future. The focus was on uncertainties and how to create a risk assessment, find appropriate solutions, and mitigate. The following link on the SWCCOG.org website shows the presentation slides by Hannah and Ralph:

<http://www.swccog.org/projects/environment/western-lands/>

III. Consent Agenda: January 2015 Minutes & Financials

Motion to approve minutes and financials as presented: Julie Westendorff, Second: John Egan. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

IV. Discussion Items:

Broadband Non Profit and Legislation Update:

▫ State

CML and CCI are working on an amendment of SB05-152 that will be introduced late in the session (late March or April). They are currently working on meeting with industry reps to help move private sector in support of changing 152. Ideally, the update to 152 will include: use of FCC definition of Broadband, if the community is not receiving FCC defined broadband then the local government will be free to do what is necessary without a vote, allow for public private partnerships (without a vote). As this moves through the Senate and House, we will need the local elected officials, local ISPs, business owners, and economic development organizations to vocalize their support of these changes. Staff will put together a letter of support and any other docs needed in a template form.

▫ Federal

Last week the FCC updated the definition of Broadband. Previously, the definition was 4Mbps down and 1Mbps up. The new definition is significantly higher to a minimum of 25Mbps down and 3Mbps up. This is very good news and is important for businesses, education, and residents who all know the former definition was not fast enough. This also is important because much of SW Colorado had broadband under the previous definition, but now does not. So we will be eligible for more funding.

Broadband Non Profit

This is still important to keep on the radar in the event the changes to 152 are not passed or are limited in their scope. After staff spoke with Ken Fellman, this is an option, as there isn't anything in the existing law that prohibits it. However, it is still a risk and if this is something the Board wants to move forward with, we need to assess our risk adversity to move forward. The La Plata County Economic Development Alliance is willing to house a 501c3 for the region, pending board approval and need. Shane Hale suggested communication with CLUB 20 could be beneficial. As bills are written, staff will keep the board up-to-date.

V. Decision Items:March 2015 Board Meeting

Miriam would like to hold a half-day board retreat at the March Board Meeting to discuss the SWCCOG 2015 and 2016 goals to help give staff better direction and criteria to select grants and to focus the organization on growing properly, and not just for growth's sake. Ken Charles will facilitate the meeting. The board agreed on a proposed meeting date of March 6 from 9am – 3pm depending on agenda length and items.

Personnel Policy Update:

When the Personnel Policy was originally written, there were no specifics regarding maternity and paternity leave. Staff feels it is important to offer this benefit to current and future employees and presented an updated Personnel Policy to the board for review and consideration. Staff proposed a three-week paid parent leave. This time frame was chosen because Miriam feels she can handle COG business alone for this amount of time. As far as budget, this three-week paid period is automatically included in payroll for the year.

A verbiage update was requested to change the verbiage “husband and wife” to “spouses”.

Motion to approve the amended Personnel Policy to include parent leave with verbiage change of “husband and wife” to “spouses”: Julie Westendorff, Second: Ernie Williams. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Letter of Support – Phoenix Recycling RREO Grant:

Durango based Phoenix Recycling will be applying for a RREO grant to expand their existing facilities on a much larger piece of property southeast of Durango. The expanded facility will

be able to sort singlestream and multistream recyclables within the region, instead of sending the materials and jobs to areas such as Oklahoma or Salt Lake City. This should help existing programs reduce the hauling fees and the greenhouse gases involved with transporting materials long distances.

Mark Thompson from Phoenix Recycling was present to request a Letter of Support from the SWCCOG to help support the Phoenix Recycling request for funding through the Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity (RREO) grant program. The grant is for a bailer and a conveyer belt that leads into the bailer at a cost of \$262,000.

Motion to authorize Dick White to sign Letter of Support for Phoenix Recycling: Shane Hale, Second: Michael Whiting. Passed by a unanimous voice vote with one abstention of Julie Westendorff because at as some point Julie will have to consider a land use permit for Phoenix Recycling.

Ron LeBlanc suggested an item pertaining to letters of support be added to the March board retreat agenda or the April meeting. Julie Westendorff has land use authority; therefore, the COG needs to check jurisdiction before signing letters of support. This is also important for grant writing as letters of support should relate to COG goals. The weight of the COG should not be behind political actions. An established guidelines and schematic could be useful to help develop the principles behind selecting letter of support to sign. Staff will research how other COG's deal with selecting letters of support.

Dark Fiber Lease MOU:

This item was tabled at the last SWCCOG board meeting to be readdressed now. The MOU agreement would be implemented individually between COG and entity; the MOU document presented would only serve as a template. There were questions about an opt-in versus mandate policy for use of the SCAN network, which led to questions about the original content of the SCAN contract and board decisions made at that time. Staff will find original SCAN contract and documents, board meeting minutes, any guidance documents for SCAN use, and facts and history to present this information at the March board retreat. Board would like to know how many dark fiber strands are out there available to be leased and what kind of revenue this would create.

Lee San Miguel requested maps of what Ignacio currently has, which Miriam will send on a thumb drive.

Motion to table this item until the board is presented with a clear understanding of the SCAN project: Julie Westendorff, Second: Lee San Miguel. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

VI. Reports:

Director's Report:

Alternative Fuels – Sparq Natural Gas has just begun communication with CDOT.

Western Lands and Communities (WLC) – The presentation earlier covered this item.

AmeriCorp VISTA - Miriam is finishing up the AmeriCorp VISTA application. The VISTA will be starting in July to help with administration and grants. In addition, Miriam was nominated to receive an AmeriCorp VISTA National Award.

Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity (RREO) – an in-depth report will be given at the March board retreat.

IBM Grant – This application did not happen due to staff time limitations. In addition, Miriam does not want to be applying to grants just to be applying. She would like to further examine COG goals and strategies for the next year at the March board retreat to get some guidance as to what grants the COG would like to apply for that are in conjunction with goals and year plans.

TPR/Transit – The TPR meeting was held this morning. Discussed was the state statute that does not allow the Indian Tribes to have a STAC vote. The TPR would like to pursue a change in legislation to allow tribal voting at STAC. The next meeting will be April 3. The next transit meeting will be February 10.

John Egan announced the Archuleta County Transportation Summit meeting being held February 26 at the Quality Resort, from 9am – 11am, breakfast will be provided. This meeting will involve La Plata County, Durango, Bayfield, Ignacio, among others. Pagosa would like to establish good relationships with other communities to help make transportation plans work. All are invited.

Adjourned at 3:45pm

ITEM NO. (ID # 2386)

DATE: 03/6/2015

AGENDA REQUEST

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MEETING GROUP: Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

STAFF RESOURCE: Miriam Gillow-Wiles, Director

REQUESTING DEPT: Southwest Colorado Council of
Governments

TYPE: SWCCOG Item

SUBJECT: IT Contractor Approval

BACKGROUND:

FISCAL IMPACT:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

ATTACHMENTS:

- IT Contractor Memo 6 April 2015 (DOC)

IT Contractor Selection

To: SWCCOG Board of Directors
From: Miriam Gillow-Wiles
Date: 6 March 2015

Comments: The SWCCOG received a grant to help with IT Support from DOLA. There are 7 local governments participating. The grant will help with some managed services (IT Support) as well as create a database of what equipment, age of equipment, and where it is located. The contractor selected will also put together an IT Plan for each community that outlines needs, updates, and replacement options for hardware and software. All billing for this will go through the SWCCOG and we will track the cost of service per community, to make sure it is equitable and just a few communities are not using the majority of the funds. Each participating entity has about \$9000 to spend on managed services. This does not cover the cost of equipment. It is likely that the entities will need to maintain printers and copiers in house (have you turned them off and then on?). This contract will NOT cover VOIP services.

The RFP was due on Monday, and we received two responses, Think Networks, and ImageNet Consulting both based in Durango. Both were close in cost for actual work, Think Networks was a little less expensive for the higher Tiers (such as server work). I did have a few questions as to each proposal which they answered very promptly.

Some of the issues with the idea was the wide variety of equipment and lack of standardization within many communities and generally throughout the region. Because of this, the RFP was a little nebulous, so the responses were as well. Think Networks quoted a price of \$25,000, including travel, with some caveats knowing that there will likely be some unknowns that will increase the \$25,000. They did also offer to do an assessment of all the Local Governments participating for \$8500 (or less depending on information available) so they could produce a better quote based on needs. ImageNet Consulting only quoted a price per Tier and cost per mile, lodging, and other expenses. The total amount for the contractor was \$60-63,000.

Based on the quoted price, and the willingness to work with the SWCCOG and communities to find the best solutions, staff recommendation is to select Think Networks.

ITEM NO. (ID # 2391)

DATE: 03/6/2015

AGENDA REQUEST

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MEETING GROUP: Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

STAFF RESOURCE: Miriam Gillow-Wiles, Director

REQUESTING DEPT: Southwest Colorado Council of
Governments

TYPE: SWCCOG Item

SUBJECT: Transportation Report

BACKGROUND:

FISCAL IMPACT:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

ATTACHMENTS:

- TPR - transit update for March board packet (DOCX)

TPR/Transit Update

SWTPR

- At the February 6 TPR meeting, both the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes decided to move forward with requesting legislative change to make STAC tribal seats voting seats. This item was tabled until the April 3 meeting to allow time for additional research and contact be made with Senator Roberts, Mr. Ernest House, and the Colorado Council of Indian Affairs with the knowledge that the SWTPR does support, in principle, the idea of making STAC tribal seats voting seats.
- Kevin Hall and CDOT presented a new program called Supercircular that became effective December 26, 2014 and applies to project phases (design or construction) authorized by FHWA. The issue that prompted this change was the inability to balance books due to the amount of frozen funds in projects. Under Supercircular projects must have specific start and end dates identified. All parts of the project, including final documentation and final reimbursement, must be complete by the end date. If design and construction are funded together, design end date and construction beginning and end date are required. If funded separately, beginning dates of construction are not required.

Supercircular is a new concept that will go through fluctuations and changes throughout the year. The ultimate goal is to get final billings on projects complete in a timely manner so funds can be reassessed and distributed back out. This should help create a faster flow of funds and better book balances.

- Kevin Hall and Transportation Commissioner, Sidny Zink, reported on the I-70 Viaduct issues. The I-70 East project is the largest project the Transportation Commission is dealing with currently. This project consists of 2.5 miles of crumbling viaduct that needs repair or replacement. This issue has been assigned three possible solutions, 1) remain and maintain, which would be a 10-year plan at a cost of \$30 million, 2) reconstruction as is at a cost of \$550 million, or 3) lower and partially cover with no expansion at a cost of \$950 million. Adding toll express lanes would be beneficial to solution #3 but would increase costs to \$1.2 billion. Solution #3 has the most support other than the financial aspect.

The CDOT Executive Director Don Hunt retired and new Executive Director Shailen Bhatt stepped up. Director Bhatt comes with FHWA experience, which will benefit our region greatly with him understanding and being able to communicate the state perspective.

- The TPR approved the Regional Transportation Plan that would be incorporated into the State Plan. If you are interested in reviewing this plan, please access the links provided:
[Statewide Plan](#)
<http://coloradotransportationmatters.com>
[Regional Transportation Plan](#)

<http://coloradotransportationmatters.com/regional-transportation-plans/>

Transit

- A transit meeting was held February 10 at the Durango Transit Center. The council reviewed past accomplishments and goals and created a new list of goals to help the transit efforts move forward. The next step is to communicate with the Human Service (HS) Providers in the area to get those entities more involved. The transit council is hoping to invite HS Providers to the April 9 meeting.
- John Egan held the Archuleta County Transportation Summit meeting February 26 that was productive in identifying next steps for our Region to better transportation. It was established that a needs assessment is a first step. More to come from John Egan as he compiles all the ideas and thoughts shared at the meeting.