Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

June Board Meeting

5 September 2014

Silverton Town Hall

Board in Attendance:

Michael Whiting – Archuleta County

Bobby Lieb – La Plata County

Ron LeBlanc – City of Durango

Andrea Phillips – Town of Mancos  
Shane Hale – City of Cortez

William Tookey – San Juan County

Greg Schulte – Town of Pagosa Springs

Chris La May – Town of Bayfield

Lee San Miguel – Town of Ignacio

Staff in Attendance:  
Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Executive Director   
Sara Trujillo – Assistant/Accountant

Guests in Attendance:  
David Liberman – Law Office of David Liberman

Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9

Jeff Gaulinski – Skyworks

Barry Cress – DoLA

Will Neder

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:37pm. Everyone introduced themselves. Following was a presentation from Barry Cress, DoLA staff.

Barry announced grant program funds of $4 million for drinking water projects and little under $1 million for waste water projects. Barry handed out the 2014 intended use plan that includes a drinking water revolving fund and water pollution control revolving fund. Loans up to $2 million with a fixed interest rate of 2% are offered. Disadvantaged communities can qualify for a lower interest rate or no interest rate. Barry will send rules to Miriam.

1. **Consent Agenda: Minutes & Financials**

**Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda: William Tookey, Second: Bobby Lieb. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

**\*\*\*\*The board meeting was called into Executive Session to meet with Legal Counsel per CRS 24-6-402(4)(b)at 2:05pm. The Executive Session was electronically recorded, and those in attendance included the following:**

Board in Attendance:

Michael Whiting – Archuleta County

Bobby Lieb – La Plata County

Ron LeBlanc – City of Durango

Andrea Phillips – Town of Mancos  
Shane Hale – City of Cortez

William Tookey – San Juan County

Greg Schulte – Town of Pagosa Springs

Lee San Miguel – Town of Ignacio

Staff in Attendance:  
Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Executive Director   
Sara Trujillo – Assistant/Accountant

Guest in Attendance:  
David Liberman – Law Office of David Liberman

**\*\*\*\*The board was called out of Executive Session at 2:37pm; guests and Chris Le May returned to the meeting. Michael Whiting wanted on record that in the open meeting no decisions were made.**

1. **Discussion Items:**

Club 20 FCC Letter:

The Club 20 FCC Letter requests that the speed of 4 down 1 up be changed to 10 down and 1 over the next 10 years. The issue is that this speed of 10 and 1 will be obsolete in ten years and will greatly impact our region’s economic development.

It was suggested that the COG become members of Club 20 and have a COG person represent the COG at Club 20 meetings to have our needs known and heard. Staff is to invite Bonnie Peterson and her leaders (Club 20 chair and vice chair) to come to a COG meeting to talk telecom, especially if our needs are contrary to what Club 20 is supporting. This information needs to be brought to the attention of CML and CCI if it has not been already. In addition, COG staff is to draft a letter to Club 20 copying all folks Bonnie Peterson copied on FCC letter explaining our position on proposed internet speed and the reasoning for rejecting this proposal. Miriam to contact other COGs, specifically the NW COG to see if other COGs are having the same issue and would stand behind our position.

This discussion item turned into a decision item.

**Michael Whiting stated there was a need to amend the agenda for this discussion item evolving into a decision item. Motion to amend the agenda to change the Club 20 FCC Letter from a discussion item to a decision item: Ron LeBlanc, Second: Shane Hale. Passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**Motion to send letter to Club 20 with review from executive committee and signature authority to the chair: Bobby Lieb, Second: Ron LeBlanc. Passed by unanimous voice vote.**

1. **Decision Items:**

Contract for Durango Downtown Inn:

October 10-11 there will be an Emerging Mangers Summit and Women in Local Government Conferences. Many folks are coming from out of town and to offset their hotel costs for attending the conferences, the COG would like to extend our tax exempt status to those needing hotel reservations.

**Motion to allow COG to use tax exempt status for hotel reservations: William Tookey, Second: Ron LeBlanc. Passed by unanimous voice vote.**

DoLA Telecom Grant Admin Overpayment:

Laura Lewis with Region 9 presented documents and a breakdown of how Telecom grant funds were distributed. Ron LeBlanc questioned how the City of Durango could owe money and La Plata County be due a refund when they were charged the same amounts. Laura to research, send supporting documents to Sara who will distribute those documents to the City and County.

**Motion to Approve the work with communities to resolve issue and the City of Durango and La Plata County would like a narrative description of how numbers were reached: Shane Hale, Second: Greg Schulte. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

DoLA Tech Assistant Grant:

Miriam requested approval to move forward with a DoLA TA Grant application. This grant will be a 1 to 1 match and collect data for a Shared Services plan, a transit study, and help obtain an AmeriCorp VISTA to assist the SWCCOG with grant management, grant writing, and project management.

**Motion to apply a DoLA Technical Assistant grant: Shane Hale, Second: Lee San Miguel. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

FCC Broadband Funding:

This is a federal grant opportunity. The application is due too soon to apply now. However, Miriam would like to work on a DoLA broadband planning grant to create more detail and more information so we can apply in two years for this FCC Broadband funding that will be in the billions of dollars. Essentially, a DoLA grant is a much easier grant to apply for in a short amount of time that will be a good stepping stone to an FCC Broadband grant in the future.

**Motion to apply for a DoLA broadband planning grant: Shane Hale, Second: William Tookey. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

1. **Reports:**

Director’s Report:

COG Dues:

Last year the board voted for a 2-year dues schedule; therefore, 2015 dues will not change. The budget figures will be presented at the October 3 meeting.

RREO Grant:

The RREO grant which includes a waste audit has begun. Four Fort Lewis College interns will be hired to help sort trash to establish data on what recyclables are being thrown away. In addition to the FLC interns, volunteers are needed to help sort trash.

AAA:

The AAA board voted to allow Christina to use the COG office a couple times a month. This arrangement seems to be working well.

Housing:

There will be a monthly housing breakfast held with the housing agencies in La Plata County.

Other Announcements:

Andrea Phillips announced that Mancos will be hosting the CML District 9 meeting held on September 15 from 4pm – 8pm at the Mancos Community Center. Dinner will be served and tickets are $25.00 per person.

William Tookey announced the installation of fiber via helicopter to Silverton. A celebration will be held October 9.

1. **Adjourned at 3:52pm**