
SWCOG Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

I. Call SWCCOG meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Jennifer Green, Board Chair.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, April 10, 2023

April 10, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting minutes were provided in the packet.

Motion from Willy Tookey to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Second: Veronica Medina; Motion passed unanimously.

B. Next Region 9 Quarterly Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on July 27, 2023.

III. Other Business

A. Round Robin Community Updates

1) Archuleta County – Veronica Medina

- a) The County has 22 roads that will be improved this season.
- b) New Health Department development is in process.
- c) An early education council has been formed. Archuleta is the only County without one in the area, thus, the County continues to improve education in the community.
- d) The Senior Center was selected as 1 of 10 non-profits to benefit from the Durango Wine Event.
- e) In transportation, transit routes have been added from Pagosa Springs to Arboles to provide Seniors with access to doctor's appointments and shopping.
- f) County Road 500 was washed out and alternate routes will be required during reconstruction.

2) Archuleta County - Mary Jo Coulehan

- a) Fiber construction begins again on May 1st and construction began on the CNL Building on west side of Town.
- b) Sector Partnerships are groups of specific industries that come together to find solutions to issues within their industry. Archuleta County has hired a Regional Convenor to help the five Counties in our Sector.
- c) Club 20 will host a policy meeting in Pagosa Springs in July.
- d) 14th Annual Car Show in Pagosa – June 9th & 10th

3) Pagosa Springs –Jennifer Green

- a) Pagosa's economy is rebounding from COVID as tourists begin to visit the area again.

- b) Sales Tax has begun to stabilize but is slightly down from the prior year. Lodging Tax is down due to increased pricing since COVID.
 - c) Spring Clean is the week of May 1st.
- 4) Dolores County –Steve Garchar and Dan Fernandez
- a) Westside of Dolores where there are 2 accesses to the river were washed out: one repaired, other under repair.
 - b) The river was full before the snow melted off. With the melt off, Dolores County is expecting a huge rafting season.
 - c) It is anticipated that fiber optics will be in all homes this year; however, out of Town service was reduced by 15% due to County financial constraints.
 - d) Building a new Sheriff’s facility.
 - e) Have had housing meetings with the State for development in Dove Creek. Dove Creek is short infrastructure to support the housing demand.
 - f) Dolores County is seeking a Dove Creek Board Member.
 - g) The TV Station is operational again.
- 5) Ute Mountain Ute Tribe – Bernadette Cuthair
- a) Work continues with the Grocery Store. Should be operational by May 2024.
 - b) The RPF for Broadband on Ute Mt Ute land is being released Mid-May. Tribe was approached by Tri-State to discuss laying dark fiber across some property.
 - c) The Ute Tribe is hosting Tribe Housing retreat at Fort Lewis the week of May 1st. The retreat will address the restructuring of the Housing Authority as well as provide the new Director with pertinent updates.
 - d) Tribe is updating and collaborating with the State on their 2024 CEDS.
 - e) There has been much flooding and the Tribe has been coordinating with the State for repair funding.
- 6) Town of Ignacio - Mark Garcia
- a) Ignacio is working on a housing project with the Southern Ute Tribe and with Fiber network for funding.
 - b) CDOT is improving Main Street.
 - c) Infrastructure work continues; Right-of-Way policy is being reviewed to streamline efforts to utilize CDOT ROW for Broadband installation.
- 7) La Plata County –Clyde Church & Robert Whitson
- a) Roads are damaged and bridges also need repairs due to the winter season and flooding. Funds are being moved to cover expenses.
 - b) Impact fee was approved for Durango Fire Rescue.
 - c) New Health Department development is in process.
 - d) CCAT & CCI coordination on House Bill 213. There has not been a final vote.
 - i. CCI was opposed but the Bill has been changing and there has not been a final vote.
 - e) Oil & Gas regulations (Senate Bill 181) passed for Colorado on April 25th. This entails a 3 year restructuring of Colorado Oil and Gas Commission, which La Plata County follows for compliance so they have some County control and not

- just State control.
- f) Sales Tax is up slightly.
 - g) The Radar System contract at the Durango Airport was awarded. This system will provide Doppler radar coverage in areas that were inadequate. The contractor is beginning construction.
 - h) Job orders and people searching for work have increased. There are many open job orders. Currently, unemployment is about 3%.
- 8) San Juan County - Willy Tookey
- a) Sales Tax has begun to stabilize but is slightly down from the prior year. Lodging Tax is down due to increased pricing since COVID.
 - b) Backcountry roads have not started opening due to the amount of snow accumulated.
 - c) Sunnyside Gold finalized a settlement with the EPA. Sunnyside is moving out of the area and donating their property to San Juan County. San Juan County continues to obtain environmental reports and review historical data before taking the land. There is a possibility to switch land with BLM for more beneficial land for San Juan County use.
- 9) City of Durango – Tommy Crosby
- a) Broke ground on the Durango Airport Terminal to improve the post-security zones.
 - b) The Finance Director retired, a new City attorney was hired with a May start date, and 2 new Counselors were elected.
 - c) The 2024 Downtown Colorado Inc. Conference (IN THE GAME A Vibrant Downtown Event) will be held in Durango.
 - d) West Slope Start-up Week will be held in Durango August 21st - 25th.
- 10) Congresswoman Boebert’s Office - Naomi Dobbs
- a) Congresswomen Boebert has mobile office hours and has a District office in Grand Junction, Durango and Pueblo, locations and hours are posted on the website.
- 11) City of Cortez – Kelly Koskie
- a) The City re-incorporated their debt into a loan; now debt free from 3rd party agencies.
 - b) Signed the Contract to lease Dark Fiber and Broadband from VERO with a 12-month build-out term.
 - c) Draft Housing Assessment is being reviewed and the City hired a consultant for land-use coding evaluation.
 - d) The Grant Administrator received over 1M in Grants.

I. Adjourn SWCCOG

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 am by Jennifer Green, Board Chair.

Motion from Veronica Medina to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Second: Kelly Koskie ; Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes provided by Heather Peterson