
SWCOG Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2023

I. Call SWCCOG meeting to order.

Andrea Philips, SWCCOG Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:10 am.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

The SWCCOG minutes from Sept. 29, 2022, and December 7, 2022, were included in the board packet.

B. SWCOG Year-End Financials 2022

The year-end SWCCOG financials were included, and an audit for the 2022 fiscal year is being scheduled. The SWCOG financials are currently separate from Region 9's but will be incorporated eventually at future meetings.

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

Second: Ashleigh Tarkington; Motion passed unanimously.

III. Decision Items

A. Selection of SWCCOG Officers

With the Region 9 and SWCCOG Boards combined, Region 9 provided flexibility for SWCCOG officers to assist in SWCCOG decisions and help in the transition when determining gaps or needed guidance. The SWCCOG officers' term is one year but do not need to be the same as the Region 9 officers; however, they must be government members. Currently, Andrea Phillips is Chair, Willy Tookey is Vice Chair, and Mark Garcia is Secretary/Treasurer.

Meeting Discussion:

- ***In accordance with Robert's Rule of Order, nominations were requested 3 times.***
- ***Drew Sanders nominated Kelly Koskie as an officer if needed but withdrew nomination when other members were nominated also.***
- ***Officers Nominated:***
 - ***Nominated Mark Garcia for Secretary / Treasurer***
Motion from Steve Garcher to approve Secretary / Treasurer nomination.
Second: Clyde Church; Motion passed unanimously.

 - ***Nominated Jennie Green for Chair***
Motion from Veronica Medina to approve Chair nomination.
Second: Ashleigh Tarkington; Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Nominated Veronica Medina for Vice Chair***
Motion from _____ Todd Weaver _____ to approve Vice Chair nomination.
Second: _____ Mark Garcia _____; Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Motioned to have alternates allowed to serve in officers' positions when needed.***
Motion from _____ Willy Tookey _____ to approve Vice Chair nomination.
Second: _____ Mark Garcia _____; Motion passed unanimously.

B. Selection of check signers

The current SWCCOG check signers are Laura Lewis Marchino, Andrea Phillips, and Willy Tookey. Region 9 has different check signers than the SWCCOG, including several at-large members. Staff would like to recommend at a minimum, an additional La Plata based check signer be added. Currently, checks over \$5,000 require a second signature. Staff expects there will be larger checks with broadband and All Hazard activity.

Meeting Discussion:

- ***Mark thanked Andrea for her leadership and service throughout the transition by serving as Chair of the SWCCOG.***
- ***A recommendation and action were requested.***

Motion from _____ Mark Garcia _____ to add Clyde Church as an authorized check signer and retain Willy Tookey and Andrea Phillips as authorized check signers.
Second: _____ Steve Garcher _____; Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Policy integration

A list of Region 9 and SWCCOG policies were provided to the Board. At the December SWCCOG meeting, the SWCCOG Board agreed to utilize Region 9 policies, unless one did not exist or a SWCCOG policy was specifically required. Some of the SWCCOG policies were in draft form and did not appear to have been formally approved. Region 9 will further research these policies but asked the Board to review the list.

Meeting Discussion:

- ***To reduce redundancy, policies indicated in red in the attachment will not be retained as Region 9 policies already exist.***

Motion from _____ Steve Garcher _____ to merge Region 9 and SWCOG policies as presented.
Second: _____ Willy Tookey _____; Motion passed unanimously.

V. Other Business

A. Round Robin Community Updates

1) *Archuleta County – Presented by Todd Weaver*

- a) Sector Partnership Grant from 2022, received \$199k for all five counties to develop a regional industry sector convener. This person identifies top partners in health, trades,

tourism, education and evaluates the barriers that are limiting work force.

- b) The Chamber has decided to subcontract the Sector Partnership Grant to SW Educational Collaborative. They are best poised to take position and make it sustainable after the grant limit. They have direction and admin oversight. The agreement is being finalized.
 - c) Held Skijoring and Winter Festival
 - d) February 8th will have the Annual Meeting (aka Community Conversation). Town of Pagosa Springs Planning and Economic Development Dept. will discuss downtown Pagosa Springs, short-term rentals (biggest challenge), CDC will be present to discuss Main Street Program.
 - e) Organizing the Board of Health and the Archuleta Public Health Department with La Plata County and are currently receiving applications for a transitional committee to be seated by February.
- 2) **Pagosa Springs – Presented by Mary Jo Coulehan and Jennie Green**
- a) Last April, Town had a citizens lead initiative on the ballot which passed to mandate a \$150 fee per bedroom for short term rentals. The judge filed with plaintiff, but the Town will dispute as there is a 2-year moratorium for ownership of property prior to turning it into a short-term rental.
 - b) Short term rental task force committee to reform the regulation of short-term rentals.
- 3) **Dolores County – Presented by Steve Garchar**
- a) Emery Communications began fiber installation to homes in Dove Creek and should be complete by Spring.
 - b) Ballot issues in November. The Lodging Tax passed but the County Sales Tax did not pass.
 - c) Triple H Farms in the business park has begun processing hemp products which has created 7 new jobs.
 - d) Shak helped to find a housing grant for the County which will be presented at the Board Meeting.
 - e) Town continues to renovate the new office off the Highway.
- 4) **Town of Rico - Presented by Chauncey McCarthy**
- a) Board approved to accept moratorium on land development applications.
 - b) Infrastructure is a concern due to the lack of available taps for the foreseeable future. The Board is looking to reactivate Silver Creek Water Drainage including potential fees.
 - c) Accepted bid for a Stormwater Management Plan and released an RFP for engineering of a town sewer system. Town is trying to capitalize on the Federal funds that are available for infrastructure development.
 - d) Through the award of a DORA Grant, Town is breaking ground in the Spring for fiber to include all residences wanting fiber to their property within the available mile radius.
 - e) Revising the land use code.

5) ***Town of Dolores – Presented by Ken Charles***

- a) Phase 2 of 6 phases has been completed for the water system improvements. It has cost \$4.6M but the Town will qualify for 50% loan forgiveness program with CDPHE.
- b) Bought a building for the Town Hall due to the costs of current improvements.
- c) Affordable Housing project is progressing with a Contractor from Telluride.

6) ***La Plata County – Presented by Clyde Church***

- a) They are speeding up the land use approval process to streamline it with Federal and State regulations.
- b) Reviewing Chapter 90 in Land Use Code which deals with oil and gas. There is a lot of development that can be completed; drilling permits are being reviewed.
- c) Seated a new Board of Health which will go into effect January 1, 2024.
- d) Working with La Plata Economic Alliance to get funding through the County for housing.
- e) Landfill Bill - there were enclosures in 1995, but now new restrictive regulations on landfills have been passed that will not be able to be reached. Trying to get a State fund to help mediate the landfills in existence.
- f) La Posta Road – Working with the City of Durango on the Economic Development Business Park. Grant applications require that it becomes part of the City and not the County.
- g) Homeless – working on long- and short-term solutions with City of Durango. Received one proposal in response to the Notice of Funding.
- h) Library District – working with Durango and La Plata County to create a Library District for Durango Library. This will create jobs.
- i) For employment, there has been a slowdown in hiring in November but are anticipating it picking up in late Spring. One of the larger clients in Durango decreased their hiring and another Company moved to Grand Junction.

7) ***La Plata County At-Large - Presented by Justin Osborn, Wells Group***

- a) Been doing a lot of Land banking in SW Colorado.
- b) Many projects are getting approved but there is gridlock because of construction costs.
- c) Prices in most municipalities are still going up but in rural areas, prices are coming down.

8) ***City of Durango – Presented by Tommy Crosby and Oliver Bosmans***

- a) Upcoming elections in April with 2 council positions vacant.
- b) Many studies for projects in the \$1M – \$10M range, including downtown, R9 building, parking management, police station, etc.
- c) Have \$80M across all funds to distribute throughout Durango on various projects.
- d) Mentioned the departure of City attorney and interim City attorney; but have second interim attorney and are working with a recruitment firm on permanent position.
- e) Durango Airport completed \$18M in Capital projects.

- f) Housing data from 2021 mentions the addition of 97 units and 125 in 2022 with 1000 units in various development stages. This includes apartments and townhomes to help with workforce affordability.
 - g) Established Code amendments to make it easier to add an EDU unit to property.
 - h) The Housing Division is hiring an additional Housing Coordinator.
 - i) In 2022, Durango issued \$700k in grants which was a significant increase from \$60k in 2021.
- 9) ***Bayfield – Presented by Ashleigh Tarkington***
- a) Year-end review for land use application were broken out as: 31 total applications; 21 projects with public hearing process, 18 approved and 2 denied - 4 went through administrative approval process; 3 approved, 1 withdrawn and 6 pending.
 - b) There is a lot of housing growth taking place. Reach out to Ashleigh Tarkington for specific details.
- 10) ***Ute Mountain Ute Tribe – Presented by Bernadette Cuthair***
- a) USDA grant received through Region 9 will allow Tribe to update 2017 open space and housing master plan. New master plan for White Mesa satellite community and housing plan for Towaoc and White Mesa.
 - b) Working on EV transportation and issuing RFP for a long-range transportation plan for highways and road system.
 - c) Grocery store – consultants were down in January and completed an outreach to several locations and entities to determine items of public interest. Phase 1 has been funded with Federal grants with shipping containers and Phase 2 is the permanent building.
 - d) Economic development retreat will be held in February.
 - e) Upon receiving the Ed Morlan Leader Award, Rock Mountain Broadcast System is interested in interviewing Bernadette regarding the award and Region 9 programs.
- 11) ***Southern Ute Indian Tribe – Presented by Colton Black***
- a) Reformed CEDS committee and will be updating the CEDS plan by September.
 - b) Updated housing study and will be finalized in February. This included expanding the scope to not only include tribal housing but also expanded Ignacio workforce housing.
 - c) Tribe is moving forward with \$60M Broadband project. The Tribe was awarded another \$43M from NTIA to extend Broadband for another 280 miles within the reservation.
- 12) ***Town of Ignacio- Presented by Mark Garcia***
- a) Hoping to receive infrastructure funding for 2023 to start breaking ground on 40-unit housing development and are finalizing CHPA funding.
 - b) Working with CU Technical Assistance Program a on Downtown remodel project. The Town is negotiating with the School District to buy the old high school.
 - c) Working on a variety of annexation and land use code projects.
 - d) Working with Commissioner Salka on transportation in which a letter was endorsed by the Western Slope Counties.

- e) Moving forward with CDOT on broadband policies and deploying within our region and rural Colorado.
- f) Thanks to Shak and Laura in merging SWCCOG and with transportation, broadband and housing.

13) Mancos- Presented by Jason Armstrong

- a) Finishing the DOLA Planning grant for integrated housing policies. This will be presented to the Board of Trustees in February.
- b) Setting up land banking program.
- c) Working with schools on workforce development. They have a career pathways program and Mancos is helping to find funding for the program. Schools also need technical assistance to develop some portable teacher housing.
- d) Working with The Mixed Valley Chamber on a technical assistance series for local businesses.
- e) Working with Arts District for events for summer.
- f) Working with zoning and planning on Town's Comprehensive Plan to revamp in 2023-2024.
- g) On-boarding a short-term rental software program and monitoring and reviewing compliance policies.
- h) Approved Parks and Trails Master Plan and will apply for grants.
- i) Have an opening on Board of Directors.
- j) Building a new Marshals office and are applying for funding.

14) San Juan County- Presented by Willy Tookey

- a) In negotiations with Sunnyside Gold Mine. Sunnyside has offered to donate properties to the County. San Juan has completed Phase 1 environmental assessments on the properties.
- b) November ballot had an item to allow portion of tax to go to workforce housing, which passed and provides a steady income. Working with Silverton to develop the lodges for workforce housing, approximately 10 units.

15) Fort Lewis College- Presented by Nate Peach

- a) Working towards establishing a nursing program and have received some funding.
- b) Hawk Tank season has begun, which is an entrepreneurial competition.

B. Next Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 28, 2023.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting Adjourned at 12:12 pm.