



Monthly Meeting Minutes

Coordinated by Region 9 Economic Development

Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 9:00 am

A. Attendees / Call Meeting to Order

Alisa Schultz - Dolores County
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs
Bob Wolff – Durango Development
Brian Perkins – City of Cortez
Clyde Church – La Plata County
Derek Woodman - Archuleta County
George Tripp – City of Cortez
Heather Alvarez - Town of Mancos
Heather Peterson – Region 9 EDD
Helen Katich – Senator Hickenlooper Representative
Jennifer Allison – CDOT
Jim Candelaria – Montezuma County
Julie Constan - CDOT
Katie Sickles – Town of Bayfield
Kevin Bruce – Archuleta County Mountain Express Transit
Kevin Curry – Region 5
Kevin Kissler - City of Cortez
Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9 EDD
Mark Garcia - Town of Ignacio
Mary Eagle - Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Naomi Dobbs – Congresswoman Boebert’s Representative
Sarah Hill - City of Durango
Scott Baker - City of Cortez
Steve Garchar – Dolores County
Tim Funk – CDOT
Tony Cady - CDOT

Sarah Hill called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Previous Meeting Minutes’ approval

MOTION: Approve December 8, 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion: Steve Garchar, Second: Jim Candelaria

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Financial Report approval

MOTION: Approve SWCOG Financial Report from July – December 2022.

Motion: Steve Garchar, Second: Clyde Church

Motion passed unanimously.

C. Reports

1. STAC Update
 - a. Steve Harrelson resigned from CDOT.
 - b. Winter maintenance and snow plowing is running smoothly.
 - c. CDOT plowed 3.5M lane miles already, last year was 2.4M.
 - d. Annual Accomplishment Report was reviewed last month.
 - e. Received updates on TAP funding.
2. Transportation Commissioner Report – Mark Garcia
 - a. Meetings continue to be remote.
 - b. Working on the budget.
 - c. Broadband Discussions
 - i. With support from the counties, Matt Salka initiated Broadband discussions with the Governor’s Office.
 - ii. Mark attended the Region 10 Broadband workshop. Entities worked together on expansion.
 - iii. The February CDOT work session on the 15th will include Broadband discussions.
3. Congressional Updates - Helen Katich
 - a. Working with Senator Bennett’s Office on Letters of Support and spending requests.
 - i. The spending requests for budgets are now being reviewed. There will be informational sessions at the end of Feb. / beginning of March.
 - ii. Submit requests to both Senator Bennett and Senator Hickenlooper’s offices.
4. Congress Representative Boebert’s Office – Naomi Dobbs
 - a. Representative Boebert is available for project Letters of Support and will complete inquiry letters to save time in determining eligibility.
 - b. Working on transportation budget issues in Congress to prevent over-spending, and spending in transportation appropriations that have little or nothing to do with transportation.
 - c. Variety of changes within Congress
 - i. Transportation Bills will be autonomous and passed separately from other Bills.
 - ii. They will be single subject bills and will no longer have ‘add-ons’ / misc. components at the Federal level.

D. Decision/Discussion Items

1. Election of Officers
 - a. Sarah Hill and Jim Candelaria are the current Chair and Vice Chair, respectively and interested in continuing.
 - b. Nominations were called for according to Robert’s Rule of Order. No additional nominations were given.

MOTION: Renew Sarah and Jim’s committee positions for another term.

Motion: Andrea Phillips, Second: Steve Garchar

Motion passed unanimously.

2. [Hermosa to Durango Bicycle Trail](#) – Bob Wolf

a. **Discussion:**

- i. Study plan is an appropriate next step.
- ii. The Trail is already partially established and within an existing ROW.
- iii. Almost all bike shops are selling e-bikes now. Need to get e-bikes off the streets for safety of all parties.
- iv. Need to add the Trail plan to the City of Durango’s 2045 Projects Plan and get the project vetted with the public.
 - (a) No additions are allowed for the 10-year plan due to funds and the number of projects. The 10-year Plan are TPR projects that were prioritized from the 2045 Plan. The funds through the 10-year plan are being dispersed throughout Region 5.
 - (b) The 2045 Plan can have additions and projects will be re-prioritized next year as the 2050 Plan is established but the TPR will have to make it a priority on their budgets/plans as well.
 - (c) Adding it to the 2045 Plan is an easy first step in forward movement.
 - (d) CDOT will distribute the entire 2045 Plan to TPR members.
- v. Is funding available through other sources / grants? Is there a possibility of funding through partnerships? Are there funds available through Re-Connecting Communities or America the Beautiful?
 - (a) Bob will investigate other options and will host a fundraiser, as well as adding the project to the 2045 Plan.
 - (b) Multi-mutual plans are funded through the State and Federal agencies.
 - (c) TAP funding may be available.
- vi. What is the residential population of Hermosa compared to Durango or other areas wanting similar projects? If funds are granted, we need to get the most out of it for the public and not necessarily for just one area.
 - (a) Hermosa has a relatively large population base in the area.
 - (b) Pagosa Springs has been trying to get a trail for years for the same purpose. Would like to see equity throughout the region if funds are received.

MOTION: Submit the Trail project for addition to the 2045 Plan.

Motion: Clyde Church, **Second:** Mark Garcia

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Dolores County – Commissioner Steve Garchar

- a. Snow Removal in the Town of Dove Creek
 - i. Commissioner Garchar asked if CDOT could plow snow to middle of road instead of edges to allow better snow melt?
 - (a) The maintenance team tries to feather out snow piles during warmer days to help with melting. CDOT will discuss changing the plowing with the maintenance team.

- (b) If snow is plowed to the middle, the roads become a safety issue if not removed. Pagosa Springs has an agreement with CDOT to remove excess snow from the middle of the road once CDOT plows.
 - (c) Dove Creek will have to sign an agreement with CDOT to remove excess snow if the snow is plowed to center.
 - b. Wildlife Crossing on Hwy 491
 - i. Commissioner Garchar asked if fencing can be installed to push elk to the culvert section?
 - (a) CDOT has reviewed wildlife collisions in the Region and the top 5% are being revised. Thus, this section is not a focal point per the data reviewed.
 - (b) CDOT is not opposed to installing fence but does not have the funding.
 - c. Oversize Loads on Hwy 491
 - i. Commissioner Garchar asked if oversized loads be restricted from using Highway 491?
 - (a) The District will have to make this determination.
 - (b) CDOT will provide meetings regarding highway standards and policies.
- 4. Elmore's Corner to Bayfield – Commissioner Clyde Church
 - a. Road engineering and funding is being supported by La Plata County for wildlife underpasses and turn lanes.
 - i. Will try to get requests for funds submitted by the 28th.
 - b. More home construction is planned in Bayfield.
 - i. Funding request for traffic light and access is on the 2045 Plan but is thus far, unfunded.
 - ii. La Plata is providing Letters of Support.
- 5. City of Cortez
 - a. Status of the South Broadway frontage roads
 - i. Currently going through devolution process and need to bring roads up to CDOT Standards.
 - ii. Cortez needs cost estimates for improvements. There are 3-4 possible scenarios.
 - (a) Lowest is \$1M for base and pavement.
 - (b) To widen, must have ROW in addition to base and pavement which is approximately \$1.5M
 - (c) Roads must have asphalt since the roads are dirt and chip-sealing will not hold.
 - (d) CDOT could provide re-basing and chip-sealing for the City to take over maintenance of the road. City would then typically receive funds but currently, none are available.
 - b. Updates on Cortez's ACP issues (NuVue, Quick and Clean, frontage roads, etc.)
 - i. Need to prioritize a double left turn for access control.
 - ii. Setup meeting with Jennifer Allison's team to discuss solutions.
 - c. Electrical issues and additional information regarding light changes on Main Street.
 - i. Issue was resolved with coordination though utilities department.

E. CDOT Reports

1. Construction Update - Kevin Curry
 - a. Information distributed in committee packet and reviewed during meeting.
2. TAP funding –Tony Cady
 - a. Applicants must attend the Pre-application meeting. Draft applications can be submitted until March 24th.
 - b. Final applications must be submitted by April 21st.
 - c. There will be \$3.7M to be dispersed throughout Region 5, with a 20% local match required.
 - d. All TAP funding information can be found on CDOT's website.

F. Other Business

1. Updates – Round Robin
 - a. All entities have been moving snow.
 - b. Town of Pagosa Springs
 - i. McCabe Creek culvert replacement is starting up again.
 - ii. Chipping and paving bids were received.
 - iii. Recruiting a Public Works Director.
 - iv. Working on strategy to complete the trail through town for pedestrian access.
 - v. Submitted multi-mutual fund requests.
 - vi. Received funding for pedestrian bridge across the San Juan River. RFP has been released.
 - vii. Main street resurfacing is proposed for 2024.
 - c. City of Cortez
 - i. Speed on Hwy 491 continues to be an issue. Checking into more signs and radar to help control speeds.
 - ii. Three new affordable housing projects are starting.
 - iii. Kevin Kissler is the new City Engineer.
 - d. La Plata County
 - i. Road breakage and numerous potholes due to the freeze/thaw weather.
 - e. Town of Mancos
 - i. Installing sidewalks in collaboration with CDOT along Grand Ave.
 - f. Montezuma County
 - i. Nothing to report.
 - g. Town of Bayfield
 - i. Working with CDOT on HWY 160 intersection.
 - ii. Annexation for 400 homes, Pine River Commons build, and affordable housing addition.
 - h. Archuleta County
 - i. Kevin Bruce started on committee today; took over for Laura Vanoni.
 - ii. RFP released for kiosk shelters and park-n-ride.

- i. Southern Ute Indian Tribe
 - i. Mary Eagle is Acting Tribal Planner for S. Ute Tribe and send her any updates.
 - ii. Applying to TTPFS funds for pedestrian pathways from Cedar Point to Ignacio.
 - iii. Sent request for feedback on highway/road speeds to review processes to help reduce speeding.
 - j. CDOT
 - i. Senate Bill 267 will approve transit stops
 - (a) Reviewing bids for March 30th award.
 - (b) Re-issued RFP on construction phase – no bids received.
 - (c) 2022 Funding available to transition to e-transportation and remove emissions.
 - (d) Reviewing El Camino underpass at Hwy 550.
 - k. Dolores County
 - i. Nothing to report.
2. Region 9 Update
- a. Working on getting funding for 6 strand IRU over Wolf Creek
 - b. Updating TPR representatives list and will distribute.
 - c. SWCOG website is no longer and information transitioned under Region 9, which will include a TPR page.
 - d. CDL Grant that reduces the rate for driver training, mostly private entities.
 - i. Building a resource list with trainers, testers and equipment providers to help with the training. Report distributed in packet.
 - e. Transit landing page being created so transit providers information is in one access point for clientele and can link to their webpages.
3. Next meeting: April 13, 2023

G. Adjourn

- 1. Meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am