

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments  
April Board Meeting  
Thursday, April 28, 2022, 1:30 p.m.  
835 Main Avenue, Ste. 225, Durango, CO**

In Attendance:

Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs  
Willy Tookey – San Juan County  
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio  
Rachael Marchbanks – City of Cortez  
Katie Sickles - Town of Bayfield (remote)

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9 EDD  
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Guests in Attendance:

Kelly Koskie – City of Cortez  
Ken Charles – Town of Dolores  
Helen Katich - Senator Hickenlooper's Office (remote)  
Laura Vanoni – Archuleta County

**Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

**Public Comment**

Helen reported that they are working through Congressionally Directed Spending requests, they should have next steps identified later in May. She described other efforts being undertaken by Senator Hickenlooper.

**Consent Agenda**

- a. March 2022 Board Minutes
- b. March 2022 Financials

**Willy Tookey motioned to approve the consent agenda, Mark Garcia seconded, unanimously approved.**

**Discussion Items**

- a. Region 9 Integration and Strategic Plan

Laura described the current anticipated plan. She described the planned staff integration. Willy asked if one of the COG functions should be to act as fiscal sponsor for various grants for assorted non-governmental organizations. Ken mentioned that Region 10 operates this way. Laura described various areas for integration, including dues. She added that some non-COG members expressed concern about the impact to their dues. Rachael pointed out that a-la-carte dues would be complicated. Mark mentioned that some of the activities in the strategic plan have been ongoing or moving forward. Laura described the proposed changes to the strategic plan. Ken expressed support for one set of dues. There was discussion about the overarching issues that need to be addressed regardless of which organization does so. Laura described her thoughts to begin to more closely integrate the Boards and meetings. There was discussion about how to have the same representatives, meetings, or supplant the COG meeting with a subcommittee model.

Mark asked if there is value in the COG managing administrative matters for the various other groups. Jessica replied that it depends upon the specific group.

b. Project Manager Update

Laura summarized the status of the application process and asked if any board members would like to participate. Mark asked to see the top tier candidates. Ken suggested asking for participation from the Region 9 board.

c. Broadband Update

Laura described two upcoming broadband projects and the related grant requests. She reported that the regional consensus is to update the broadband plan. Andrea mentioned that an initial figure of \$50,000 was mentioned. She added that non-members could be asked to contribute, and the intent would be to focus on projects rather than on COG financial stability. Mark suggested seeking a written proposal. Mark asked for clarification that this is not budgeted. Laura replied this is not currently budgeted. Andrea suggested this may require a special meeting to approve. Mark suggested approving up to a maximum level. Staff will follow up as details are finalized.

### Decision Items

a. Grant applications

1. EIAF Grant Application – Carrier Neutral Location
2. MMOF Grant Application – Digital Mobility Hub
3. Rural Surface Transportation Grant Application – Digital Mobility Hub

**Willy Tookey motioned to approve the application for the Carrier Neutral Location, Mark Garcia seconded, unanimously approved.**

Jessica described the proposed project and the two potential funding opportunities.

**Willy Tookey motioned to approve the applications for MMOF and Rural Surface Transportation funds for the Digital Mobility Hub project, Rachael Marchbanks seconded, unanimously approved.**

b. SWCCOG-SWTPR Contract

Andrea described the purpose of the change to a one-year contract period.

**Mark Garcia motioned to approve the SWCCOG-SWTPR contract, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.**

c. Letter of Support – La Plata County and CDOT Hwy 160 Elmore's to Dry Creek

Andrea described the purpose of the request, she added that this seems to fit the COG's criteria.

**Rachael Marchbanks motioned to approve the letter of support for the Hwy 160 Elmore's to Dry Creek project, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.**

d. SWCCOG Employees transfer to Region 9

Laura described the purpose of the request.

**Mark Garcia motioned to approve the SWCCOG employee transfer to Region 9, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.**

e. Board Meeting Schedule

Laura described the purpose of the request. Andrea asked if the dues discussion would occur during the July meeting. Mark mentioned a schedule conflict with the November date. There was discussion about scheduling the fall/winter meeting on December 1 at 1:30 p.m.

**Mark Garcia motioned to approve the proposed meeting schedule with the November meeting to be held on December 1, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.**

f. 2022 SWCCOG Treasurer Selection

Jessica described the purpose of the request. Mark volunteered to serve as Treasurer.

**Willy Tookey motioned to appoint Mark Garcia as Treasurer, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.**

g. Appoint representative to San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council  
Andrea described the purpose of the request. Laura mentioned that Todd Weaver would consider serving on this Council.

**Rachael Marchbanks motioned to appoint Todd Weaver from Archuleta County to serve on the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.**

## **Reports**

a. Attendance Report

Andrea asked if any other members have sent dues. Jessica replied she has not received dues since the packet publication. Mark asked about the status of the dark fiber leasing. Jessica replied that payments have been received in April, she had been delayed sending invoices. There was discussion about modifying the dark fiber lease split. Andrea asked if a change to the fiscal year would occur this year. Willy asked whether a government could have a non-calendar fiscal year. Kelly mentioned that should be possible to change the fiscal year for one organization or the other.

b. Administrative/Staff report

Written report only.

c. Region 9 report

Written report only.

d. Fiscal Administration Report

Written report only.

e. Grant report:

Written report only.

f. Transportation report

Written report only.

g. Legislation updates

Written report only.

## **Community updates**

Laura Vanoni reported that Archuleta County was awarded a grant for four bus shelters. They also received an award for kiosks. The bus facility is currently out for RFP. Mark asked who is managing the project. Laura replied that she is managing this project.

Mark thanked Laura for her efforts through the transition.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.