

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 11, 2022, 2:30 p.m.**

In attendance:

Andrea Philips – Town of Pagosa Springs
Willy Tookey – San Juan County
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio
Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9 EDD
David Lieberman- Lieberman and Associates
Shak Powers – Region 9 EDD
Stephani Burditt – Region 9 EDD

I. Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m.

II. Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

III. June 9, 2022 Minutes

The minutes from the June 9, 2022 Executive Committee were provided in the packet for review. These minutes were approved at the July Board meeting.

IV. Employee Transition Update

Laura informed the Executive Committee that the transfer of existing staff to Region 9 employees was complete.

a. Draft job description

Laura provided an update on hiring a Grant Compliance Specialist and the job description was provided in the packet. Funding for this position would be from the prior years budgeted amount for FY 2022 through the SWCCOG and the Region 9 dues structure was updated to include funding for both Shak and the new employee for FY 22-23. This position would be in charge of the compliance and Tiffany Broderson, the community grant writer, is getting the funding. The Committee was supportive of this position.

V. Transition Discussion and possible action

Laura updated the status of the current transition, and it was included in the packet. David Liberman is preparing documents for the September meeting.

a. Partial audit- financial transition

The bid from the Region 9 auditors, Hinton Burdick, was provided in the packet. This would

create a partial return for the SWCCOG to align the SWCCOG with Region 9's fiscal year, which is October to September. It was mentioned that Statute 29601 says political entities need to be on a fiscal year of January to December. The SWCCOG would continue to be a separate entity with its own tax id number. The auditors didn't think the combining of the fiscal years would be an issue. Laura will look into it. It was suggested that if a fiscal year needs to be changed, maybe Region 9 could change their fiscal year. The only funding for the SWCCOG would be from DoLA grants since the dues will go through Region 9. The SWCCOG policies will need to be updated to show Region 9 as the lead organization. It was mentioned that if the dues run through Region 9 then there aren't any SWCCOG members. The Region 9 government members could also be the SWCCOG members. The committee supported the board structure on a broad level. There was concern that amending the IGA's with 15 governments and their lawyers could delay the transition. The SWCCOG Executive Committee could be determined by Region 9 members and meet yearly since most activities will be shifting to Region 9. It was mentioned that a SWCCOG Executive Committee may not be necessary. It was mentioned that Hinton Burdick does other government audits and it was clarified that nothing has been signed yet. **Mark Garcia made a motion to approve the partial year audit bid as it develops for the correct time period. Willy Tookey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.** It was asked if the Committee felt comfortable with a name change to SWCCOG dba Region 9 to reduce any confusion; the Committee was supportive as long as it is allowed.

b. Summary of activities

The July activities performed by both SWCCOG and Region 9 staff was provided in the packet. This summary will be sent to the SWCCOG Board monthly.

VI. Broadband

Since the Board meeting, the 14 regions expressed interest in meeting with the Colorado Broadband Office to request funding for regional broadband coordinators to provide collaboration and support statewide for broadband coverage.

a. Region 9 as grant applicant for NTIA

Shak Powers provided a presentation on the middle mile program. The goal is to start with the most rural areas and working towards the larger areas. The regional application is for \$89 million and has a 30% match. State programs have been identified to help with match for communities that can't afford the match.

b. Recommendation on 25/75 split

This will be put on the September Board agenda for a vote. Currently, dark fiber income/use is split 75% COG and 25% paid to the applicable partner. The proposal changes the split to 50/50. There was consensus that this would be okay. It was asked if leases could be generated with a town and the tribes without going through the SWCCOG; this is only for SCAN fiber. More research is needed.

c. Purpose of dark fiber to maintenance fund

This will be put on the September Board agenda for a vote. Staff would like to open a separate bank account to keep this restricted funding out of the operating account. There was consensus that this is a good idea and it should go to the full Board.

VII. September meeting draft agenda items

Several items were discussed and will be put on the September Board agenda.

The meeting ended at 3:29 p.m.