

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 9, 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
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

The meeting began at 2:32 p.m.

I. Employee Transition Update and Decision

Laura described the status of the new project manager staff. She described the request related to transferring existing staff to Region 9.

Mark Garcia motioned to authorize staff to proceed with the staff transition to Region 9 including payout of 168 hours of PTO and 60 days of benefits coverage after the transition, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.

II. Region 9 Transition and Timeline

Laura described the status of various transition steps. She mentioned the current status of discussions with DOLA regarding Regions 9's eligibility for grants.

1. Board Membership

Laura suggested, when possible, having the same members on both boards; ultimately she hopes to have a single board. Andrea mentioned they may need to align in the new year. There was discussion about aligning via the regular and alternate members. There was discussion about the composition of the Region 9 board.

Mark asked about the proposed composition of the executive committee. Laura suggested it may depend upon how integrated the organizations become.

2. 2023 Office Space

Laura stated the project manager would be working in Cortez and existing staff works remotely. She asked about ending the existing office lease at the end of the year. Andrea and Willy expressed support for ending the lease. Mark asked if the lease could be ended sooner. Laura replied that staff has already reduced the space to one office, so she would not recommend further changes at this time.

3. Budget Update

Jessica presented the current year end budget estimate. Andrea asked if all members have paid dues. Jessica and Laura replied that they are waiting for dues from some members and are following up. Andrea asked about the CDOT other line. Jessica replied this was support from CDOT for the CDL program, she added that the estimate should be closer to \$5,000. Andrea asked for clarification that some of the revenue estimates are lower than budgeted due to ending a number of projects. Laura replied this is correct. Mark asked about revenue for grant administration. Jessica described the revenue for fiscal administration of various projects.

Jessica described various areas where there will be reduced expenses. There was discussion about the cost for staff included in the budget. Mark asked about the 4-month reserve. Jessica replied the Board had established a reserve policy.

III. 2023 Proposed Dues

Laura described the calculation for the proposed dues structure. Andrea asked for clarification that the proposed dues include both Region 9 and the SWCCOG. Laura replied yes. Andrea asked how the reduction of Region 9's existing dues would impact Region 9. Laura replied that she believes all expenses can be covered at this level. Laura mentioned that she would present this to the Region 9 Executive Committee, then bring to both Boards in July.

IV. CARO Update

Laura described the history of CARO's non-profit status. She provided an update that the group has decided to dissolve the formal status and continue as an informal group.

V. Grant Updates

Jessica and Laura described the status of various grants. Mark asked about the strategy for pursuing grants moving forward. Laura replied it will be important to be involved in the discussions, however individual grants may be more appropriate to be through individual organizations rather than the regional organization. Laura described the prioritization that Region 9 developed and expected it to be similar for the SWCCOG projects.

VI. July meeting logistics

Laura mentioned that the July Region 9 meeting has been offered to be held in Cortez, she asked about holding the SWCCOG Board meeting there as well. Everyone agreed that Cortez was fine. Laura suggested looking to have a more combined meeting. Andrea mentioned ensuring there is a quorum for business.

The meeting ended at 3:42 p.m.