

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
January Board Meeting
Thursday, January 27, 2022, 1:30 p.m.
Video Conference**

In Attendance:

David Black – Town of Bayfield
Mike Lavey – City of Cortez
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs
Alvin Schaaf – Archuleta County
Shari Pierce – Town of Pagosa Springs
Willy Tookey – San Juan County
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio
Olivier Bosmans – City of Durango
Marsha Porter-Norton – La Plata County

Staff in Attendance:

Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Guests in Attendance:

Laura Vanoni – Archuleta County
Mike Segrest – La Plata County
Clyde Church – La Plata County/Region 9
Kelly Koskie – City of Cortez/Region 9
Stephani Burditt – Region 9
Brian Rose – Region 9
Meade Harbison – Region 9
Robert Whitson – Region 9
Tiffany Brodersen - Region 9
Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9
Terry Blair-Burton – Region 9
Chuck Wanner
David Liberman
John Whitney – Senator Bennet’s Office

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda

- a. December 2021 SWCCOG Meeting Minutes
- b. November and December 2021 Financials

Willy Tookey motioned to approve the consent agenda, Mike Lavey seconded, unanimously approved.

Discussion Items

- a. Schedule for Board Retreat
David asked for feedback on the board retreat. Marsha asked about the outcome of the Region 9 meeting. Laura replied that the Region 9 Board approved the services agreement as

presented. Marsha asked if the retreat should be held in person. David suggested setting a tentative date. He mentioned that the SWCCOG and Region 9 need to determine their respective roles. Jessica mentioned that the SWCCOG Board had previously mentioned a need to determine its role, function, and structure. Laura added that if Region 9 were to be involved, it may be preferable to include the Executive Committee, rather than the entire Board. She added that Region 9 is waiting to work more closely pending an approved agreement. Marsha suggested that the SWCCOG Board may wish to have a preliminary meeting to discuss the role of the COG. Laura agreed that Region 9 would need direction from the SWCCOG Board on what direction they would like to go; the expectation is that there would likely continue to be two boards. Shari mentioned that the SWCCOG needs to address its financial stability. She added that the SWCCOG needs to demonstrate the value provided to the governments. Andrea suggested the next step may be to hold a SWCCOG Board retreat, even if it needs to be remote, within the next month. Staff will request availability of the Board members.

Decision Items

a. Ratification of Letters:

1. Letter of Agreement with Region 9

Jessica described the purpose of the letter.

Mark Garcia motioned to ratify this agreement with Region 9, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

2. Letter of dispute resolution with the Department of Local Affairs

Jessica described the purpose of the letter. Marsha mentioned that it is very important to maintain a good relationship with DOLA. Mark suggested that perhaps Patrick be invited to discuss this. He explained that DOLA shared this letter with him and had mentioned that if this proceeds it may have negative implications for COGs across the state to apply for these funds. David asked why this would impact other COGs. Andrea asked if the next step is to table or rescind, recognizing the Laura would be meeting with Patrick to discuss various grants. David reiterated that there was no ill intent and there was benefit to the region. Mark asked if it would be possible to work with the beneficiaries of the project to help close the funding gap. Laura asked if she could send an update to the Board before the next meeting. David Liberman suggested she send it to the Executive Committee, then it could be forwarded to the remainder of the Board.

Olivier Bosmans motioned to table the letter to the Department of Local Affairs, Andrea Phillips seconded, unanimously approved.

3. Letter of Support for Town of Rico Broadband project

Jessica described the purpose of the letter.

Mark Garcia motioned to approve the ratification of the Town of Rico Broadband Project letter, Mike Lavey seconded, unanimously approved

b. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Region 9

Jessica explained that the agreement has been reviewed by legal and approved by Region 9.

Olivier Bosmans motioned to approve the services agreement, Alvin Schaaf seconded. Mark asked about a termination clause. Laura replied there is a 60-day termination clause.
Unanimously approved.

c. Approval to apply for DOLA EIAF Grant - contingent

Jessica described the purpose of the request. Andrea asked if this application should be submitted while there are outstanding issues with other DOLA grants. Mark asked who the applicant would be. Laura replied this would be a SWCCOG grant, Region 9 would be assisting

with oversight. Mark asked if this could be delayed until after Laura has a discussion with DOLA. There was discussion about postponing this decision until February. There was discussion about whether there would be adequate time to prepare an application.

Willy Tookey motioned to authorize submission of the grant application contingent upon confirmation of no concerns from DOLA, Mark Garcia seconded, unanimously approved.

Reports

a. Attendance Report

David mentioned that while full participation would be ideal, it can be challenging for all entities to attend every meeting. Willy asked for recognition of the participants, from the Town of Bayfield and the Town of Pagosa Springs, who did have 100% attendance.

b. Staff report

Jessica summarized the activities identified in the staff report. Mark asked why revenue is down from fiscal administration. Jessica replied that it depends on the project, some of the projects included less work in 2021 than originally planned and the revenue for some projects are pending reimbursement for activities at the end of the year. Mark asked about the two lines for TPR. Jessica replied that a portion of the funding is anticipated for SWCCOG administrative support with the remainder anticipated for project costs and STAC travel reimbursements. Mark requested an update on fund balances at the next meeting.

c. Broadband report

Laura reported that a number of communities are applying for various grants. She mentioned that at this point she is not aware of any projects that are ready to pursue funding. She suggested that the COG's role in broadband may be a topic of discussion for the retreat. There was discussion about waiting to decide whether to pursue available funding opportunities.

d. Fiscal Administration Report

No comments.

e. Grant report:

1. RCAC update

Laura provided an update on the RCAC contract and the Spanish language business classes. She summarized the status of various other grants.

f. Housing Updates

Jessica reported the housing subcommittee has been meeting.

g. Transportation report

No comments.

h. Legislation updates

No comments.

Community updates

Mike reported the City of Cortez is seeking a new city attorney. They hired a parks and recreation director and a public works director. There are ten candidates to replace four City Council members.

Andrea reported the Town of Pagosa Springs will have an election on April 5, there are three council seats and the mayoral seat open. There will be a citizen led ballot question to add a fee

on short term rentals. They are working on various efforts on affordable housing. They are moving forward with the Colorado main street program. They had a successful winter festival. The McCabe Creek project is in winter shutdown.

Mark reported the Town of Ignacio completed their signal project. They are working on their land use and development code; it is scheduled for consideration in February. They are working on downtown redevelopment plans and have begun discussions with ArtSpace. He reported that he is working to encourage the Transportation Commission to work on broadband. The Commission passed the greenhouse gas rule. He reported that Ignacio will have an election in April for mayor and three council seats. They will also be looking at marijuana allowances.

Willy reported that San Juan County is working on workforce housing. The community has been dealing with lack off workforce. They have seen record sales and lodgers taxes. The snowpack has been lacking in January.

Mike reported that La Plata County is focusing on housing. The RHA is looking to award a contract for support services. They are discussing allocation of ARPA funds. They are looking at an annexation to the City of Durango which would include a large housing project.

David reported that the Town of Bayfield is working on several annexation proposals. They are looking at an intersection project which has increased in priority. There are four open seats for the election in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.