

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
March Board Meeting
Thursday, March 17, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Video Conference**

In Attendance:

David Black – Town of Bayfield
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs
Gloria Kaasch-Buerger – Town of Silverton
Willy Tookey – San Juan County
Katie Sickles - Town of Bayfield
Olivier Bosmans – City of Durango
Shari Pierce – Town of Pagosa Springs
Matt Salka – La Plata County
Drew Sanders – City of Cortez

Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in Attendance:

Patrick Rondinelli – Department of Local Affairs
Mike Segrest – La Plata County
Helen Katich - Senator Hickenlooper's Office
John Whitney – Senator Bennet's Office

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Public Comment

Helen congratulated the region's entities on their successful congressionally requested funding requests. She added that the next round for shovel ready projects will be closing. She will continue to send undated information on the infrastructure package.

Consent Agenda

- a. January 2022 Board Minutes
- b. February 2022 Board Minutes
- c. January and February 2022 Financials

Drew Sanders motioned to approve the consent agenda, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.

Discussion Items

- a. Discussion with DOLA Regional Representative
Laura mentioned that the Board had requested that staff reach out to Patrick. Patrick mentioned that staff have been communicative during the transition, including some proposed changes to various projects. He mentioned that there is a lot of discussion related to broadband and DOLA is active in the discussions related to funding opportunities. He described various specific projects throughout the region. Matt asked if the Archuleta project is going east. Patrick described the various routes anticipated, including connecting with CDOT's project to the east. Patrick described various efforts across the state. Matt asked about carrier neutral locations. Laura described various discussions related to broadband, including carrier neutral locations, and mentioned some upcoming events. Patrick encouraged communities to reach out to him.

b. Review outcomes from SWCCOG Board Retreat

Laura summarized the outcomes from the retreat. Laura requested that the Board consider creating a new strategic plan with timelines based on the discussion to include reorganizing the priorities and goals. No concerns were expressed.

c. Project Manager Job Description

Laura explained that there is adequate budget to hire an individual and there had been discussion at the retreat to look at a project manager. She described her recommendation to consider a general project person rather than broadband specific. Matt expressed support for this direction. There was discussion about streamlining the job description.

Matt Salka motioned to proceed as described, Drew Sanders seconded, unanimously approved.

Matt asked if this staff person serve as the lead on middle-mile regional broadband. Laura replied that this is the current expectation.

Decision Items

a. Integration Plan with Region 9

Laura summarized the information provided. She described the request to reduce duplicative expenses, including the suggestion to decrease to one office and integrate software. She suggested ultimately moving toward one board meeting and one board, staff under single entity, a single website, combined newsletters, and one financial audit. Olivier mentioned that it makes sense to begin to move forward on these changes. Drew added that these recommendations seem to be on the right track.

Olivier Bosmans motioned to move forward with the proposed changes to the Microsoft 365 software and to reduce office space, Drew Sanders seconded, unanimously approved, Matt Salka abstained as a member of the Housing Solutions Board.

b. Policy Updates

a. Records Retention Schedule – Resolution 2022-01

Jessica described the purpose of the request. Olivier asked if Region 9 has a similar policy. Laura replied that Region 9 does have a policy. There was discussion about potential concerns with having two policies. Staff will look to develop a combined policy to cover both SWCCOG and Region 9.

Willy Tookey motioned to Adopt Resolution 2022-01 adopting a records retention schedule, Drew Sanders seconded, unanimously approved.

b. Grant Management Guide

Jessica described the purpose of the request.

Willy Tookey motioned to adopt the grant management guide, Matt Salka seconded, unanimously approved.

c. Resolution 2022-02 – Designating Bank Account Signers

Jessica described the purpose of the request. **David Black motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-02 as presented, Gloria Kasch-Buerger seconded, unanimously approved.**

d. Set schedule for next regular Board meeting

Andrea mentioned that the Board had not previously set the schedule for the remainder of the year, so seeking guidance for the next meeting date. Laura suggested holding a separate meeting on the same day as the next Region 9 meeting. Andrea added that the SWCCOG would be invited to listen in on Region 9 meeting then have joint lunch. Drew expressed interest

in eventually integrating with Region 9 on a quarterly schedule, Willy expressed support for this. Andrea asked if there would be a remote option. Laura replied that staff does intend to offer a hybrid option. There was consensus to meet on April 28 at 1:30 p.m.

e. SWCCOG-SWTPR Contract

Jessica described the purpose of the request. Drew asked if the SWCCOG should continue with this. Laura replied that this had previously been housed under Region 9. Drew asked what would happen if this were not adopted. Laura replied the management would probably go back to Region 9 as it needs to be managed by a regional organization. David advocated to continue with this contract. Olivier suggested evaluating how tasks are split between Region 9 and the COG. Laura said she has no concerns with this being managed by the COG. She added that staff will compile the tasks performed under COGs vs EDDs, while recognizing that elsewhere the organizations are combined.

Olivier Bosmans motioned to approved the SWCCOG-SWTPR management contract, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.

f. Broadband update and direction

Laura described the broadband efforts she has been working on. She described the request to work with Diane to get updated on the SCAN network. She summarized discussions related to updating the broadband project plan. Matt expressed support due to uncertainty with network. Laura added that the intent is to do an update on the work she had previously done.

Willy Tookey motioned to authorize additional work with NEO Connect not to exceed \$5,000 and to seek a bid to update the Broadband plan, Matt Salka seconded, unanimously approved.

g. Appoint representative to San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council
Jessica described the purpose behind having a SWCCOG Board representative on the Council. Laura suggested asking the Region 9 Board for volunteers. There was consensus to ask the Region 9 Board.

h. Ratification of Letter of Support – Housing Solutions for the Southwest

Andrea described the purpose of the request.

Drew Sanders motioned to ratify the letter of support for the Housing Solutions for the Southwest for the water well for Southwest Horizon Ranch, Willy Tookey seconded, unanimously approved.

Reports

a. Attendance Report

Written report only.

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. Housing Updates
Written report only.

g. Transportation report
Written report only.

h. Legislation updates
Jessica reported that under HB22-1282, creating the Innovative Housing Incentive Program, business that manufacture certain types of housing such as modular, prefabricated panelized or 3-D printed, would be able to apply for funding through the program.

Community updates

David reported that the Town of Bayfield will not have an election, they will have three new trustees. Katie added that they are working on the east intersection to US 160. They are looking at a pedestrian crossing and to move the speed limit locations. They are looking at a number of annexations. They are working on workforce housing including looking at deed restrictions.

Drew reported the City of Cortez has an election in progress, there are four open seats including Mayor Lavey's seat. They are working on delinquent audits; they are complete through 2018. They have an open RFP for the broadband system.

Gloria reported the Town of Silverton's election is coming up, although they may not end up having an election. They received a CHFA grant for the Anvil Mountain Subdivision, they are drafting RFPs for design and construction. They received a Main Street Open for Business grant for solar and façade improvements.

Matt mentioned that he will share a recorded session regarding broadband mapping software with Laura. He reported that La Plata County is working on a weather radar with expected completion by 2024. They are having discussions on carrier neutral locations. They are working on ARPA funding allocations, they have allocated funding to broadband, housing and homeless, and social impacts. They have approved funding to help a mobile home park. Mike added that the County has been working to help with acquisition of a mobile home park. He mentioned HB22-1287 to help local entities preserve mobile home parks.

Olivier commended the County for their efforts on the mobile home park. He reported that the City of Durango has a large number of housing units in various stages of development. The primary concern for various types of projects is increased cost.

Willy thanked David for serving on the Board. He reported that San Juan County's sales tax collections are strong. The demand for housing and property values are up. They are working on signage to manage off-road vehicles.

Andrea reported that the Town of Pagosa Spring' election is in April, they have three seats up. There is a short-term rental fee ballot question for funds to workforce housing. They are having challenges with the sanitation collection system. They are working on workforce housing.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.