



Board of Directors Meeting

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Thursday, September 25, 2025

Dolores Community Center, 400 Riverside Ave., Dolores, Colorado 81323

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85936567645>

MINUTES

Board Members (* Indicates elected at this meeting): Willy Tookey, San Juan County; Colleen O’Brien, La Plata At-Large; Mary Jo Coulehan, Archuleta At-Large; Gilda Yazzie, City of Durango; Nick Manning, Town of Mancos; Colton Black, Southern Ute Tribe; Mark Garcia, Town of Ignacio; Leigh Reeves, Town of Dolores; Cassie Alexander, Montezuma At-Large; Tommy Crosby, City of Durango Alt.; John Waters*, Town of Bayfield; Robert Whitson, La Plata At-Large; Kent Lindsay, Montezuma County; Danya Kranker, Town of Silverton Alt.; Chauncey McCarthy, Town of Rico; Veronica Medina, Archuleta County; Justin Osborn, La Plata At-Large; Jennifer Green, Town of Pagosa Springs; Dan Fernandez; Dolores County At-Large; David Harris, Town of Pagosa Alt.; Linda Yellowman, Dolores County; Scott Baker, City of Cortez; Matt Salka, La Plata County; Shawn Gregory, Montezuma At-Large; and Cathleen Giovanni, Archuleta County Alt.

Region 9 Staff & Contractors: Brian Rose, Laura Lewis Marchino, Shak Powers, Shirley Jones, Stephani Burditt, Tiffany Broderson, Irina Hauser, Audrey Royem, Terry Blair-Burton, Jenny Stollar, and Allyson Barker.

Guests: Lisa Pool- Senator Hickenlooper’s Representative; Kami Collins, OEDIT; Meridith Marshall, OEDIT; Wendy Stuart Martinez, OEDIT; Sarah Tober, La Plata Economic Alliance; Pattie Copenhafer, Aspen House Representative; Sarah Moore; Lorraine Hancock; Will Francis; Agile Space Industries; and Chris Tookey.

A. Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:10am by Willy Tookey, Board Chair.

B. Amendments to the Agenda

An amendment was made to include H. 1c. in the Enterprise Zone section to include San Juan Development Association as a contribution project.

C. Election of Board Members

The following board members (including alternates) have terms expiring at our January Board meeting: Mary Jo Coulehan, Willy Tookey, Colleen O Brien, Dan Fernandez, Janae Hunderman, Chauncey McCarthy, Scott Baker (Drew Sanders), Beth Cascadden (Chairman Heart), Veronica Medina (Cathleen Giovannini), Nick Manning (Andres Esparza), Colton Black (Meade Harbison), Leigh Reeves, and Kent Lindsay (Jim Candelaria), Terms are two years in length, but several members were approved mid-term. For those with terms expiring, Region 9 staff will be in touch

to see if you are interested in continuing. We know that Mary Jo Coulehan and Mark Garcia will be retiring at the end of 2025 and Gloria Kaasch-Buerger will be moving out of the area. **Veronica Medina made a motion to approve John Waters to the Region 9 Board as the Bayfield Representative. Robert Whitson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

1. Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics was provided in the packet and at the meeting. This a form that needs to be signed annually for several of our grant and loan programs. All Board members were asked to sign and return it.

D. Consent Agenda

Board of Director’s Quarterly Meeting Minutes from July 31, 2025

The Quarterly SWCCOG/Region 9 EDD Board of Directors meeting minutes from July 31, 2025, were provided in the packet.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from September 8, 2025

The SWCCOG/Region 9 EDD Executive Committee minutes from September 8, 2025, were provided in the packet. These minutes have been redacted to protect the identity of the loan clients. Unredacted minutes can be made available to those who have signed a confidentiality agreement.

Proposed 2026 Meeting Dates

The proposed meeting dates are to be the last Thursdays of the month: January 29, April 30, July 30, and September 24.

Colleen O’Brien made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mary Jo Coulehan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Business Loan Fund

1. Portfolio and Delinquency Report and New Loans

The loan portfolio and delinquency amounts were redacted for client confidentiality and provided in the packet. Below is a list of loans closed since the July Board meeting. Loan activity has been slow and traditionally it is slow during the last quarter of the year. There are currently 226 active loans.

9318 Development	\$175,000	San Juan
This is another loan for the Anvil Mountain Housing project.		
Wilkerson Sawmill	\$30,000	Montezuma
This loan was increased from the previous approval in May 2025.		
Christie’s Wood & Glass	\$70,000	La Plata

This loan was made to a new owner for the expansion of the business.

Durango Home Fix

\$37,800

La Plata

This business provides service to property management firms and second homeowners.

2. FY2025 Production Tracking

The spreadsheet tracking loan activity including loans approved and closed as compared to Region 9's monthly goals was provided in the packet. For this fiscal year, loan production was projected to end at \$2,403,000. This is slightly above the minimum goal but behind the budgeted growth of \$250,000/mo. This fiscal year also saw more than \$2.0 million in loan payoffs, and this kept the portfolio from growing. There was much uncertainty in the economy during this fiscal year centered around tariffs, economic impacts, and disruptions from the new federal administration.

There was a question that with the interest rate slowing down, would that help activity; no, we usually run at prime + 2 and so it will not be that impactful. Region 9 usually sees an uptick in applications in January. The Board thanked Brian for all his hard work and noted that he would be missed.

3. Resolution #25-11 Designation as a CBDO

The CDBG Loan Funds have a new administrator at the state who has been implementing changes to meet CDBG/HUD requirements and program compliance. They are requiring additional requirements for revolved funds unless we designate our organization as a Community based Development Organization (CBDO). This requires Loan Committees to have certain members such as bankers or a lawyer etc. It would also require some wording changes in our policies and Articles of Incorporation that all funds are reinvested to support its mission, and none of its earnings are distributed for the personal gain of any individual. Region 9 meets most of the requirements and intends to make the required changes to avoid any restrictions on our revolved funding. Currently the Loan Policies do not state we need a Low to Moderate Income representative, and some of the financial requirements have been raised in our favor, and there is more flexibility in how revolved funds are used. **Gilda Yazzie made a motion to approve Resolution #25-11, as presented. Cassie Alexander seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.** Any changes to the Loan Policies or Articles of Incorporation will be brought to the Board at the January Board meeting for approval.

F. Report from the Executive Director

1. Executive Director Evaluation

The compiled results of Laura's evaluation provided by staff and Board members was provided in the packet. The Executive Director is under an annual employment contract. This year 22 people participated. Board Chair, Willy Tookey provided a summary. **Mark Garcia made a motion to affirm the Executive Committee's decision to keep Laura as Executive Director, set the salary at \$145K and provide a \$3,000 bonus. Leigh Reeves seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

2. Staff, Project, and Funding/Grant Updates

Below are the highlights of staff, grants, and projects since the July Board meeting:

- Received the contract for the \$47K CHIPS grant through OEDIT to determine the potential of the microchip/semi-conductor industry in our area. Any identified areas will be able to apply for implementation funds. Staff met with Region 10, which also received funds to look at a possible joint RFP process for a consultant. In consultation with the State, they would prefer two rather than one project and report and the RFP will be released in early October.
- EDA- High Alpine equipment grant – An updated grant proposal to help cover broadband equipment programming will be submitted before October. Tiffany and Laura met with EDA staff in mid-September to review the application and discuss match. The application amount looks to total about \$460K including a 40% match.
- Received an additional contract for \$1 Million in Colorado Forest Loan Funds for timber related businesses.
- Waiting to hear the status on a \$5M request for additional funds from OEDIT for the Colorado Start Up Loan Fund. Repaid principal will be returned to the State annually, but fees and interest, plus administration funds, will stay with Region 9. This is a partnership application with several rural regions who will participate, and Region 9 will be the administrator. We expect to receive \$2-\$3M.
- Region 9 received a contract of \$170,772 in Just Transition funds to support our broadband work in La Plata County, which is a tier 2 County, one of five counties eligible for these funds. This grant will allow for additional broadband training money in addition to continuing to connect the Alpine Loop. The training is being advertised for a late September date. Some of the grants will match our new EDA Broadband Alpine application.
- The Finance Team is working to update Accounting procedures and an Accounting How to Guide to reflect on the new paperless procedures. These will be brought to the Executive Committee for approval.
- Region 9 has been looking at providing some elected officials training. There is interest in area government but making sure we have capacity (and funding) would be helpful. It is Executive Committee direction that due to staff changes, taking on new projects be delayed.
- Executive Committee approved Region 9 pay off the two SBA loans from our revolved loan fund due to the difficulty in finding clients that can meet and maintain the standards of the SBA underwriting criteria, and due to the fact that we are not generating enough volume to qualify for any additional technical assistance funding (grant money). These loans were made to Region 9 at a 0% interest rate, and we are paying \$3,250.75/mo. in principal payments. The current SBA portfolio of \$69,876.57 is only generating \$349.14 in monthly interest to make the loan payments. Paying off the loans will reduce administration time, improve Region 9's net monthly cash flow by \$2,901.61; free up \$239,106.62 in restricted funds currently held in SBA designated accounts (4) and create a net increase in revolved loan funds of \$95,039.13 (5 + #6 - \$206,944.06 payoff).

- Alpine Bank contributed \$5K for Broadband work, joining Bank of the San Juans, First National Bank of Cortez, and Dolores State Bank in utilizing the EZ Tax credit to help leverage our broadband funding.

Region 9 has just hired a new office manager, Allyson Baker, who worked with Agile and Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory. Our previous Office Manager, Jennifer Sierra, was only with us three months before returning to a previous employer.

Brian Rose has also submitted his resignation with his last day being October 8th. The job is being advertised, and we hope to have someone in place in early October.

An updated spreadsheet of all Region9/SWCCOG grants and their status were provided in the packet.

3. Economic Development Leader

Every year, Region 9 selects an Economic Development Leader of the Year, which is recognized at our annual meeting in January. Last year the award went to Kris Oyler, the managing partner of Kris Oyler is managing partner of El Moro, Steamworks, and Home slice Pizza restaurants in Durango with 400+ employees. He has a long history with Region 9 as a past loan client and current Vice Chair of the Loan Committee. Joe Theine with Southwest Memorial Hospital. Board members, Dan Fernandez, Mary Jo Coulehan, and Bernadette Cuthair have also been recognized. The recognition traditionally goes to someone who goes beyond their paid job to improve their community. Staff provided some nominees and asked the Board for additional nominees. **To give the winner a surprise the details are not included in these minutes, but a hand vote was conducted with a majority approving the Leader of the Year.**

G. Financial Report

1. Financial Statements through August 31, 2025

The financial statements from October 1, 2024, through August 30, 2025, which include a summary sheet, the Statement of Revenues & Expenditures with a Budget Comparison and the Balance Sheet were provided in the packet. The Statement of Revenues & Expenditures shows a year-to-date revenue of \$2,099,700, which is 57.14% of the budget. Total expenditures are \$1,989,041, for a net revenue over expenditures of \$110,658. This report also contains the year-to-date Budgeted Revenue & Expenditures, prior Year-to-Date actuals, and the percentage used of the current total budget. The Balance Sheet has total assets of \$15,583,146, total liabilities of \$3,308,489 and net assets of \$12,274,656.

Discussion

It was noted that Region 9's interest income on invested funds was above budget. Grant Revenues were below budget due to not receiving the EDA grant for COG broadband equipment.

Revenues are at 57% but expenses were tracking close at 58%. Internet expenses continue to track higher than budgeted due to implementation of the new accounts' payable approval process software. It was asked on the actuals vs budgeted why is the line flat; it is how we enter the budget in the system; it is spread throughout the year? Are staff concerned about the grant funding going forward? There was a 6 month hold on EDA grant, but we had to order the equipment before the tariffs went into effect and had to pull the grant. The state and foundations are trying to fill the gap in federal funding but there is much more competition for funding. Laura does not think this will impact staff, but we are looking at ways to reduce expenses. It was asked if the loan projections need to be changed with the staffing changes and the current economic environment. The loan projections are very conservative. **Mary Jo Coulehan made a motion to approve August 31, 2025, financial Statements as presented. Leigh Reeves seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

2. Approval of Fiscal Year 25-26 Budget

The proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year with several attachments including: Fund Descriptions which provide a description of the different funds, Budget Narrative, Budget Summary (Exhibit A), Budget Detail (Exhibit B), Governmental Type Budget Items (Exhibit C), Business Type Loan Fund Projections (Exhibit D) was provided in the packet.

Revenue is budgeted at \$3,177,705 and expenses at \$3,069,547 with net income at \$108,158. Highlights in the budget included:

- Added a column for 9/30/25 Forecast of year end numbers.
- Added a column for 2024-2025 Budget for comparison purposes.
- Loan projections in Exhibit D are conservative due to not knowing loan demand.
- Loan loss is estimated to be higher due to higher percentage of struggling clients.
- Includes a COLA bonus of \$2080 and 2% merit increase.
- The budget only includes permitting costs but not the building addition which will be bid and paid for through a loan. Region 9 paid down their mortgage when receiving SCAPE funds but kept payments the same to pay down principal. If receive loan for expansion, that extra amount currently being paid can be used for the loan.

The Executive Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the budget at their September 8th meeting. It was asked if the TPR is a pass-through of the SWCCOG; Region 9 was able to put it under Region 9. **Colleen O'Brien made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Chauncey McCarthy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

H. Program Reports

1. Enterprise Zone – Terry Blair Burton

a. Boundary Redesignation Update

OEDIT has reviewed all the data and is in the process of finalizing the new boundary designations around the state. They have reviewed applications for regional EZ administrators, like Region 9 EDD, which helps support the EZ program. All the information will be presented at the Economic Development Commission (EDC) meeting in October for final approval of regional EZ administrators and new boundaries, and goes into effect January 1, 2026, for the next 10 years until 2035.

For active EZ businesses located within the EZ now, but will no longer be eligible, they can apply to grandfather. Staff will be reaching out to these businesses to see if they are interested in applying for grandfathered EZ status. This special designation will allow businesses to continue to claim EZ tax credits for any ongoing current investments and/or future expansion plans. Applications for grandfathered EZ status will be accepted starting in October through December. If designated by statewide peer review, the business can earn and claim preapproved EZ tax credits for the next 10 years. Region 9 staff are scheduling presentations in all impacted counties to provide information on the changes in addition to social media and other marketing options. It was asked how many were using the tax credit; it is hard to know. Many pre-certify and do not always utilize the tax credits each year. There will be changes in Archuleta, La Plata, and Dolores Counties. Staff will be presenting on the changes in each of the three counties to inform businesses.

Discussion:

It was asked how the Chambers can be more effective to get more business to these presentations. Staff have sent several emails to the businesses they know and are keeping accountants and business owners informed. It was asked if Region 9's email list could be shared with the areas that are being impacted so more outreaches can be made; staff will send the flyer to the database list.

b. Aspen Services

A Safe Place in Pagosa currently has an EZ contribution project under Aspen House, which was approved by the Board in September 2023, and is a capital campaign to construct a group home for adults with developmental disabilities. They have secured property and are moving forward with construction. This project's EZ status is due to expire year end 2028. A Safe Place in Pagosa is now applying for new EZ project status to support the operations of Aspen Services, so they can continue to provide services to adults with developmental disabilities. These services will be provided to youth and adults, which include job readiness skills and coaching, job training, and job placement. Their goal is to raise operational funds and hire additional staff. Pattie Copenhafer presented it to the Board. **Veronica Medina made a motion to approve Aspen Services' Enterprise Zone contribution project application as presented. Jennie Green seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.** It was noted that this organization provides such great opportunities for Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

c. San Juan Development Association

San Juan Development Association will be utilizing the EZ Contribution Project to provide critical operational funding and support for key Main Street programming. These funds will help sustain initiatives such as Art Through the Seasons, the Silverton Year Rounder Program, business support services including technical assistance and workshops, and the administrative support for the SJDA Business Loan Fund. By investing in these programs, the EZ Contribution Project will strengthen our ability to foster economic vitality, enhance community engagement, and ensure long-term sustainability for Silverton's businesses and residents. **Dan Fernandez made a motion to approve Aspen Services' Enterprise Zone contribution project application as presented. Danya Kranker seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

2. Regional Projects Report

A report covering Transportation, Housing and Broadband activities under the direction of Shak Powers was provided in the packet. Also included was a PowerPoint overview of the region's draft Broadband Business Plan.

Shak noted that Region 9 received an \$83,900 HPLN grant from DOLA to automate the regional Housing Needs Assessment Template Project, supporting SB24-174 compliance. Shak also noted his appointment with the Governor's Regional Planning Roundtable Commission to strengthen rural representation in land use and housing coordination.

Related to transportation, Shak reported that the SWTPR reviewed the 2050 and 10-Year transportation plans and proposed recording meetings to post to YouTube.

Shak presented an update on broadband infrastructure projects in Region 9, highlighting the allocation of \$87.9 million from the NTIA for fiber readiness and other connectivity initiatives. He also pointed out that of the State matches for BEAD, projects in Region 9 received more than half. He further explained the importance of building redundant fiber networks to ensure reliable internet access in remote areas, noting that private industry cannot justify the costs due to low customer density. Shak emphasized the need for cost-sharing agreements with neighboring regions and member governments to ensure long-term sustainability of the project. He also discussed the potential for expanding services to New Mexico and the importance of securing additional funding to cover ongoing costs after grant funding runs out.

Shak noted that the cost for establishing a middle mile network is cost prohibitive, which is why private industry has not already built such a network. However, all our communities ranked

broadband connectivity as a high priority in their last CDAPs. The levers we can pull are increasing sales (leases on the SCAN network, and CNL rack space in Durango): Looking for ways to revenue/cost share with member governments (including cost sharing multi-jurisdictional IRUs); and/or finding ways to subsidize the costs. One method Shak mentioned for pursuing subsidies was working with our congressional delegates to try to secure funds from the \$400 million in BEAD that the State is not using and trying to recapture the \$3.3 billion in defaulted RDOF. Shak is meeting with the technical subcommittee on a regular basis to examine which levers can be realistically pulled, and how.

Discussion:

Is there an update on the status of Wolf Creek; no, there is still an issue being resolved in court between CDOT and Paonia. Is it true that more of the BEAD money went to satellite providers? No, it does not really impact Region 9's programs; The downside to satellite technology is less dependable than fiber and can be interrupted by weather and there is more latency. Is NTIA funding going to come down the pipe with the potential shutdown? This depends on how long the shutdown lasts. The first round of Colorado Broadband Office funding should happen in October for Middle Mile. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe has been collaborating with Region 9 and have helped provide fiber to Arboles and other surrounding areas with State funds. Their focus is Tribal residences but there are so many gaps geographically that additional connections are needed. Shak is not aware of restrictions on Bandwidth from satellite providers; they are required to have one hundred shown by twenty-five up.

3. Economic Development

a. CEDS Presentation

Audrey Royem presented on the CEDS five-year update plan and work to date, as well as introduced herself. She distributed a survey to the Board and mentioned the CEDS group will be meeting in Farmington.

b. Economic Development Updates

Audrey has been educating herself on the local, community realities through personal interviews with key stakeholders in each community, including government officials, economic development organizations, and non-profits. Highlights included:

La Plata County Economic Development Alliance (The Alliance): The Alliance held their 2025 Alliance Summit on Sept. 11, 2025, at the Sky Ute Casino and Audrey attended a monthly meeting as well. They are also hiring a new Program Manager. They have an upcoming board retreat as well.

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC): Audrey is attending their monthly board meetings and the PSCDC continues its support for investing in the local workforce by providing young people with the opportunity to gain real-world work experience, though scaled back from previous years. They also held a training on Broadband early Sept. They continue to work on housing issues. And created community support for their Main Street area, with art and wine, turning a challenging situation into an opportunity.

Montezuma Leadership Network (MLN): The County has decided that MLN should spearhead much of the “economic development” areas, while they focus on more traditional areas. The office has been looking at how they navigate this new space.

Southern Ute Tribe: They continue to push for small scale entrepreneurship with a couple classes and workshops. The Farmer’s Market (Wednesday) has been a success, growing in interest and participation. Their housing project (60 units) is going well. They need to update their CEDS, again.

Ute Mountain Ute: Chairman Heart is not running for reelection in October, thus creating uncertainty about the future, as candidates may take the Tribe in a different direction. They have opened the Indian Trading Post, on the eastern side of Cortez; and a trading post at the Four Corners. They are working to also address food security by opening a grocery store at the old “Woody’s” gas station. They have also worked to address educational access by adding another year to their local school.

City of Cortez: Recently lost Rachel Marchbanks, Community and Economic Development Director, while Jason Armstrong is stepping in, doubling with Planning & Zoning. They are looking at development opportunities along their Southern Corridor and updating their comprehensive plan.

City of Durango: Tommy Crosby, with the Prosperity Office, has been working with the Good Food Collective to address bottlenecks for entrepreneurs in the food service industry; as well as working with the

Town of Ignacio: The town is looking to replace their Town Manager, Mark Garcia, who will leave at the end of this year. Before leaving, he hopes to finish the Rock Point housing development. Mark highlights the identified need for a Comprehensive Plan; and more strategic cooperation with the Tribe to address regional, collaborative development.

Town of Dove Creek: The town is looking forward to connecting their very outdated water sources to Montezuma Water, a win for the community; and they actively address sanitation infrastructure updates as well.

Town of Mancos: Have not attended. However, aware that they are moving forward with a Main Street program and have completed some sidewalk work. Fam Burger chain has just opened, and the school district is proposing a mill levy hoping to increase wages.

Town of Bayfield: Recently Bayfield welcomed their new Town Manager, John Waters, with a can-do attitude, he is interested in addressing housing, and commercial opportunities.

Eco Devo Meet Ups:

Audrey reported that this program is phenomenally successful, and every participant expresses enthusiasm, other people have heard of it and ask to also be included! We are hoping to secure a near future day in Farmington where we look forward to collaborating with our regional partners and learning from different perspectives.

Economic Data Platforms:

Region 9 successfully secured a grant to help fund the Eco Devo Meet Up events in 2025. Part of the funding will support upgrades to Region 9's existing data subscriptions. Key improvements include more and diverse types of data and increased customized data specific to priority projects such as Livable Wage and local initiatives such as the La Plata County Early Childcare Strategic Investment Plan. Please go to our website dashboard to see this tool in action. We also have negotiated a deal whereby each county/municipal can use the data widget in their website, increasing community knowledge and trust. Reach out if you want this in your community!

I. Other Business

1. Region 9 Executive/Audit Committee meeting will be scheduled December 2nd.

J. Adjourn Region 9 EDD Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am.

**Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (SWCCOG)
Board of Directors Meeting**

A. Call SWCCOG Meeting to Order

Mark Garcia called the SWCCOG Board meeting to order at 12:41pm

B. Amendments to the Agenda

None provided

C. Public Comment

None provided

D. Consent Agenda (Action Required)

None provided

E. Decision Items (Action Required)

1. Approval of Updated Accessibility Policies

The current accessibility policies were provided in the packet. An accessibility logo section has been added to meet UADA requirements and is highlighted in red. The policy attachments are being updated as latest information is received. **Willy Tookey made a motion to approve the Updated Accessibility Policies as presented. Leigh Reeves seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

1. Accept Financial Report August 31, 2025

The SWCCOG financials through August 31, 2025, were provided in the packet. They are in QuickBooks, but the SWCCOG financials continue to be converted into ABILA. Total revenue is \$778,709, total expenses are \$719,398 plus other income of \$2,025 for a final net income of \$61,336. Account 4170 in Broadband is the community match for the broadband project. Total assets as of August 31, 2025, are \$416,818 with total liabilities of \$114,359 for total net assets aka total equity of \$302,459. **Willy Tookey made a motion to approve the August 31, 2025, SWCCOG financials statements as presented. Leigh Reeves seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

F. Discussion Items

1. Draft 2026 Fiscal Year Budget

The draft 2026 Fiscal Year Budget includes the three-year budget comparison for discussion and direction. Staff will have a better idea of the ending fund balance closer to the end of 2025. There are nine funds running through SWCCOG and in the packet are the fund descriptions. There are three open All-Hazard grants that projects will be billed against leaving a zero balance.

Discussion:

- SWCCOG is expecting to receive an additional All-Hazard grant for 25-26.
- There are funds available for Grants Navigator until June 2026.
- We continue to work on the middle mile broadband project as funding becomes available, and the budget reflects the dark fiber leases as well as the CNL activity.
- The COG just received a grant to build a template for Housing Needs Assessments that all communities can access and that was included in the budget.
- The Eco Devo grant should also be expended in 2026.
- Total budgeted revenue is \$2,229,418, total expenditures of 2,830,256 for Net Revenue over Expenditures of \$58,849.

No action was required at this meeting, and the budget will be approved at the December meeting.

2. Staff, SWCCOG Project and Funding/Grant Updates

- All Hazards site visit – Dept of Homeland Security compliance officers conducted a site visit and audit of the All-Hazards program on July 29th at the Region 9 Office. The All-Hazards audit was conducted, and follow-up information including policies and processes have been sent. We are awaiting the final report. The SWCCOG serves as a fiscal agent for these funds that are distributed to emergency managers and services across five counties. Grant reimbursements are being paid and the active All Hazard grants are continuing as planned. There is an open application for 25-26 funds that the Emergency Managers are applying for which may not be part of the 2026 SWCCOG Budget. It was mentioned that grants are not as regional and are more directed to individual communities.
- DOLA awarded the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments a Housing Planning Grant (HPLN) award for \$83,900 to support the Southwest Colorado Master Needs Assessment Template.

G. Other Business

1. Board Terms and Elections

The SWCCOG Board are the same government members as the Region 9 Board of Directors. The SWCCOG Executive Committee is in place to manage any SWCCOG specific business as needed. The current Officers are Mark Garcia, Chair, Veronica Medina, Vice Chair, Jennie Green, Treasurer, and Gloria Kaasch-Buerger, Secretary. The Officer positions are elected annually. Mark Garcia, Town of Ignacio and the current SWCCOG Board Chair, will be retiring at the end of 2025, and Gloria Kassch-Buerger, Town of Silverton and current SWCCOG Secretary will also be leaving her position on the Board. If anyone is interested in serving on the SWCCOG Executive

Committee, please let staff know as elections will be held at the January Board meeting. Please reach out to Laura if you are interested in serving on the Executive Committee.

2. Thank you, Mark Garcia, for your service to Region 9 EDD and the SWCCOG.

H. Adjourn SWCCOG Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.