



Region 10 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2021
Via Hybrid Zoom Video Conference and
In Person at Cascade Hall 336 S 3rd Street, Montrose CO

1. **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS**–Meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m.
 - a. **In Person:** Roland Mason (Chair, Gunnison County), Vince Rogalski (GVTPR), Linda Riba (Montrose County), Ben Tisdell (Ouray County), John Clark (Town of Ridgway), Jon Waschbusch (Treasurer, Montrose County), Don Suppes (Delta County), Corey Bryndal (Region 10), Michelle Haynes (Region 10), Dan Scinto (Region 10), Nancy Murphy (Region 10), Eva Veitch (Region 10), Trish Thibodo (Region 10), Virgil Turner (Region 10),
 - b. **Hybrid on Zoom:** Elyse Casselberry (City of Delta), Mary Hockenbery (Town of Hotchkiss), Roger Rash (Past Chair, Montrose County), Barbara Bynum (City of Montrose), Kris Holstrom (Vice Chair, San Miguel County), Jack Gilbride, Zoe Dohnal (Town of Telluride), Kristie Borchers (Hinsdale County), Dave Roberts (Town of Lake City), Michael Bacani (Town of Mt. Crested Butte), Jim Gelwick(City of Gunnison), Mike Bordogna (San Miguel County)
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
 - a. Addition of DOLA Grants that we will be submitting. Business Items B i. & B ii.
Motion to approve Agenda with additions: M/S: Roland Mason/Ben Tisdell as accepted. None opposed.
3. **Honoring Virgil:** A moment was taken to honor Virgil Turner for his retirement and recognize his instrumental role in moving Region 10 in Broadband and all other areas of the organization.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for June 24, 2021, Board Meeting**
Motion to approve: M/S: John Clark/Jon Waschbusch as accepted. None opposed.
5. **Business Items:**
 - a. **CEDS Presentation:** Trish presented an overview of the updated CEDS for 2021-2026 for our Region. As an EDA Economic Development District, Region 10 is responsible for preparation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy within our region, which the Board of Directors approves. This updated CEDS has a focus on Resiliency.
 - i. Theme that came out of all the meetings was overarching goal: Creating Livable Communities. Since we last updated the CEDS in 2019 there has been a shift in the focus to create and maintain livable communities rather than a focus on just attracting people to the region.
 - ii. Regional/County Fact Sheets will be updated annually.
 - iii. Plan Summary with and Overview – There was discussion about the CEDS strategies and highlighted all the ways in which we are building resiliency.
 1. Workforce component really changed. In the past it has been about attracting a workforce and we have shifted to “grow-you-own” and retaining a talented workforce.
 2. Recent Events: Closure of the Mines, pandemic, etc.
 3. Key Industries & Clusters: Industries that bring in outside dollars. With Snapshots, adding manufacturing before it is submitted to the EDA
 4. Actions: We worked on creating Broad Actions to be able to support an array of projects that each of the counties are working on or may want to work on within the next 5 years. When you apply for funding, you can be asked what page number and action number it is in your regional planning.
 - a. Strategy One: Supporting entrepreneurship and those entities that help businesses and their owners thrive.
 - b. Strategy Two: A focus in manufacturing, ag, ag-manufacturing and tourism to support those that want to bring more in and those that want to manage tourism better.
 - c. Strategy Three: Housing, childcare & transit: Placemaking, inclusive and accessible downtown corridors, encourage the involvement in federal main street programs.
 - d. Strategy Four: Infrastructure: new additions are; improving the region’s water and sewer systems. Need to add, “Support communities in water use efficiency and conservation and water storage infrastructure.”

- e. Strategy Five: Workforce: Providing a variety of opportunities through training.
- iv. Next Steps: Draft available on our website for public comment. Submit to the EDA by September 30th.
- v. Ben: Infrastructure: do we want to mention Rail Structure? Resiliency: Montrose Forest Products (Logging) (Picture of the Saw cut, Corey?) How are we trying to respond to beetle kill.

Action Item: Approved as presented today with minor additions and changes from public comments.

Motion to Approve: M/S: Don Suppes/Ben Tisdell. None opposed.

b. DOLA Grants:

i. Ongoing Broadband Coordination Position: Technical Assistance Support

1. Provides funding for support and provides money for the position and they help pay the salary and we provide travel & administrative support. Submitting next week. (Virgil is one and Region 12 has one) State Broadband Coordinators – between the two they provide support for the state. It does help us provide connections throughout the state.

Action Item: Approve application for DOLA Grant for the Broadband Coordination Position

Motion to Approve: Jim Gelwicks/Don Suppes. None opposed.

ii. Hinsdale County Broadband Project:

1. Private provider (Visionary) we will work with them on establishing a Carrier Neutral Location. They have a location that we would utilize. We would provide a capital upgrade. Would support a significant middle-mile project that would help them with significant last mile projects.
2. Between the County and the Town of Lake City we are looking to be able to meet the match and GCA has committed to a match as of 8/25/2021.

Action Item: Approve DOLA Grant for the Hinsdale County Broadband Project

Motion to Approve: Kristi Borchers/Dave Roberts. None opposed.

iii. Potential project from Nucla to Durango.

- iv. For the USDA RISE grant to support the Olathe Business Center there were a lot of grants that did not make it through the eligibility process. Ours has gotten comment on the national level but we will not find out until September some time if we have received an award.
- v. DOLA REDI Grant that we applied for a program coordinator for the Entrepreneurship Program that we were awarded. Now Round 2 is opening and we are considering applying for a second grant for the Olathe program to support the expanded Olathe Business Center.

c. EDA: There is a lot of money coming down from a lot of different sources from ARPA Trish presented an overview of the Grant funding that is available or planned to be available.

i. DRO: Denver Regional Office (Represents 10 States)

- ii. Statewide Planning, Colorado received \$1 million. (Example: Roadmap to Recovery, waiting to hear from the state.
- iii. Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBB) Allowing EDA to fund larger regions. Encouraging applicants to be multiple regions and even go across state lines. \$1 Billion Available in 2 phases:
 1. 1 \$500,00 no match grant
 2. 20-30 regions total, with \$100 million going to coal impacted communities.
 3. We have been encouraged by the EDA to submit a regional application.
 4. Development of new industry clusters, how do you create new economic industry driver. Thinking about changing an economy. We are considering application for support of light manufacturing with a focus on outdoor recreation.
- iv. Travel & Tourism: State of CO is getting \$ that they will determine how they will sub-grant it out. There will be \$9 million distributed out from the 10 State Denver Region.
- v. Economic Adjustment Assistance: surrounds education and getting people back to work. \$24 million will go to Coal Impacted communities. - October 1st, have your application in now in the 1st Phase.
- vi. Only funding that supports healthcare
- vii. Good Jobs: Good workforce regional training, supporting the plan and implementing it. Will be competitive.
- viii. Talking with other Federal Agencies that we may have opportunities for funding.
- ix. **Region 10's strategy:** We will visit. We met with the Denver Regional Office and our Grants Manager. They did encourage us to partner with Utah. Do we want to go in as a larger region with 2-3 projects that would be transformative of the region.
 1. Regional Broadband Project, connect to Denver, Emery, Southwest Region of CO, get into Craig, loop them all together.
 2. Manufacturing: a lab, mining innovation. (Utah lab is an example)
 3. Development of our Outdoor Rec and the manufacturing supply chain (ICELab & Colorado Outdoors).
 4. Workforce Training Project: training people to work in these labs or manufacturing facility.
 5. These could be \$8-10 million dollars as opposed to \$1-3 million under the usual EDA grants.
 6. Look at Partnering with AGNC,

7. Would apply for the \$500,000 and hire a part-time person and have partner agency hire a part-time person. And they would be responsible for managing the next phase of the applications.
- x. Discussion:
1. Don Suppes: Some of the other regions may not be near as geographically expansive.
 2. AGNC has been working on a coal-to-products for coal mining rather than burning it.
 3. What are game changers on a regional approach. As we have talked to Utah, we have seen that there are a lot of similarities within the regions. We feel confident going across state lines.
 4. Kris Holstrom: Have confidence in the Region 10 team to continue a conversation with AGNC & Utah.
 5. Roland Mason: Opportunity here is the methane capture (Gunnison County is working on that currently.) We could hit the Coal/Energy Action Plans.
 - a. With the first phase of the money (\$500,000) you can do a feasibility study. So if you are working on things like that please let us know and we can start the conversation with those necessary.
 6. Ben Tisdell: We like the idea of working with Southeast Utah and/or Region 9 regarding forest related issues, restoration, and technologies. Seems like this is both economic development and resiliency.
 7. John Clark: The amount of money that is coming down is challenging because we (the municipalities) don't have the man-power to begin to evaluate what we can go for. Can we use any of the grants to hire someone to evaluate opportunities? Our Town Manager is overwhelmed with the navigating these funding sources.
 - a. There is not money for staffing someone to evaluate opportunities that we know of
 - b. You could sit down with Region 10 and present you strategy to see what is available.

6. Reports:

- a. **Executive Director/Financial Report** – Michelle Haynes
 - i. Draft Version of June 30th Financials: They do give a good overall view of finances.
 - ii. Ended the year in a good cash position. Outstanding balances of \$300,000 are for Broadband equipment.
 - iii. Planning to write-off some of our Broadband Assets (Assets to Convey) to the City of Montrose. Will not impact our Cash Flow but will impact our Revenues. Will probably well over \$1 million
 - iv. Write-Off some assets to the City of Delta but it may go to an IRU, as Region 10 has had an IRU for the fiber on the lines.
- b. **Business Loan Fund** – Dan Scinto
 - i. Correction to report: loan closings (Closed 2 one in Gunnison County and one for an existing Montrose Business)
 - ii. We are seeing true Entrepreneur opportunities as start-ups rather than money to expand. Anticipate closing a few more loans throughout the end of the year.
 - iii. City of Delta has appropriated \$100,000 of grants for up to \$7500 to businesses in the City.
 - iv. Town of Cedaredge – no longer has a Chamber but they do have a Town Administrator that has made many referrals and Dan spent a day visiting 4 businesses up there. It is a way that your board members can make suggestions to help your community businesses.
 - v. Annual SBA Audit and they approve of the way our portfolio is being managed. #2 SBA Lender in the State.
- c. **Small Business Resource Center** – (Michelle for Nancy)
 - i. Standing SBDC Call at 2 pm on Board Days.
 - ii. Starting the "Leading Edge Class" - 8 Weeks and is \$250. Great opportunity If you have businesses that are looking for basic Business training.
- d. **Community Development** – Trish Thibodo
 - i. High Alpine Project Road to Recovery Meeting September 9th
 - ii. REDI Grant Applications – we will be administering the West End REDI funds, and also have an award for the Region 10 Entrepreneur program.
 - iii. Habitat and TCR: working together to develop a project that connects Construction Trade Students with practical building on Habitat Projects.
 - iv. Enterprise Zone: Several projects are expiring, and new applications are being started. EZ policies says that our Board must approve these projects.
 1. Sherbino Theatre
 2. Haven House: Job Training
 3. Habitat: Capital for Workforce Housing
 4. Community Options: Job Training
 5. Ouray County Historical

6. Top of Pines: Operations and Maintenance
7. Ridgway Concert Series
8. Lake City DIRT: New Project for ED
9. Montrose County Housing Authority

Action Item: Approve Enterprise Zone Project Applications

Motion to Approve: Jim Gelwicks/John Clark. None opposed.

e. **Community Living Services** – Eva Veitch

- i. Ombudsman Program: We are at a staffing shortage.
 1. VOA is the parent company is Mandating Vaccines
 - a. Nursing Homes are not accepting new clients.
 - b. Meals Program is losing cook in Nucla/Norwood area and probably in the Hotchkiss Area.
 2. Home Care Agencies are also short-staffed
 3. Working with Friends and Families to provide training and support for them to assist to care for their family members.
- ii. Regional Housing Coalition: Access to a part of \$15 million for AAA Agencies.
 1. Looking at spaces for Permanent Supportive Housing.
- iii. Community Paramedic program: meeting with North Fork Community Paramedic program next week. And hoping to have training.
 1. Model where Paramedics have received a higher level of training. Community paramedicine could provide care in the interim of those that are waiting for home health care to come in.
- iv. State Unit on Aging Audit in October.

f. **Broadband –Corey & Virgil**

- i. Pitkin Update: Comnet Wireless, short of DSL there are not a whole lot of services in the area. Met with Comnet (A cell service Provider), Mammoth & the community. Looking at connecting Ohio City and Pitkin.
 1. Build fiber 21 miles from Ohio City to Hwy 50, back into the CNL in Gunnison.
 2. Collaboration of 3 entities.
- ii. USDA Reconnect Grant: DMEA received \$10.5 million to expand

g. **Gunnison Valley Transportation Region Committee** - Vince Rogalski

- i. Meeting in Montrose that was called by Senator Corum and it was an informational meeting about how the construction process is working.
 - ii. Right now, Little Blue is open with the damage at I-70 and that should extend through August 31st.
 1. Do look at the website to confirm openings in the future.
 - iii. Process for Greenhouse Gas Rule Making: MPO's and CDOT affected more directly than rural areas. Statewide rule so it is possible that it can affect us. Virtual meetings will be coming up.
 - iv. Revitalizing Main Streets – 92 applications and awarded 16 and 2 cities within our region received funding. Montrose & Delta. Delta also received funding from another smaller grant.
 1. There will be more funding coming for this program and so look for a NOFA.
 2. Lake City may be able to re-apply for their street off of main street.
 - v. CDOT: We are now 2 years into the 10-year plan and so they are now looking at the projects that they can move up. In another year or so we will begin the process of the next 10-year plan.
 - vi. Three of the Transportation commissioners were moved out and 2 of the new 3 are STAC members.
- Motion to approve Reports: M/S: Ben Tisdell/Don Suppes as accepted.** None opposed.

7. **Roundtable Discussion**

a. **Delta County:**

- i. **Don Suppes - Delta County:** Delta County put in an offer for the old City Market Building to move the Library into it, move the Sheriff's office into the Library, and turn the Sheriff's office into Jail space.
- ii. **Mary Hockenbery – Town of Hotchkiss:** Marshal's department - we have hired 2 new deputies and a clerk. The new hires will start in the next few weeks, and we will be fully staffed again. Our new Marshal - Scott Green - has been on the job since early in July.

b. **Montrose County**

- i. **Roger Rash – Montrose County:** Partnership for liquor license approval: county will approve liquor licenses and so the City of Montrose will be processing the applications. Tribute to Aviation is coming up, September 18/19th. Airport expansion is moving forward with the north and south terminals and a parking lot. Airport revenues are up and continually hitting record numbers. Approved airport lease agreement on the land and now the developer is working on bonding and financing of the hotel.

- ii. **Barbara Bynum – City of Montrose:** Sales Tax Revenues are up. Capital projects, downtown police station continues and the outdoor Amphitheater will be open in October.

c. Ouray County

- i. **John Clark – Ridgway:** Concerts in the park have been successful. Ridgway Rendezvous happened. Space to Create construction is underway. Celebratory event on September 23rd.
- ii. **Ben Tisdell – Ouray County:** Permit has been issued to San Miguel Power Authority for project on Red Mountain Pass.

d. San Miguel

- i. **Kris Holstrom/Mike Bordogna – San Miguel County:** Sheriff's Annex in Norwood construction is close to ending. Courthouse was getting Solar last week. Moving ahead in partnership with Telluride Foundation for financing for affordable housing next to the library in Norwood. (Goes in front of Norwood Town Council in September). Town of Telluride has a ballot measure on to pull out of the county housing tax. There has been some discussion about marketing, moratorium on short-term rental licensing in the Town of Telluride.
- ii. **Jack Gilbride – Town of Mountain Village:** Preparing the 2022 budget for Council consideration.

e. Hinsdale County

- i. **Dave Roberts – Lake City:** Town has calmed down. We are getting closer to a telescope type observatory on Slumgullion Pass. 50 Mile bike race this weekend. Canceled for the OHV rally and BBQ cookoff as it conflicted with other events. September Wine & Music Festival. Working on hiring a new Town Manager and have hired a consultant to clean up the office and getting things straightened out.

f. Gunnison County

- i. **Jim Gelwicks – City of Gunnison:** We have had an increase of emergency calls that are related to drinking in excess in altitude and those who are ill-prepared to deal with oxygen levels. Near completion of the revitalization of the Pocket Park off Main Street. Re-dedication will probably happen in September. Money & agreements signed for affordable housing units. First units there are under construction as is the infrastructure for them. Available sometime next year. Six downtown businesses have interest in the Main Street Façade improvements. Western & the School District opened this week to in-person learning. Approve ballot language for an increase in penny tax for Fire Station for the City/County needs. City Council has three positions up for election in November.
- ii. **Michael Bacani – Mt. Crested Butte:** Short-term rental housing the council voted to not ban new licenses for short term rentals. Passed "Good Neighbor" policy that short-term rental owners must sign and follow. License requirement for the Grand Lodge is removed which will allow people rent those units long term. 20 units are already being looked at to be rented long-term. Incentive for people who currently rent short-term units to turn them into long-term rentals. Marketing that now to short-term renters.
- iii. **Roland Mason – Gunnison County:** Opened boat launch that will create camping and about 70 parking spaces. Boat launch as well as small craft, kayaks and paddleboards. Housing: 100-150 units, depending on water, sewer, public comment. Located a piece of property near the Fairgrounds that water and sewer are already there for about 40 units with a pre-build type model. County sales tax is up 38% YTD. Crested Butte Mountain Resort has an opening date. Airport terminal renovation is at about 25-30% completed. Regional conversation about opioid distribution.

8. Next Meetings:

- a. AAA Regional Advisory Committee: September 10, 2021, 11am
- b. Executive Committee: September 23, 2021, Noon-3pm at Region 10
- c. Gunnison Valley Regional Transportation Planning Region: Tentative September 30, 2021, 10am
- d. November/December Meeting TBD at September Meeting.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at: 3:16PM