



1. **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS**–Meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm by Chair Roger Rash

Board Members	Staff
Delta County	
Elyse Ackerman-Casselberry – City of Delta	Michelle Haynes
Mary Bacharan – Mayor of Paonia	Dan Scinto
Don Suppes – Delta County BOCC	Trish Thibodo
Mary Hockenberry – Town of Hotchkiss	Nancy Murphy
	Virgil Turner
Gunnison County	
Roland Mason – Gunnison County BOCC	Eva Veitch
Jim Gelwicks – City of Gunnison Mayor	Courtney Rodwell
Michael Bacani – Mt. Crested Butte Council	Karla Distel
Jim Schmidt – Mayor of Crested Butte Mayor	Joe Walker
Vince Rogalski – Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region	
	Guests
	Shoshana Lew – CDOT Executive Director
Hinsdale County	
Kristine Borchers – Hinsdale County BOCC	Mike Goolsby – CDOT Region 3 Director
Dave Roberts – Town of Lake City	Jason Smith – CDOT Region 3 Program Engineer
Montrose County	
Roger Rash – Montrose County	Elise Thatcher - CDOT Communications
Roy Anderson – City of Montrose	Celeste – Gunnison County Chamber of Commerce
Linda Riba – Montrose County	
Sandy Head – Montrose County	
Ouray County	
Ben Tisdell – Ouray County	
Greg Nelson – Mayor City of Ouray	
John Clark – Mayor of the Town of Ridgway	
San Miguel County	
Mike Bordogna – SMC	
Delaine Young – Town of Telluride	
Zoe Dohnal – Town of Mountain Village	
Kris Holstrom – SMC BOCC	
Jack Gilbride – Town of Mountain Village	

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Addition of a discussion with CDOT regarding the Hwy 50 Little Blue Canyon project. Michelle noted there will also be a TPR meeting tomorrow to discuss with the GVTPR.

Motion to Approve Agenda: M/S: Jim G/Ben with the addition. None opposed.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for January 28, 2020 meeting**

Ben Tisdell: Correction – in the Introductions John Clark is the Mayor of the Town of Ridgway, on Pg. 6 correction on Ben Tisdell's name spelling.

Motion to approve with corrections: M/S: Jim G/Ben None opposed.

4. **Business Items**

a. **Nominations for the Executive Committee**

- i. **Michelle H:** We have some of our EC Members that term limited so we have some new EC Members vacancies to fill those seats. The following board members have expressed a willingness to serve on the committee: Elyse Casselberry, from the City of Delta, Jim Gelwicks, who is the current Mayor of the City of Gunnison, and Kristi Borchers, from Hinsdale County. We may have one or two seats after this and revisit it at the May Board meeting.

1. **Ben:** I think it would be great to welcome Elyse, Jim and Kristi to the executive committee.

Motion to accept: M/S: Ben/Jim S. None opposed. The members introduced themselves:

- ii. **Elyse Ackerman-Casselberry:** City manager for the City of Delta. Prior to the City of Delta was Delta County's Community Development Director. Most of you I have met through one of those rolls.
- iii. **Jim Gelwicks:** Second time on the City Council of Gunnison, third time as the Mayor. I hope that my experiences are beneficial to the Executive Committee.
- iv. **Kristi Borchers:** Served as the Community Grant Writer for Hinsdale County for 10 years before Commissioner, been involved with Mainstreet since 2006.
- v. **Roger R:** Thank you all for stepping up to be a part of the executive committee.

b. **SBA Grant – Dan Scinto**

- i. In the operating account for the Business Loan Fund the various pots of money currently about 55% of those funds that are loan out to businesses and is funded through the SBA's microloan program. In the past when funds availability gets low we have requested additional funding from the SBA. Those funds get deposited into a bank and we write loans to micro-borrowers.
 1. Loan terms from the SBA are at a below 1% interest rate with a 10-year Term, and those funds revolve within our Loan Fund
- ii. Last one we did was SBA #5 and fully deployed that capital in 5-6 months for COVID. It went faster than we expected. Loan demand is very high right now. A new loan SBA #6 would allow us to continue that Loan Fund.
- iii. Presented by the BLF Committee to Dan for recommendation to the Board to apply for SBA Level 6 in the amount of \$500,000.

Motion to Approve SBA Loan 6: M/S: Jim G/Roland. None Opposed.

Michelle: We will be brief today to save time for the CDOT discussion. Asked our team to talk a bit about what's ahead and looking at moving forward. One question before reports:

May board meeting is scheduled for May 27th, can we move it to May 20th the week before.

Roger: Does anyone have conflicts? Hearing none, the May board meeting will be held on May 20.

5. **Reports:**

a. **Executive Director – Michelle Haynes**

i. **Financials:**

1. Draft Financials are included. We are still working on them. Note Broadband Phase 1 Grant ended December 31st. Accomplished far more with that than we were planning. We are going to de-obligate between \$250,000-\$300,000, however given that it was a \$5 Million grant that is an acceptable amount. We will write off some of our assets in the City of Montrose and the City of Delta with the closure of the gran. It was intended that those communities would take over ownership of the Fiber and contracts were built to include that. We will have a significant write-off somewhere between \$1-2 million. It won't impact cash flow or the bottom line. Some write off losses and depreciation losses will be shown.

2. We are still working on grant reconciliations for December. Some of them, SBRC and Community Development, may show a slight negative margin for December.
 3. Finishing out Broadband Phase II in June, \$2 Million Grant. We are finalizing our grants to get Broadband line connected to Denver. San Miguel Expansion Grant is being finalized as well as Grants for the Gunnison and Ouray County Expansion will be finalized.
 4. Continue to see big swings up and down. Broadband project is close to getting to a positive margin with the DOLA Coordinator Grant support.
- ii. Management team is working on 1- & 3-year planning.
 1. Goals & revenue models. Forward thinking planning.
- b. **Business Loan Fund – Dan Scinto**
- i. Appears that our community development block grant funding should be done within 1 week and that's an additional \$500,000 in funding to lend out.
 - ii. \$310,000 should be closed by the end of the month for the year with 7 Loans.
 - iii. Phone ringing a lot for businesses that are looking to expand, start-up or be taken over by employees.
 - iv. **Ben T:** Give us a run down for the current appointment needs for the BLF committee vacancies and upcoming:
 1. Two in Ouray County, One Hinsdale County, One in San Miguel County, One Delta,
 2. Handled by the Counties individually, so this can be a reminder for those counties. Each county may have their own methodology appointment process.
- c. **Small Business Resource Center- Nancy Murphy**
1. Getting requests for starting new businesses. Several businesses are interested in the Leading Edge Series for expansion of their current business.
 2. Workshop attendance is up. We have 5 monthly programs that are repeating. Coordinating with the Northwest & Central Mountain SBDC to expand the types of offerings allowed.
 3. Launched our On Demand Childcare Program with someone signed up from Denver
- d. **Community Development – Trish Thibodo**
- i. EZ annual report:
 1. Number of approved Tax Credits in EZ are 3,000 below 2019.
 2. Overall, in our region we approved a higher amount of investment tax credits.
 3. Non-profits did not fare as well, they received about \$600,000 less in 2020 vs 2019.
 - ii. Community Development, a lot of things happening.
 1. In November we put in two letters of interest for the State's Roadmap for Recovery Technical Assistance Project. Project Grants met with DOLA last week. Received positive overview from them. Will be putting in a full application in April. Region 9 & Region 10 are partnering together.
 2. Colorado Tourism office – will focus on Tourism Marketing. How can they support efforts?
 - iii. Working with Commissioner Hansen how do we really leverage our regional assets to create a tech hub reputation?
 1. Delta & Montrose county stakeholder meetings. See it as a project that will expand.
 2. Workforce, Development, attracting employees.
 3. Second meeting in March. Planning process over the next 6-9 months. May see additional funding from EDA.
 - iv. Continuing to work on the Regional Data Project with See Source. Working on a cheat sheet so that we know how to better use it.
 - v. Regional Economic Recovery Planning committee will start to shift focus over the next 6 months. Region 10 is responsible for our 5-year strategy. Our regional office has adapted their due dates and so we will be going through our CEDS again even though we just submitted in December 2019. Identifying and strengthening our goals. Continuing Monthly Recovery meetings, if you think of folks within your community that would be a good voice on the CEDs committee please notify Trish or Michelle.
 1. Take what we've learned in the past year and set course for the next 5 years.
 - vi. Shoutout to the Town of Hotchkiss, they just put in their application for their Targeting Brownfields Assessment for the public building.
 - vii. Valley Foods Partnership, helping them with a grant. Developing what that regional food partnership is.

- viii. **Roger R:** Wade Buchanan with the Office of Just Transitions emailed and are you involved with that. We had our board meeting with the Town of Nucla and they are very interested in that and I think the Town of Naturita and I believe Norwood.
 - 1. **Trish T:** Yes, we will be working with them on it. Colorado Just Transition funds identified the West End as a Tier 1 Community and DOLA has reached out to us to be a part of that discussion. Eventually we may be applying for possibly REDI Grants for that. Everyone to know they are now accepting REDI Grants through DOLA, the average grant is \$50,000, they have about \$780,000 so if you are looking at an economic development diversification questions you can reach out to Trish. But we will be working on that for the West End.
 - 2. **Roger Rash:** Will we be working through WEEDC (West End Economic Development Corporation) on that or through the towns directly. Trish: We will know more as we have that conversation.
- e. **Community Living Services – Eva Veitch**
 - i. Funding is moving target this year and expect that to continue. However, we are going to be receiving some additional funding. Whether or not our funding will be cut at the state and federal level is still to be determined.
 - ii. On a call with Delta County this morning, and they are going to have a couple of points of distribution for vaccines coming up and we are happy to post information like that to our Website and Facebook.
 - iii. Most of the nursing homes and assisted livings have received both rounds of the vaccines. About half of the staff members within them have received them as well, others have declined. Hopefully, as time goes on, we see that that number going up as people become more comfortable with it.
 - iv. Ombudsman program is back out in the facilities; we can go in as long as there are no active cases in the facility. Sandy & Eva both vaccinated and able to go into them.
 - v. Annual Aging Services survey is going out in the mail.
 - vi. Joe Walker new employee.
 - vii. Did not receive the RSVP Grant in Ouray & San Miguel Counties
 - 1. Once we get the Senior Companions and Joe out into each county, we have confidence that we will be able to receive the RSVP grants in those counties in the future.
 - viii. Starting the discussion about what it will look like to reopen the Senior Center Meals programs for the summer.
 - ix. **Ben T:** For the senior companion type program, outreach to those seniors that are eligible for the vaccine but may not know how to sign up or may need assistance in signing up or transportation to, how are we making sure that there is no one left behind?
 - 1. **Eva V:** We reached out to all our Senior Companions (22 of them) in the early days and to ensure that they knew how. Next step is to have Senior Companions start calling folks in the over 65 cohort to make sure that they can get registered if they would like. From what we have been hearing from the counties they have reach most of those that are in need of help getting the vaccine.
 - 2. **Jim G:** Down the road when we are able to have seniors meet each other. One thing that was brought to our attention was that a lot of people are isolated and fearful of everything that is going on. I think we are going to have a recovery period of trying to mitigate or assist people so that they are not inhibited from participating and don't become dysfunctional. – As we talk about adding in-person meals can we add something in to make them feel more a part of the community?
 - a. GetSetUp to connect Seniors.
 - b. We've got Senior Planet – Virtual Computer training class.
 - c. Aging Mastery – Initially a Zoom class and then hopefully in person. Should be a fun thing for older adults. That is why I want to meet with our meals program director and see if we can make re-opening a fun thing.
- f. **Regional Broadband - Virgil Turner**
 - i. Good news story in report regarding the connectivity to teachers & students. We are ranked as one of the best regions in the state for connectivity from the Co Dept of Education
 - ii. Grand Junction to Glenwood Springs extension of our network will bring us to Project Thor regional network. By appearing on each other's networks, we expand our presence.
 - 1. Importing for bringing down our prices for local ISPs
 - 2. DOLA funding for our match to the EDA and CARES Act funding.

- iii. A few signatures away from the IRUs (Indefeasible Right of Use) with the Ouray County Public Health Network. This Spring we will start to complete the project into the City of Ouray.
 - 1. We utilized can IRU that we negotiated with the San Miguel Power Authority and that has been beneficial for temporarily extending that network into the City of Ouray. City of Ouray had an outage that could have taken the town down for a week, but we were able to get it back up and running with the help of that.
- iv. Working with Southwest Colorado COG on networks – big moves to expand our networks.
 - 1. These regional middle mile networks are big successes for broadband. It shows that banding together and working as a region really makes a difference.
- v. Gunnison to Crested Butte and on up to Mt. Crested Butte
 - 1. We have our funding identified and are Just waiting on a funding determination letter from the universal service administration that we are expecting this Spring.
 - 2. Working with Crested Butte to identify carrier neutral locations that can act as hosts.
 - 3. Project should start this summer and conclude by the end of second quarter 2022.
- vi. Gunnison loop project,
 - 1. Transecting the WCU campus from the south to the north, it will get us a full loop around the City of Gunnison.
- vii. Hinsdale County – Always looking at ways to expand the connectivity there.
 - 1. Had some great discussions with an ISP there. They have ordered a 10-gig circuit to bring additional bandwidth to Hinsdale County. Talking with them and Lake City to see what we can do about getting some Fiber in Lake City. Discussions will be happening this Spring.
- viii. San Miguel County is finalizing some IRUs agreements with San Miguel Power Authority. Allow us to complete the link from Norwood to Telluride/Mountain Village.
- ix. **Ben T:** Ironic timing but got a note from Kristi that the internet is down in Hinsdale County, so she is now on the phone. Hinsdale County continues to need help and attention on their connectivity.
 - 1. Broadband. Broadband Deployment Fund - Two bills up for consideration in this legislation.
 - 2. House Bill 21-1109: Reserve up to 75% of future funding to those that are severely underserved (1 up 10 down). It would create a new category of “Extremely/Severely Underserved” which would attract more of the available funds. Reduces the Broadband Deployment board to be more favorable to jurisdictions over industry.
 - 3. **Virgil T:** Senate Bill 21-060: focuses more on remote learning things. Virgil: I have an update on it it reduces the number of board members to 9 with 1 appointed by the governor that is non-voting, 8 that are voting.
 - a. 4 from each party that are all appointed by the governor.
 - b. 3 that are in the industry, 3 that are from geographically diverse areas,
 - c. 2 that are publicly appointed, one from the Western Slope, one from the Eastern Plains.
 - d. Introduces a new definition of critically underserved - an area that lacks at least one provider delivering at least 10 megabytes download and 1 megabyte per second upload.
 - e. Reimburse a family up to \$600 per year with student K-12 receiving free or reduced lunch or is at 30% of Federal poverty.
 - f. **Roger R:** Concern, there is no fiscal note on how much the bill would cost.
 - g. Vince: One of the benefits of Broadband is that they were trying to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases from transportation. How do we keep more people at home? Working at home would be beneficial to however there is not broadband all over the state. If we are trying to get people off the road and get people to telecommute then we need broadband throughout the state.
 - 4. **Dave R:** Commissioner Borchers and I have been talking and we are willing to do what we can to get connectivity to Hinsdale and Lake City. We would love Virgil’s help in the smartest approach to get this going. **Michelle H:** We have been in touch with Commissioner Levine and we are working to set up a meeting with him and a provider.
 - 5. **John C:** We are trying to recognize that there are severely underserved areas of the state. I was surprised to see in the report that Virgil is going to sail off into the sunset. And just wanted to say thank you and that we appreciate all the work you have done. At the City of Montrose, you always

had the job title that I find the best, Director of Innovation. **Virgil T:** it has been my honor to work with all of you. When I started my hopes were that we could move the broadband structure up a couple notches and I think we've done that.

Michelle: CDOT Director Lew and Region 3 Team have joined us at 1:04pm

CDOT Director Shoshana Lew, R3 Director Mike Goolsby, CDOT Engineer Jason Smith:

Mike G: Little Blue Canyon project is slated to begin soon this summer. There has been a lot of conversation around the closure times and if there is an opportunity to increase the opening times. We want to go over what is stated in the contract currently and what CFL and the contractor have proposed.

Jason: Looking at a 5-hour opening, we are looking to extend that to 8 hours, adding an hour to each of the open periods.

- ❖ Scenario A: Closures would be Monday-Friday: 8am-12noon, 1pm-5pm, 7pm-6am, as stated in the bid documents for the project.
- ❖ Scenario B: Closures would be Monday-Friday: 9am--12noon, 2pm-5pm, 8pm-6am
 - Full closures would go into Second Season (2022) in the end of July and then go to One-way alternating traffic.
 - Total project would be 3 seasons long - With Scenario B: Project completion date would need to shift from Nov 24, 2022 to Oct 21, 2023
 - Impact on cost - \$8-10 million additional for Scenario B due to extended time, overhead and the efficiency that they would be losing.

Shoshana L: nothing has been decided yet. This information is a bit raw because we just received it as well. This information is to help people see the pros & cons of the possibilities.

Vince: Is it open on the weekends? **Jason:** Full traffic would be open on the weekends either scenario.

Jim S: When is this project slated to begin. **Mike G:** Current contract has a start date of April 1. CFL still intends to begin April 1 if we can come to an agreement based on these two proposals.

Jim S: Are we talking about the closures happening immediately. **Jason S:** Within a month, yes.

Vince: The 18-Wheelers that are traveling through has there been information given out to them so that they know which route to take? **Jason S:** We have been working with Colorado Motor Carriers Association to get the information out there. Trying to let them know to take the I-70 or 160 detours, if they are needing to work on the local areas, as long as they are under the length limit, they can take 92 or wait for the open periods. **Vince:** Logging trucks that are going from East of Gunnison to Montrose, they have been traveling furiously. **Jason S:** We have been working with them and part of this is to see what we could do to open more travel times during the week and encouraging them to work/travel on the weekends.

Ben T: Thank you Director Lew for bringing this forward in an urgent way because we've been dealing with this for two years and through Region 10 and GVTPR and trying to advocate for the difference between a full closure and partial closure. We thought we had found middle ground and it's alarming to hear that adding an hour to the open times adds essentially a year. The previous middle ground that we had found minimizes the effects of the multiple year closure and avoids the effects of the single year full closer. We have paid a lot of attention to the timber aspects of this. On Monday we had the GMUG, give the current environmental impact statement and yes logging does need to get their product out to Montrose there are logging companies that it does not matter whether or not they ship on weekdays or weekends other companies it does impact. But I think that we may not want to see another full year added onto the project, we want to get the project done, don't want it to cost more and we know there is limited money and money is only available at certain times. I am hesitant to support any scenario that would causes full year to the project. If there is any way to say that this adaptive and adapt the closures as needed that could help.

Jim G: Jason do you have any idea where the additional \$8-10 Million would be coming from? Would that impact projects that are in line? **Jason S:** We would have to shift a project out that is slated for 3-4 years from now. Try to put some money together to deliver one of those projects. This is something that we would have to solve within the Region to get it done.

Jim G: I know that there is a great deal of apprehension from Gunnison businesses that have business dependent on travel. I would think that they would not be apt to supporting a 3rd season being closed. Do not see the extra 3 hours a day being advantageous.

Kris H: What is your process on gathering the public's thoughts on this? My feeling is echoing what you have heard so far and I would add that I do not think that adding a 3rd year would not be worth it. In particular, I am curious if this is most in response to trucking, are they pushing the extra hour of opening? **Shoshana:** We went through the formal process of gaining permits 2-3 years ago. The reason we are having this conversation now is because we had been hearing that people had felt they had missed the opportunity to be heard. It seems like the folks in and around Montrose are more concerned about the previously agreed upon schedule than elsewhere. The hospitals and some of the emergency management community have expressed some concerns, which in the COVID context makes perfect sense. And there are some exclusions and wherever we land on this we will make accommodations to help them as much as possible.

Jim S: About 92, right now it is not plowed through the night, will CDOT be plowing it more? It is also not highly patrolled by highway patrol, will that be increasing? My comments are let's see if we can get it under two years. If there is a long line of cars and if somebody gets there are 2pm and there are 50 people in front of them will they get through? **Mike G:** There is a MOU commitment from CSP to increase the frequency in which they travel Hwy 92, a hefty budget is built in for snow removal, and the Hwy 50 project construction will close down for the wintertime. Maintenance Section 2 will be upping their snow removal process from 14-hour maintenance to 24. We have made adjustments to the snow removal when the project gets started. **Jim S:** When you say the project will be closed in the winter what does that mean. Nov 1 -end of March with the caveat weather dependent. **Jason S:** Cutoff location selected prior to the projects. Cars that make it to that point before that cutoff they will be able to make it through. We won't set the flag right in front of the project, there will be a designated spot further back.

Roland M: Jim asked my main question - There is a real concern about the cutoff points, how will people who are traveling know it they will be stuck or not for a significant amount of time. I think we need to get that information out to the public as people may still be concerned about that issue. Gunnison County would like to see this happen as fast as possible. I think that the impacts of extending the project to a 3-season closure would be more than those from only having 2 hours window of opening. I would push for continuing the shorter windows of open time if it lessens the seasons of the project.

Roger R: I can't see that if we can get this project get it done, get it done sooner than later. We did have multiple meetings and we did talk about and I think that the original is the best schedule for our communities. Isn't it in the original contract documents that they would move the queue through even if it is past the hour? That would buy a little time without the additional \$8-10 million. **Jason:** That is correct. We would set that point up and even if we have to open up the time it to get the queue through then we would do that. If you don't make it to that check point on time, you won't make it through.

Roland & Celeste at the Gunnison Chamber/Visitor Center: Is there an opportunity to use the large sign as you are leaving Gunnison to let people know of the road conditions, can we use those to let people know of cue times in real time? **Mike G:** On both ends of the project one of the things we talked early on was additional signage that says Road Closed. Part of where we are at currently in the process, we have a robust set of messaging to be put out. The messaging will ramp up in the next couple of weeks and will depend on which scenario is chosen to. CFL has a requirement in their contract that there will be public meetings to brief the public on what is about to happen. **Jason:** Anyone that we can get signed up for Text notifications we will be sending out push notifications.

Ben T: When we are talking about these more remote pass locations, can we make try to ensure that those are at points where there is known cellular coverage. **Jason:** Looking to improve the cell phone coverage throughout the canyon limits.

Roger R: looking for areas that people can turn around safely as well. Do we have any idea that if we did push this out what project would be postponed? **Jason:** State Hwy 92 Phase 1 on Roger's Mesa or Us 550 in South Montrose. They have different funding opportunities and so we would have to look at that, more opportunities for funding sources of 550. In my opinion, we can come up with other funds to deliver the US 550 project and so it would seem better to push that one back. But I don't know that everyone has the same thought process. **Mike G:** That would be something that we would rely on you all for discussion. **Don S:** I say we need to push for a project timeline of two years, all we need is one more excuse to push out the Hwy 92 project. I'd like to do everything we can to not push out the Hwy 92 project.

Michelle H: Do I recall correctly that commercial traffic would get preference during openings? Jason: Preference not necessarily, we are going to try and encourage the passenger vehicle traffic to use the detours as much as possible. That way we can use the queue for larger commercial vehicles as much as possible, but you can't really force that, but we will do our best to encourage it.

Vince R: One of the things that people may not remember that that there was the discussion between 135 and 92 and there was an agreement that they would support putting shoulders on 135 if 92 was the next project. I think there is an obligation to finish 92 to Delta.

Roger R: Director Lew I think you have pretty much heard that most of the elected officials as far as County Commissioners are in agreement and support the project as is, that we should get this project done and not extend it. Highway 92 and Us 550 are both important projects and that we do not want to see money taken away from the other projects. We have listened to our constituents and we really do not want to extend this program.

Michelle H: Formal TPR meeting tomorrow at 11am.

Mike G: If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to Jason or Mike or Shoshana.

Shoshana L: Could we get a copy of the recording of this meeting? I want to make sure we can go through it and break out what everyone has said. **Michelle H:** Yes, of course.

Ben T: Please consider any comments stated/written today as applicable to the officially convened meeting tomorrow as we may or may not be able to attend. We can try and submit formal written comments but if these could be considered that would be great.

Shoshana L: It would actually be helpful to get written feedback if folks can.

Michelle H: Is there any middle ground? Like one extra hour at Lunch, is there anything in between that we can think about?

Shoshana L: The honest answer is that we don't know. Every question we have to take back to the contractor. There is a stair stepper to get answers. We can endeavor to find out.

g. Gunnison Valley Transportation Region Committee- Vince Rogalski

- i. CDOT has completed the State's largest ever investment in rural roads. They are still trying to put out \$100 million for rural roads for the roads that have not seen work in a long time.
- ii. How to increase transportation funding, you'll see that they use the term fees and so we will have to see.
- iii. Rebecca White talk about Senate Bill 267, that's \$500,000 a year so there are another \$1 million out there.
- iv. STACS discussion was about RPPE (Regional Priority Plans) but they are still arguing about the formula. The formula was change a couple years ago. VMT (for pasture vehicles) to population.
- v. One of the things that affects Lake City and Hinsdale County was to renew the variant that allows ATVs to use the highway. They have had controversy for and against it and had to postpone that with a date to be determined.
- vi. Discussion on greenhouse gases. There were a number of meetings regionally about incorporating greenhouse gases emission reductions into transportation planning. House Bill 12-61 from 2019 that calls for the Climate Action Plan to reduce pollution the estimates that they are giving their targets are 26% reduction by 2025, 50% by 2030 and 90% reduction by 2050. One of the things they are talking about is the fact that electric power was the top contributor to Greenhouse gases and that has changed, and Transportation is now number one. Focusing in on personal cars and trucks and various other things. While a major metropolitan area has options like public transportation many rural communities do not have any alternative way to do that. First efforts will be on the Front Range and one of the problems may be that they are trying to establish rules on how this is going to happen, and they will affect the whole state. Trip reduction, if you are going to reduce the number of trips on the roads then you need to up the connection to Broadband and greater access to housing near jobs. Not every community is served by transit. Looking for clean trucking strategies. Given everything that happened last week in Texas is our electric power grid able to continue to maintain heating as well as electric vehicles. When you start to plan these things, you have to plan a backup option. Sum up – there are a lot of things happening on the Front Range that will affect us.

1. **Kristine B:** The Transportation Commission asked Hinsdale County to provide more details with CDOT on safety precautions like the reduced speed limit. We are scheduled for an agenda item for the March 17/March 18 Transportation Commission meeting.
2. **John C:** There are a whole lot of questions out there and I am hoping that we are all on the same page about climate change but then there is the how we do it? Colorado's power grid is better protected for weather but there are other things that we are susceptible to.
3. **Roger R:** There is a lot to be considered here as we move forward.

Motion to Approve Reports. M/S: Jim S/Mary H. None opposed.

Michelle H: We have been talking about if there are ways to give reports more efficiently, if you all have any ideas please let us know.

Roundtable Discussion:

Delta County:

Mary Hockenberry: Shout out to Region 10, Trish, Michelle & Nichole, for helping with Community Builders as we have been able to get our application in for Brownfields Remediation. Our university Technical Assistance is moving forward, and we're just thrilled that we got 304 responses to our survey about redesigning our Downtown.

Don Suppes: One of the things that I am concerned about, and will have to work with Eva on, is helping our populations that have been staying at home. Concerned on how we get them back out into the public and socialized again. Delta County vaccine distribution is continuing, and we are pushing it though.

Elyse Ackerman-Casselberry: A lot of good things happening here in the City. We had the Economic Development meeting and at that we are getting some validation that the numbers are reflecting the growth that we were feel like we are experiencing. Seeing some new businesses are starting up and main street is filling out. City Council, two weeks ago, adopted an update to our economic incentive policy to be more supportive of expanding existing businesses and also try to incentivize more multi house units.

Gunnison

Roland Mason: Appointed David Asad, current director for our ICE Lab, he will be a good addition to the Business Loan Fund. County went into the Blue Level. Good news, especially for events. Close to about 25% of population that has been vaccinated with at least the first shot. If you're signed up and you get in there, we're going to give you a shot. The more people we can get in there the better. Great conversation on Little blue, I really appreciate the support from other counties on getting this project done.

Vince: Kudos to Gunnison County on their vaccine distribution.

Jim Schmidt: Folks from Delta County came over and they were blown away by the Gunnison set up for COVID. Notified by text message for each shot. Preparing for the summer and what we are going to do with Elk Avenue, are we going to have seating outside in the street for restaurants, and thoughts are yes. Also preparing for camping, we think it is going to be bigger than last year and so we are looking at our Dump stations to improve access.

Jim Gelwicks: Gunnison public health has done a great job and the council just submitted an article to the newspaper to get the vaccine distributed. We have two public RV areas and we now have on order a system that will allow us to monitor and control dump stations. RV traffic has just shot through the roof and that has an impact all of our streets and roads. Trying to figure out what we can do to enhance the RV traffic. We have had good success with our Dining Dollars program and will go through the end of April. One restaurant received \$7,000 from the program. We have to evaluate our mental health as we come out of this and getting us back to where we are truly healthy and not fatigued. We are looking at how to utilize the main street grants that they put \$70 million into. We are trying to get additional answers and clarification. They want projects to go within 30 days of the distribution. Disconnect between how they are trying to distribute the money. If you do the math of \$70 million in \$50,000 grants that is 1400 grants but there is only 334 counties & municipalities, so it doesn't make sense. Although the numbers don't add up, I do encourage everyone to do it, it's on a receipt basis so when you get expenses you get it back. I think if we could get the limit raised it would do more but otherwise it is good funding.

Vince: Do you want to mention your success on GardenWalk housing project?

Jim: Opened dup in January and people lined up outside for the 36 units. It has some fairly restrictive income restrictions on it. Within the first week they had 10 of the units rented and 15 more that they were cycling through applications. The county has another 70 units that will be rentals and that building will be going in the City. We have a lot of demand for workforce housing and so we should have no problem filling those up.

Mike Bacani: We have a parcel up north, North Village, and they came to our council with a concept plan for affordable house, free market housing, workforce housing, and council overwhelming approved it. It is several hundred units and they are proceeding, it'll definitely be another opportunity for more housing in the north end of the valley in Gunnison.

Hinsdale County

Kristi Borchers: (report for both Hinsdale and Town of Lake City): Nichole Glaser has been attending our Friday coffee talks and that has been great to connect her with our Marketing Consultant. We did approve re-appointing Dave Roberts for the appointment to the BLF Committee, we can send the appointment documents. As Vince had mentioned earlier, we did have a Transportation Commission Meeting on February 17/18 and the decision was made to look at the proposed renewal of the OHV Pilot program so there is a meeting on March 18th. March 17th is the workshop and March 18th will be the vote. Working on Tourism impacts and being more prepared for impacts. Restrooms, trash, usage, and marketing emphasis for usage of the land. Peninsula design is kicking off next week. We have rethought our Observatory on Slumgullion Pass, the open deck focus with a trailer observatory rather than building a building, we think that is a good short-term option. This month of Gateway Community Advisory Committee meeting and working with the Continental Divide Trail Coalition on that tourism piece, as you heard Commissioner Levine will be the lead on our Communications. Submitted our second Can Do Grant for the Town of Lake City, focused on picnic tables and lighting. And also using the main street grant to help provide the match. Yesterday we did receive notice that we got a little bit of money from the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) those are for the Wetterhorn Basin Parking Lot, the Deer Lakes Road and then on our South End some roadwork for the Upper Piedra and then a little of OHV Education in the Upper Rio Grande.

Ouray County

Ben Tisdell: We have just had a scheduled work session to discuss priorities for the county for the year. The struggle is to figure out what has to happen before a particular season. We have a lot of stuff that is front loaded over the next few months before this summer. If this coming summer of 2021 is similar to visitation numbers and demands on our systems as it was in 2020. We have dispersed camping concerns in the backcountry and on county roads. Those with associated campfire concerns with the projection of drought coming into the summer and what that might bring with heighten concerns for fire. With different scenarios on vaccination rates and what people can do around the summer with camping and festivals. We are saying all these work session priorities have to take a backseat to the first priority of vaccine distribution and getting that program accelerated as much as possible given different scenarios. We've got two new commissioners; one is returning from 4 years ago. As Virgil said, Broadband Project Phase II is underway and there is a temporary solution to make sure that everything South of Ridgway is covered with a partnership with San Miguel Power Authority. Thank you all for your partnership.

John Clark: Second everything that Ben mentioned. And mirror some of the same concerns brought up by Hinsdale County and want to be better prepared for the influx of tourism. We want to do as good a job as we can with educating visitors about responsible usage of the back country. Our Space Decree project continues to move forward, it should be closing sometime soon. We are in a discussion of cost cutting as the final numbers came in from the contractor. Confident in our contractor and building partner and looking forward to seeing it move forward over the next couple of months.

Greg Nelson: We've got a wastewater treatment project that engineering is moving forward on it and we had a meeting recently about the scope of materials for the buildings associated with it. Got news from the state tentatively that they would like us to move forward with a water treatment plant because there are some surface water impacts on the spring source. That will be a \$6 million project and we will have to find funds and space for it and the solution is supposed to be in place within 18 months. Ironically, the State has told us that that deadline will be close to impossible to meet because they know that their approval process will take months and so that is an interesting challenge. New City Administrator, doing a great job of hitting the ground running. We are looking at a complete revamp of our City organization. Working with Ridgway and Montrose on messaging and promotion of our Region that has been going well. Working with the Forest Service on messaging as well and winter has been dedicated to safety issues, summer will roll over to conservation issues. Rolled out a new Visit Ouray website which is inclusive of all our businesses within the city limits. We also rolled out our digital guide where City business get to have a half page ad in it for no charge. Normal challenges in the city but expecting a big summer. Talking with hotels we have hear record amounts of reservations in 2021 in the lodging. Sales tax in 2020 was up 17.6% overall and Sales tax was up in each individual category.

San Miguel

Mike Bordogna: A lot of similarities in the Region. We will be meeting with the IG on March 8th with our municipalities to talk about increased visitation to the Region. We are expecting a huge amount of day visitors and increased visitation. Kicked off our energy performance contracting and solar projects where we are making 5 major county facilities more efficient and adding solar. Remodeled our jail and added behavioral hold space so that we don't have to put those folks into the Jail. We have constructed a sheriff's office in Norwood closer to where more of our Sheriffs live. Norwood was a little slower in the housing market but now houses are flying off the shelves there too. Broken ground on the Sunnyside housing project with the Town of Telluride and that will be 30 deed restricted units. It will be a completely Net Zero housing project, so no utilities just water bills for those units. Working towards a new wastewater treatment facility. Looking at the need for an additional gondola and renegotiating the agreement to operate. A new development facility including a new hospital to replace our existing medical center has been presented and is at the sketch plan phase. Got 28 inches of snow last week so we are thankful for that, still below average. Lost our Government Affairs and Natural Resources Director, Lynn Paget but she is going back to County Commissioner so that is good. We do have 15 good applicants for that position. Moving to the Yellow Level from the Orange on Monday, our numbers have been trending downward. Vaccinated approximately 22% of our Adult population, the only thing holding us up the allocation of vaccinations. We are ready to move to Phase 1.B3. Don't even know who our BLF representative is and will follow up with Michelle.

DeLanie Young: The wastewater treatment plant upgrade is one of the bigger projects that we are working on. The town acquired two properties in Norwood in order to help facilitate to have those as staging areas. Our housing committee is working on our housing matrix, that ranks properties and decides what our next project is going to be. Should have the next project (or two) scheduled in the next 6-12 months. Purchased 10,000 N95 masks and have been distributing them throughout the community. Long work session about the summer and are trying to plan for the summer. Our major festival producers have already been asking us and have submitted plans however, we don't envision us going back to festivals of up to 10,000 people. After what we saw with COVID and the fact that we are still in COVID however, the town may apply for a variance with the State to have logically space numbers that do exceed the highest levels we could get to right now which is Blue or Green. We have decided that outdoor dining was successful but hearing feedback from local businesses. At our meeting on the 9th we expect that we will not do that again this year and have 2 way traffic on Colorado Ave but we are looking at having businesses expand into parking lanes with park-let type situations. We are hearing from our tourism board that they expect at least the same amount of traffic if not more and we too are working with neighboring communities on messaging to alleviate the burden there.

Montrose

Sandy Head: Discussing the nursing program with Delta at the Technical School of the Rockies and there is a chance that they are planning on not having that. Representatives from Montrose Memorial Hospital are planning on attending that as it is a feeder to the RN program, and we do not want to lose that. Glad to know that Dan is applying for more money as we are seeing businesses expand. Working with about 7 right now, with one that might grow to about 200 jobs and another at about 100. CMU has been conducting interviews this week for a new director for our local campus. We have 92 housing units that should break ground in the next 60 days and the city has approved 4 housing units.

Roger Rash: Biggest thing was that we had a failure out here at the airport. Automatic surface operations failed and it took a couple days to get the part and it is something that we have to have to have commercial flights come in and out of here. That system is owned by the national weather service and we are looking at putting in our own back up system. We could not relay high density altitude to the aircraft and without that they cannot takeoff or land. We did receive some CARES Act funding for the airport about \$1.7 Million that will help offset that cost. The hotel next to the airport is still on the board and in negotiations with Suncorp. Looking at expanding our terminal, possible lighting, and parking improvements. Along with everyone else we are working our vaccination clinics and we are proud of our public health folks for getting them distributed. Do want to thank Senator Corum for stepping up when we were not getting vaccinations and helping to increase the number we were receiving from the state, so hopefully Ouray and Delta County are getting the ones they needed. Did get full funding for our community corrections, the JVC funded at 100%.

Motion to Adjourn: M/S: Ben/ None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:01pm