



Region 10 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021
Via Hybrid Zoom Video Conference and
In Person at Region 10, 145 S Cascade Ave, Montrose CO

1. **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS**–Meeting was called to order at 12:01.
 - a. **In Person:** Michelle Haynes (Region 10), Trish Thibodo (Region 10), Dan Scinto (Region 10), Nancy Murphy (Region 10), Eva Veitch (Region 10), Courtney Rodwell (Region 10) Vince Rogalski (GVTPR), Linda Riba (Montrose)
 - b. **Hybrid on Zoom:** Roland Mason (Chair, Gunnison County) Kris Holstrom (Vice Chair, San Miguel), Kristie Borchers (Hinsdale County), Ben Tisdell (Ouray County), Don Suppes (Delta County), Elyse Casselberry (City of Delta), Jon Waschbusch (Montrose County), Jim Schmidt (Crested Butte), Greg Nelson (Mayor of Ouray), Jim Gelwicks (Mayor of Gunnison), Corey Bryndal (Region 10), Mike Bordogna (San Miguel County)
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve with addition: M/S: Jim Gelwicks/Kris Holstrom as accepted. None opposed.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for September 23, 2021 Board Meeting**

Motion to approve: M/S: Kris Holstrom/Don Suppes as accepted. None opposed.
4. **Business Items:**
 - a. **EDA Training Funds-Regional Needs/Opportunities:** Michelle explained that we have funding remaining in the 2-year Grant with the EDA that was applied for and granted in May 2020. Data Tracking, some set aside for evaluation and development for supply chain, the digital economy. There is about \$100-120,000 for contracted services from the grant that we need to expend by June 30, 2022. Projects that we could get out to bid and completed by June 2022. We want to have a discussion about what are some things that we are hearing that are valuable for regional projects? A couple of areas of focus that we could spend \$40,000 to \$50,000 on each.
 1. Expand data tracking for additional analysis. Expansion of that analysis.
 2. Workforce development or labor force assessment.
 3. Developing and strengthening our entrepreneur ecosystem for training for the people that support entrepreneurs (like Region 10, ICELab WEEDC, Chambers).
 4. Hosting an Outdoor Recreation Manufacturing conference.
 5. Housing assessment and workforce housing policy development.
 6. Rail policies and Transit
 - i. Discussion:
 7. **Roland M:** Housing, regionally we have been trying to focus on housing and have some good ideas and the conversation is moving along with that. And so, for a regional assessment a workforce/labor assessment would be beneficial and then workforce development because for Gunnison County a lot of our workforce comes from outside of our county. MY vote would be for some workforce development that would eventually tie into the housing conversation.
 8. **Kris H:** COVID has changed the scope of the workforce. It doesn't necessarily seem to be wages or money. Could we tie an Outdoor Recreation Conference in with the work we are doing with Region 9.5 project? Education/direction/management of how to recreate. There is cool gear and stuff but there are also new and better ways to look at outdoor recreation in our region.
 9. **Elyse:** Childcare is an ongoing challenge in the workforce conversation. Is there a connection to the workforce as to why people are not returning to work? Transportation would also be a good conversation as in how we move the workforce around.
 10. **Ben Tisdell:** Not just sustainable recreation but now what parts of recreation are under threat. Take what we thought we knew in May of 2020 and see how it has translated to now in October 2021.

11. **Michelle:** We had hoped that we could coordinated this with 9.5 but we are not sure that we will be far enough along in that project.
 12. **Vince R:** Women have been greatly affected by this pandemic and we need to see if the women who left the workforce to care for children at home are now returning to the workforce or not. And the mask/vaccine mandates are forcing people out. People have changed their mindset on what work really means.
 13. **Mike Bordogna:** Appreciate those comments from Vince and believe that we do need to understand how we can support women re-entering the workforce. Chaffee County measured the sustainability of their recreation. Study innovations like the rafting company and monarch were able to put together to provide workforce housing and benefits. We as a region need more local supply in the manufactured housing market. There is an adequate demand for free-market housing. Given our natural resources in the region I would rather find out what barriers exist in getting a mobile producer of manufactured homes in the area.
 - a. **Trish: TCR and Habitat** conversation. TCR has been having a conversation in building a facility for training students on home building and Habitat is interested.
 14. **Don Suppes:** Broaden our focus. Wrap our brain around the fact that this pandemic is not going away. We need to brace ourselves for what will happen to our economy even though that is unknown. Focus on our elderly population with so many of them retiring. We are struggling to providing long-term care, helping these people in their homes, there is a great demand of nursing homes and a short supply.
 15. **Michelle:** Pursuing housing feasibility study and evaluation, supply chain of housing. Something around livable communities, workforce assessment, labor force participation & transportation. Outdoor recreation component.
- b. **Jim Schmidt:** Term as Mayor of Crested Butte is up on November 15, 2021, and so this will be his last Region 10 meeting. Acknowledgement and thanks from board members to Jim for his service.

5. Reports:

- a. **Executive Director/Financial Report** – Michelle Haynes
 - i. We are currently working on our annual financial audit. Our accounting system, once you close out the FY then it is very hard to get back in it, so we do not have current financials for FY 2022.
 - ii. Schedule of Federal Grant Expenditures, which program is going to be evaluated for single audit. We invested about 1.7 million in our Business Grant Program and that does not include the \$3 Million from San Miguel County. AAA had about \$2 million last year, \$1 million Federal and \$1 million State.
 - iii. Working on a couple of things with a contractor. Stryker Construction to begin conversations about how to move forward with the remodel project the Olathe Innovation Center. We also met with them about a potential addition to the Region 10 office, I did ask them for an estimate of a new conference room addition to present in December. We would re-arrange our current conference rooms to be more office space.
- b. **Small Business Resource Center** – Nancy
 - i. Consulting numbers remain low, and the trainings continue to get more steam. Our region has more attendees join these trainings.
 - ii. Earlier this month we had the SBDC meeting, and it looks like we will be collaborating on trainings to have a broader offer of them. Our consultant Judy Martin received consultant of the year throughout the state.
 - iii. We do have a series in HR coming up. ‘Hiring in a Post-COVID World” “and HR Basics and Ensuring Employee Success”
- c. **Business Loan Fund** – Dan Scinto
 - i. Closed 2 loans and find that to be amazing considering what we had seen over the last 18 months. But inquiries are also down.
 - ii. There is a lot of excess liquidity in the local markets that the businesses have accessible to them. After PPP ended and we entered the summer swing the commercial lending slowed down. It could be relevant to tax collections being up and that relates to the businesses having more revenue and they are able to self-fund.

- iii. Of the requests that we have received from the restaurant industry. I have had to ask how are you going to staff your business when the current restaurant industry is struggling to staff their businesses?
 - iv. Position in Gunnison will be a combination of what Dan & Nancy do and will be housed at ICELab. We hope to have the position filled and in training around the beginning of the year. We are looking for someone who has commercial banking background.
- d. **Community Development** – Trish Thibodo
- i. Partnered with AGNC: Region 10 was the lead on the application to the EDA Build Back Better grant and we proposed 8 projects throughout the region. That was submitted on Monday, and we will hear back by December 15th. If we are awarded that grant, we would then start funding the individual projects. Phase 1 grants will be competitive, and we are applying under the coal-impacted community.
 - ii. REDI II Grant: Applied for as a support for the innovation Center and that is being reviewed now.
 - iii. **Rural Innovation for Stronger Economies:** We were awarded \$1.7 Million, and we are starting to stand that project up. ONE Delta County has been meeting with businesses and they are working on a program for training. TCR will work to provide that training and program and we will look at how we can expand that.
 - iv. Region 9.5 with DOLA and Region 9 is continuing.
 - v. Economic Development Conference: attended last week.
- e. **Community Living Services** – Eva Veitch
- i. Release application for Senate Bill 290, \$15 million grant for the AAA's and we will be applying for \$1.5 million. Working with CASA for young adults aging out of the foster care system and half of that facility would be also for seniors on the verge of homelessness. WE are in the process of trying to find funding for that project. Tiny home project, the land is secured. There will be 15 units for young adults and 15 units for older adults. Supportive housing model.
 - ii. Because of staffing shortages, we had to close the senior meal program in Norwood, and we have replaced that with frozen meals shipped to their homes and it looks like we will be doing that through December as they are having trouble hiring.
 - iii. New model for our in-home services. We currently have 7 agencies and most of those agencies are not accepting referrals from us.
 - iv. We did hire a part-time coordinator for volunteers in Delta and the RSVP program. We are looking at getting our handy helper's program up. We are partnering with Habitat to spread the word and recruit.
 - v. Open enrollment started October 15th and they are busy. They are all working full time on the days that they are one.
 - vi. **Sunshine home share:** a model that I am investigating that connects older adults with people who are a little bit more able bodied and that partner them to rent out a room. It allows the older adult to get some help in their home in exchange for renting a room out.
 - 1. Kris would love more information on this program. Would like to see if it helps to solve some of our housing crisis problem. Having a formal way of doing this would be nice.
 - 2. This program has some safeguards for the seniors involved.
- f. **Broadband** – Corey Bryndal
- i. Hinsdale County: we hope to be laying fiber this Spring on that project.
 - ii. Ouray County: PHN we hope to see an additional 1000 homes receive fiber over the next couple of years.
 - iii. Once we get through the right-of-way agreements
 - iv. Did not receive the funding for the 28 miles between Gunnison & Crested Butte.
 - 1. We did order the fiber and cabling just because we knew that material was valuable, and supply may be hard to come by. We will keep that fiber on hand, and we are looking at Federal funding on how to fund that.
 - v. We will be able to put a CNL in CB South. We do need to engage the two developers in Gunnison. To what degree are those developers planning on telecommunication services.
 - vi. DOLA and Middle Mile projects. I have been fielding possible projects on the Western half of the state, Grand Junction, Rifle, Collbran, Pagosa Springs,
 - vii. Work with Visionary on the Cottonwood Pass route. We will place a router in Denver so that the services that we have at the University in Gunnison are protected.
 - viii. Working on staging one of the three new routers now.

- ix. Several presentations for statewide broadband. We reach an amazing diversity of communities working with DOLA we can help the visibility of them on the broadband network.
- g. **Gunnison Valley Transportation Region Committee** - Vince Rogalski
 - i. **Greenhouse gas:** rulemaking was supposed to end mid-October however that was extended 30 days. November 18th will now be the deadline for input.
 - 1. STAC members concerned the project cost increase due to mitigation.
 - 2. Seems to be a bias against capacity projects.
 - 3. Reduce VMT and the assumption is the VMT modeling is to far removed from reality
 - ii. Idaho Stops? The ability for cyclists/pedestrians to make to determination on stopping at stop signs/traffic stops/ etc. There are concerns with that and how that would affect school zones. There is proposed legislation to prevent Idaho Stops at everything, but 4-way stops.
 - iii. MMOV: the committee has met, and they will have recommendations the to STAC in November. They want the match to change from what it was before, want it to be easier to identify if you have met the match or not.
 - iv. Transit and transportation 10-year plan. We have a meeting next week on the 4th, virtual with Region 3 & Region 5. The funding is not all guaranteed. There are some timelines in the report. We will review the remaining 4-year projects. We will then overview out year projects.

Motion to approve Reports: M/S: as accepted. None opposed.

6. Roundtable Discussion

- a. **Delta County:**
 - i. **Elyse (City of Delta):** Actively working on getting out Mainstreet demonstration project up and running. Installing improvements on Mainstreet that will take Mainstreet down to a single lane. Permit application into CDOT. Façade improvement going with the \$100,000 grant from DOLA. Sales Tax has performed very well. Hard to imagine that we could see the same increases next year as we did this year.
- b. **Ouray County:**
 - i. **Ben Tisdell (Ouray County):** Related to COVID, as more jurisdictions have done a vaccine mandate, it turns out that all those people are coming to Ouray County as the public health is doing it for free. And we are overwhelmed, the other jurisdictions that have the capacity to do the testing please do. Request to reimplement testing across the region.
 - ii. **Greg Nelson (Mayor of Ouray):** We are getting ready for Ice fest we will have 3 events this year. One in January, Early February (UIAA Cup,. Water & sewer projects are on track.
- c. **San Miguel County:**
 - i. **Kris Holstrom (San Miguel County):** Yesterday we had the ribbon cutting for the new Sherriff's annex in Norwood. Getting our redistricting done this year. Affordable housing project that we are partnering with Norwood on we are. Telluride has some interesting short-term rental battles going on. Concerned that rural areas are going to have challenges accessing some of that funding and getting access to farmers and ranchers as well as water.
- d. **Montrose County:**
 - i. **Jon Waschbush:** We got another contract signed for the parking expansion with William's construction out of Norwood. We hope to have gravel for 470 spaces by the time ski season begins. West End news is consolidating facilities for the West End, Sherriff's and department of health and human services at the old Nucla road & bridge facility. Looking at an automated HR system for payroll, time off, employee self-service for reimbursements and tax forms.
- e. **Hinsdale:**
 - i. Received more money for our 3rd street project. Looking to plan for tourist impact. How will Silverton's vote on OHV's impact the tourist traffic through our area. WE did receive a DOLA grant to expand Lake City ICE. CTO Grant to increase winter tourism, focus on Stars & Ice. Gunnison Ranger district to build workforce housing on... Meeting with Western and Region 10 was moved to November 8th.
- f. **Gunnison County:**
 - i. **Jim Schmidt (Crested Butte):** Bids on housing project in an area called Paradise Park, approval for General concept. Community Compass, master plan program going of for the next 8 or 9 months. Election on the 2nd and we have a couple of ballot issues about raising money for affordable

housing. Fire Department put on a ballot issue for a \$23 million facility in the Town of Crested Butte. Currently they are in several facilities the proposal is for a 31,000 sq ft facility. Upgrades to water system and wastewater treatment plant. Have an intake in Lake Irwin that was built in 1877 and we are still using it today, a wooden box that runs 18 feet that is about 30 feet below the lake. We had some divers go down and look at it and we are trying to figure out how to replace. Some of the funds for it were appropriated from the Colorado River District. 4 Council Seats turning over with 6 candidates running, and the Mayor with 2 running for that.

- ii. **Jim Gelwicks (Mayor of Gunnison):** City Lazy K Deed Restricted Housing project underway, first phase mid next year. Fed Ex announced a new distribution facility in Gunnison. Colorado Office of Economic Development awarded a \$150,000 grant to outdoor Gunnison startup (SheFly). Senior Meals (3 lunches per week) for 2021 passed 10,000 meals for the year. The total exceeded the 2019 full year total. First work session on budget last Tuesday. Street closure for kids Halloween Trick or Treat Friday afternoon. City council election Tuesday Nov 2.
- iii. **Roland Mason (Gunnison County):** County tax remained very strong. Looking at the 2022 budget with at least a 5-10% decrease. Affordable housing project that we are working through that is near Crested Butte. We have done some community outreach and very general design. We want input from the citizens in the area and the Town of Crested Butte/Town of Mt Crested Butte. We are meeting with CDOT on some turnouts and wondering how this development might impact them with growth. Gunnison County has received about 100 grants throughout 2020 and 2021. A lot of them went in for the Health & Human Services sectors. Some of the grants went towards the airport. Childcare is a link to the workforce and housing. We had a childcare facility that opened up in the middle of COVID and they were going to provide about 60 spots and then they ran into some financial issues, the county granted them \$60,000 as we saw the essential need for childcare. Blue Mesa is the lowest that we have ever seen.

7. **Next Meetings:**

- a. Board of Directors Meeting: Dec 2, 2021 Noon-3pm at Cascade Hall for those in person.
- b. BLF Committee Meeting: Dec 2, 2021 10-11am

8. **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: M/S: Kris Holstrom/Roland Mason. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at: 2:06pm