



1. **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS**—Meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm by Chair Roger Rash

Board Members	Staff
Delta County	Michelle Haynes
Mary Bachran – Town of Paonia Mayor	Dan Scinto
Don Suppes – Delta County BOCC	Trish Thibodo
	Virgil Turner
Gunnison County	Eva Veitch
Roland Mason – Gunnison County BOCC	Courtney Rodwell
Jim Gelwicks – City of Gunnison Mayor	Joe Walker
Michael Bacani – Mt. Crested Butte Council	
Vince Rogalski – Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region	
	Guests
Hinsdale County	Katharina Papenbrock -OEDIT
Kristine Borchers – Hinsdale County BOCC	
Montrose County	
Roger Rash – Montrose County BOCC	
Roy Anderson – City of Montrose City Council	
San Miguel County	
DeLaine Young – Town of Telluride Mayor	
Zoe Dohnal – Town of Mountain Village	

2. **Michelle:** Roy Anderson has announced his decision to resign from Montrose City Council and therefore the Board/Executive Committee. We are grateful for his service to our organization.

- a. **Roy:** It’s been an honor and a privilege to serve this Region and this organization.
- b. **Roger:** Your efforts have been greatly appreciated Roy.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- a. **Additions to the Agenda:**
 - i. With Roy’s departure that means we will need to replace his position as Treasurer and position on the Executive Committee. We can discuss/vote on this in May.
 - ii. Check signing - Add as item “c.” under business items.

Motion to Approve Agenda: M/S: Jim Gelwicks/Roland Mason None opposed.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for February 25, 2021 meeting**

- a. Roger: Page 4 item 2. WEEDC is acronym for West End Economic Development Corporation
- b. Page 5 item 3 Under g. Vince Rogalski “of” is in there and should have been “off”.

Motion to approve with corrections: M/S: Jim Gelwicks/Roland Mason as accepted. None opposed.

5. **Business Items**

A. Round Table Discussion – Planning for Summer

Delta County:

Mary Bachran. Sounds like we are going to have a busy summer. Cherry Days is in the planning stages. Pickin' in the Park is in the planning stage and booking bands at this point in time. Mountain Harvest Festival is expanding their festival. Two new restaurants are opening in town. Working on Legislative laws for marijuana and looking at August for that to start to open.

Don Suppes: Things are picking up and you are starting to see a little more activity. We are in a wait and see moment. Can't say that we are planning anything major or extreme.

Gunnison

Jim Gelwicks: We are looking at improving an outside venue, there is a small pocket park downtown and we are looking at increase its recreation usage. Signed off that there will be events on the 4th of July based on the current Gunnison County restrictions. Fireworks we are planning view from your car like we did last year. Relatively normal Cattleman's Days the question around that is carnivals and the contracts with that. General music happenings are proceeding with some sort of reduce capacity. Working with the Arts center to do some more activities at the South intersection. Hoping to revitalize the businesses that have been hurting. Assuming that once restrictions are totally off we are thinking about having a community celebration. We are trying to plan it so it can come off within 5-7 days of the restrictions lifting.

Roland Mason: I think there are going to be a lot of people coming in. Not only from the state but visitors. Gunnison County will be moving into the green. Continuing vaccination efforts and using every vaccine that we are receiving. Housing continues to be an issue. Continuing local business support and pinpointing that support for the summer. New coffee shop that opened up. Talks that there is construction for a Brewery that will be in unincorporated Gunnison County as a second site for a Brewery from Denver. There is a lot of commercial activity happening right now. Change is coming. Working on our Airport, we are completely redoing our terminal and it should create some efficiency. Library building construction will happen this summer. Still having some conversations about Little Blue Canyon. Marble, CO, have experienced an influx of OHVs and working with the locals and White River National Forest to mitigate some of the impacts that they have received from that. Crested Butte, the first year that GMUG have implemented camping as opposed to dispersed camping. Lots of activity around tourism and business recovery.

Mike Bacani: Couple more weeks of ski season and the parking lot is full. Named a new town manager, her name is Isa Reeb.

Hinsdale County

Kristi Borchers: It's always really helpful to hear what's going on in the season. We are looking at how we can use our recovery funds with Broadband. We are also looking at some workforce housing with CHAFA's technical assistance providers. Since our land is at a high premium, we can't necessarily use our private land as the Workforce housing. Pilot project was approved to connect the Alpine loop. Pivoting into some real consistent messaging and more/stricter enforcement of OHV laws. State trails grant has been submitted. Working on our peninsula and design of it. How do we diversify or economy and move past just tourism? We are hosting the Uncorked Festival.

San Miguel

DeLanie Young: We recently approved a resolution to expand into our parking areas. Have two weeks to construct what they need starting on May 1st and it must be used on May 15th. Do not have a common consumption on our commercial core area. We are starting to talk about events for the summer. It's not just the large festivals. The first large festival did appear – Bluegrass Festival – will be here for 2 weekends in June and will have a minor festival with less than 3,000, it does have initial approval. Starting to have these questions April 27th with the City Council. 4th of July parade is probably our biggest concern and we are looking at being in a drought and are unsure that we should be planning fireworks. Applied to the state for the reimbursement of those rent relief funds and have so far been successful. Our council has made an approval of \$200,000 for the Town if the state does not reimburse the Town for those funds. Broke ground on a housing project that we are doing in conjunction with SMC. Mixture of apartments, tiny homes and town homes, a total of 30 units. This spring and summer, projected numbers are off the charts, higher than in a normal year. Plan for the worst and hope

for the best. Have issued an RFP for wastewater treatment plant. We have had some staff retire and are in the process of hiring.

Zoe Dohnal: Continuing mask distribution. Looking at events and planning. A lot of events and a major one in September. Public plazas have common consumption areas. Refurbished gondola cabins, 25 of them into individual dining pods. Continue using them over the summer because they were hugely successful. Music in the pocket plazas. A lot of business relief for those that need it. Working Intergovernmental area to disperse people out as we are expecting an influx of people.

Michelle asked a question regarding what the town is supplying for business relief. Zoe replied the town has done a marketing fund. Helping our businesses update their websites for ecommerce and providing grants for that. Grant funding for the restaurants. Not sure that we are going to do that again. Infrastructure grants for outdoor seating and heating. May continue grants for marketing. Looking at what we can do on a more general platform.

Montrose

Roy Anderson: Hiring new staff. The City is working on some improvements at Tortilla flats and some sidewalks for kids to walk to school. Woodgate extension project is on its way, construction should start in about a month. It should eliminate the issues at US 50 and Woodgate. Water tank under construction on the top of Sunset Mesa. Basecamp apartments being built at the South end of the Colorado Outdoors building. Amphitheater is under construction right now and it should be ready come October. Planning this year to have FunkFest.

Roger Rash: Fair board is working on the Fair and Rodeo, meeting monthly. Bull riders came to town last weekend and that event was sold out quickly. Dump station is no longer available at the Fairgrounds; there are a couple in the City that are privately owned now. Vaccine clinic has gone extremely well, and are marketing that to get people in. Hoping to close the county clinic in the next few weeks and move it over to the providers/pharmacies. We will have 20 plus miles of new asphalt this year. Some overlay and some now on gravel that are going to asphalt. Collaborating with the City of Montrose to move forward with the design processes at Chipeta/ Hwy 550 intersection. Working on some of the IGA's to get that designed this summer and potentially build in 2022. Airport is doing well. Working on a possible hotel and expansion of terminal. West End Jeep tour is Saturday West End and a Cowboy gathering Saturday September 26th. Working on the Rimrocker Trail and working with BLM to improve parking lot and more signage, especially mile markers in case of emergency. Sad news in the West End: the Fire Chief in Nucla passed away, his service is this Saturday. The Ballfields will be getting toilets and other improvements. RFP for County admin building remodel, which is another piece of the puzzle for doing the Courthouse remodel. Looking forward to some events.

B. Discussion – Regional Projects

Kat Papenbrock from OEDIT has joined us and she can give us an update on some of the state activities.

Kat: The state Economic Recovery and Resilience Project is receiving funding from the Economic Development Administration to provide assistance to communities in developing economic recovery and resilience projects. Letters interest that were submitted for that funding, including projects for the Region 10 area. DOLA/OEDIT is working on bill language for the State's stimulus funds which includes \$15 million dollars for the rural communities and \$3 million for Rural Jumpstarts.

Trish: Projects Specifically related to the State grant project and other funding include:

1. High Alpine Loop (with Region 9)
2. West End – REDI Grant to continue economic transition.
3. Gunnison has put in a Letter of Interest for the OEDIT funding.
4. Delta/Montrose Counties to explore technology innovation and marketing our Broadband.

Michelle: We are hopeful that some of the Projects that Region 10 has taken on it has helped to improve our economic resiliency and recovery. It's been encouraging to see that as we lost Russel Stover, there continue to be new projects in the area. Are there Regional Projects that we should be working on, are there any gaps that you see that Region 10 could help to fill in?

Roger Rash: I think that the Broadband projects that we have been working on needs to continue. Tourism we can work on together and help everyone out. Transportation and housing, that seems important to everyone. How do we get affordable housing into our areas?

Roland Mason: Broadband, I think that that has been some of Region 10's biggest success. That coordination between counties. Communication between the City and County of Montrose mirrors between those in Gunnison, impacts to the City Limits and the County are blurred and so building those relationships to support each other. Business support is going to be much needed in the future. It might be difficult for the business that have acclimated to the restrictions for COVID to now head back into the service based and no restrictions.

Jim Gelwicks: On the restaurants and lodging and general tourist industries we may be facing a lack of employees. Housing and expenses to live here, it is going to take a real effort to get people back to working here. My understanding was that there was a conversation between Cottonwood and Century Link about the Fiber and getting it up and Century Link had no commitment to timeframe, the idea that we'll get to it when we get to it.

DeLanie Young: Affordable housing. Lack of Employees. Mental Health of Frontline workers. Additional programing for mental health awareness and assistance. Advertise and destigmatize.

Jim Gelwicks: There was a discussion a month ago to increase funding for mental health in rural areas. Earmarked for underserved areas. I will try to find the Bill number on that.

Our housing subcommittee has prioritized housing for Mental Healthcare professionals to have affordable housing.

Michelle: Eva is working on some Mental Health through the AAA, and we can try to arrange to have the Center for Mental Health at one of our upcoming meetings. Michelle asked Kat is there a way for the state to help set expectations regarding visiting in the rural areas that may have limited capacity and services. Kat will work on this with the tourism office.

Kristi Borchers: On the topic of Mental Health in general, we have been in emergency response for about 24 months with avalanches and flooding then COVID. About a year ago we were concerned about losing 75% of our businesses but we saw a banner year and now we are at capacity. Housing, all is sold, it has had a banner year. We are now wondering, how is our community going to change with all of this? In two years will all those houses go back on the market?

Kat Papenbrock: We were looking at the employment crisis in 2018. I will bring up EDA Grant Project where they are looking at a statewide Tourism plan. Responsible tourism. Not mutually exclusive. The mental health of the frontline workers.

C. Treasurer Position:

Michelle: With Roy's resignation. Signs checks for the most part and is our primary contact. Can we have someone that is near the R10 office? There are times where that is challenging for us. Is it time to add a second staff member as a signer? There was discussion of the current signers, and the number of checks (estimated to be around 100 or so per month. A suggestion was made to consider a stamp where, one signature is live, and one is a stamp. The board decided to consider this option, with a stamp for Roger's signature to be used if other signers are not available. Further discussion of the Treasurer's position-while it is helpful to have someone in the Montrose area, is not automatically the City's designee to the board.

6. Reports:

a. Executive Director/Financial Report – Michelle Haynes

- i. Financials: We are not having any concerns with Cash Flow. Most of the programs are catching up. There is some extra funding coming in due to COVID.
- ii. Have begun recruitment of the replacement for Virgil, with advertisement on social media and the website.
- iii. Question regarding there is an excess of funds in the Broadband project; answer is the excess is due to capital grants; expenditures are into assets, so there are not direct related offsets to the revenues.

b. Business Loan Fund – Dan Scinto

- i. **Activities & Inquires:** Community Development Block Grant funding. \$300,000 of loans pre-approved out of that.

- ii. Region 10 is applying for a grant of approximately \$300,000 for the loan fund for SBA loans technical assistance.
- iii. Loan Inquiry form is now on our website. It is live and a great segue into getting people in the door.
- iv. In regards to the CDBG: given the amount of time it took for the last contract amendment to get processed we are looking at applying it again as we have other potential upcoming projects that could utilize the funding.
- c. **Small Business Resource Center**- Michelle for Nancy Murphy
 - i. About 20-30 people attend her monthly workshops.
 - ii. Currently in the middle of our 8-10 week business planning class and there are about 8 people in that.
 - iii. We have expanded what's available online with on demand classes that have been well-received.
- d. **Community Development** – Trish Thibodo
 - i. Remind everyone that we are in the process of updating our Comprehensive Economic Development Plan.
 - ii. We are doing a SWOT survey, will be sending a link out to you all. With this survey we will be able to pull out information by county. It is a quick 8 question survey, please complete and send on as appropriate.
- e. **Community Living Services** – Eva Veitch
 - i. We are working with local Public Health Departments about possibly re-opening the meal sites. In Delta, Montrose, etc. We won't be considering it until June and it will likely look different. The Grab'n'Go meal program will continue and folks can decide which option they are most comfortable with.
 - ii. **State Unit on Aging Survey**: One of the biggest comments that we are seeing from that is to re-open the senior centers.
 - iii. **Hands on Visitation**: In the Senior centers we are fighting hard to move from no contact visitation to hands on visitation.
 - iv. We have purchased some aluminum wheelchair ramps, they are portable and can move around as needed.
 - v. The graphs in the report show what the increase in participation in the meals programs has been since last year.
 - vi. With Joe coming on we have been trying to get our senior companion program re-configured and expanded out to the other areas of the region. This is in hopes of addressing some of the concerns of the isolation of seniors.
- f. **Regional Broadband** - Virgil Turner
 - i. To address comments on Cottonwood Pass: there have been in conversations with the folks at Lumen/Century Link. We believe that the delays are because of winter and lack of planning to complete the connection. Regio 10 has ordered a circuit across Cottonwood when it is available. This will provide Region 10 with redundancy and a path to Denver.
 - ii. Gunnison to Crested Butte circuit. It is a big project that we are hoping to get approval on funding from USAC this Spring. Working with Communities and to build the carrier neutral location for the project in Crested Butte.
 - iii. Met with Commissioner Levine and other to work out a solution for Lake City & Hinsdale. Getting sufficient access to internet into that community is key to that project. Discussions with Mammoth in designing a plan for service in the community.
 - iv. Bills in legislature that we are following restructure Broadband Deployment Board – Grant Funding for Rural Colorado HB 21-1109 has the most momentum. Changes and restructuring of those committees could be beneficial.
 - v. Senate Bill 21-0072 – Bill to form a regional electrical transmission in the state. There is also language to expand the perfection of easements that have come to local Co-Ops and extend those to work with generation associations. It would assist in resolving the issue for perfecting the middle-mile projects, and could be a way for us to get a secondary route to Gunnison, which continues to be a regional need to be able to improve service.
- g. **Gunnison Valley Transportation Region Committee**- Vince Rogalski
 - i. Representing the GVTPR, was able to send a letter to the Governor about Little Blue. Received a response yesterday. Executive Director of CDOT and the Governor have talked about this. There was an open house in Gunnison and there were people around to help answer questions about the project. Noone was really against it at the Gunnison meeting, but were just wondering how it would work. Emergency vehicles and 72 foot trucks on 92 were the main concerns.

- ii. Safe routes to schools grant was awarded to the City of Gunnison for \$733,500 for the project.
- iii. Announcements went out about the Revitalizing Main Street Grants.
 - 1. CDOT approved how it will be distributed.
 - 2. \$8 Million for smaller projects of up to \$150
 - 3. \$22 Million for Capital projects up to \$2 million each.
- iv. MMOF – over \$100,000 that is left over, Lake City has stated interested in applying for that.

Motion to Approve Reports. M/S: Roy Anderson/Jim Gelwicks None opposed.

Motion to Adjourn: M/S: Roland Mason/Kristi Borchers. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at: 2:23 PM

APPROVED 4-22-2021