



1. Before Meeting Talk:
 - a. Roland is out on a beach emergency and Roger is out so Ben do you mind Chairing? Jon is your proxy for Roger.
 - b. There are some items we need approval for so we can move forward with the meeting today and we can vote today and ratify it at the next meeting.

2. **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS** – Meeting was called to order at 12:05

| Board Members | Staff |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Delta County | |
| Mary Bachran – Town of Paonia Mayor | Michelle Haynes |
| Patti Michael – Town of Cedaredge | Dan Scinto |
| Les Mergelman – Delta County | Trish Thibodo |
| Gunnison County | |
| Jim Schmidt – Mayor of Crested Butte | Virgil Turner |
| Jim Gelwicks – City of Gunnison Mayor | Nancy Murphy |
| Michael Bacani – Mt. Crested Butte Council | Courtney Rodwell |
| Vince Rogalski – Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region | |
| Guests | |
| Hinsdale County | |
| Kristine Borchers – Hinsdale County BOCC | Katharina Papenbrock -OEDIT |
| Dave Roberts – Town Trustee Lake City | |
| Montrose County | |
| Jon Waschbusch – Montrose County | |
| Ouray County | |
| Ben Tisdell – Ouray County BOCC | |
| San Miguel County | |
| Mike Bordogna – San Miguel County | |
| Kris Holstrom – San Miguel County BOCC | |

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

a. **Additions**

- i. We have two EZ Contribution projects to be approved instead of just one.

Motion to approve with corrections: M/S: Ben Tisdell/Mike Bordogna as accepted. None opposed.

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

Motion to approve: M/S: Kristi Borchers/Vince Rogalski as accepted. None opposed.

5. **Business Items**

a. **Discussion and Approval of Potential DOLA Grants**

i. **West End Just Transitions**

1. DOLA reached out to see if we would consider to apply on behalf of the West End Economic Development (which is not eligible for DOLA funding. The project would be for Tourism

Development, Outdoor Recreation development. Funds have 2 years to be spent. 18-month to 2-year budget. Staff support for WEEDC, contract. WEEDC will provide the match for the grant.

Motion to approve: M/S: Kristi Borchers/Kris Holstrom as accepted. None opposed.

ii. **Region 10 Entrepreneur Support**

1. **Michelle:** We have talked about potential projects with Montrose and Delta county for Technical Support. We have had some conversations with Montrose & Delta County to have an Entrepreneurs Support organization to have a support group to assist with replace some of the ENGAGE activities. (The grant ended in March and the project will not continue.) We are exploring if there is a need for this entrepreneur support roll to help with start-ups, an accelerator. To help continue to move those conversations forward. . If we move forward, it would involve a program coordinator at Region 10 and potentially a program assistant. The program would be housed in the SBRC under Nancy. How to improve our venture capital and make venture capital more available. Do you all feel like this is a role that we could and should take on? If so, we would look at starting the application the DOLA REDI Grant. The ultimate goal may be looking at an EDA grant for longer term funding.
2. **Trish:** It has started off as a conversation in Montrose/Delta counties, but we would look at how do we take this larger regionally? There is an online group in Gunnison County. One of the questions we asked ourselves is, "How do we do innovative projects like a Regional Business Incubator?" The goal is meeting the needs of Rural Entrepreneurship. How do we build a Regional Entrepreneurship system?
 - a. We don't want to replace any of the programs that are already existing but more so fill in the gaps.
3. **Ben:** You identify the ICE Lab as someone who is serving in this region, as is the Telluride Venture Association. There may be a couple other programs with potential overlap. Is there space to house something like this? It does seem like it would fit well within Nancy's SBRC and Dan's Business Loan Fund. If there were more staff at Region 10, is there space for them there? If the previous effort happened and went away, why was that?
 - a. **Trish:** What Region 10 can bring is our history of work and implementing projects and collaboration. That will help us to ensure a more long-term success through Region 10.
 - b. **Michelle:** It was under the Tech College of the Rockies and so it was under the Delta County School District. They thought they were going to be able start some new programing to get some more funding to sustain it. And once they felt like they were unable to sustain themselves financially they did not extend the project. There may also have been some challenges with the implementation of it.
 - c. We felt like the entrepreneur programs were a piece that were successful when implemented but there was a lack of consistency.
 - d. If we were to take this on, we would need to look at what ongoing funding really look like to support a program long-term.
4. **Ben:** Is this an exploratory effort, right now?
 - a. We have some idea of what activities/projects would be successful but there would be a growing period to figure out what is needed.
 - i. With WEEDC we hosted a virtual incubator and that was successful. And we have participated in some of these activities so we do have an idea of what some of the projects could look like.
 - b. **Ben:** To move forward with the application we know this is exploratory but that there is evidence that it would be a good idea and would be needed.
5. **Trish:** The number one need from our SWOT Survey, was a need for small business support and want for small business support. Communities want to continue to see local governments supporting small businesses.
6. **Ben:** With everyone moving in over the past year and what businesses have gone through; this might be something that is just in time to capture some of the economic potential that has been moving into the region.
7. **Kris:** If you feel comfortable with it and see the need for it, I do see the need for it throughout the region. A continuing and more coordinated effort of this does seem needed. Is anyone else doing pieces/parts of this already and can this be coordinated with that?
 - a. **Michelle:** ICE Lab (Gunnison County), TVA in Telluride, WEEDC, and ENGAGE (which ended on March 31st). There are pockets of Entrepreneur Support in individual towns/cities, and we would hope that this would cover the Region.
 - b. **Nancy:** The ones that do exist tend to look beyond our area to fill in slots.

8. **Kris:** I think it is a great idea and that there is a need for it.

9. **Action Item: Approve the Application to DOLA for the REDI Funding for the Project**

Motion to approve: M/S: Kris Holstrom/Ben Tisdal as accepted. None opposed. Motion Passed.

iii. **High Alpine Regional Recovery DOLA Grant**

1. Submitted in partnership with Region 9 a letter of interest for the Roadmap to Recovery to DOLA and OEDIT. Accepting full applications for Communities with connect
2. Planning project to get communities with connected economies in place to access implementation funding. One of the letters we submitted is the High Alpine Project which includes Ouray, San Miguel, Hinsdale, San Juan and portions of Dolores. It will include the Towns and the Counties looking at their connect outdoor economy and how to diversify, strengthen and make it a place for the people who live there prosper. Region 10 would be the lead and we would be applying to be a part of a project that if funded by DOLA and would hopefully lead us to access implementation funding.
3. **Ben:** That High Alpine Region is divided by planning regions and this represents an opportunity for coordinated planning and cohesive management. I am excited about this one. It will be really good to have the 4 counties across the High Alpine Region working together.
4. **Kristi:** I support the idea and concept. It has been helpful to have the weekly meetings so that visitors get the same message. Working with Region 10 & 9 in this format will help elevate all of our communities that are facing the same impacts. Michelle thank you for getting together the letter of intent together back in December.
5. **Action Item: To Submit Grant Application to DOLA**

Motion to approve: M/S: Kristi Borchers/Kris Holstrom as accepted. None opposed. Motion Passed.

iv. Gunnison is putting in their own application for the DOLA Resiliency Grant, so will not be included in the High Alpine application.

6. Reports:

a. **Executive Director/Financial Report** – Michelle Haynes

- i. No written report. As are reminder, we are moving our board meeting in May to the 20th. A Zoom Meeting has been sent out early so that you can add that to your calendars and have that date held. That will be a full Board Meeting and we will elect officers to be seated in July and continue to fill in some vacant seats.
- ii. Board Seats to be elected:
 1. Vice Chair needs to be elected.
 2. Treasury Chair will be open. Treasurer does have additional duties and they are needed to be available to sign checks. It does help if they are local.
 3. We have some Executive Committee Chairs Open, I know that Kris Holstrom has expressed interest to be nominated.
- iii. Broadband Coordinator – we have identified a highly qualified Coordinator, Corey Brindle. He has accepted our offer and we are moving forward. He will be joining us May 10th. He is from the Gunnison/Crested Butte area. He is hired as Virgil's replacement and is suitable as the Broadband Director.
- iv. Financials: We have had a new accountant, Jo Lance, join us recently coming on full time in January. She has done an amazing job and we are thrilled to have her.
 1. Our balance sheet shows that our operations account was overdrawn but can assure you that we were not. There were some outstanding checks out at the time, it is more of a timing issue of when checks were coming and going.
 2. On Page 12 the overall performance of our Projects with revenues/expenses are performing either at or just above our expectations. We are seeing extra funding from COVID and we are meeting as Directors to make sure those funds are deployed in a meaningful way for our communities.

b. **Business Loan Fund** – Dan Scinto

- i. Under Activities and Inquiries: Our Grant for the CDBG came through and we were able to close two loans with that.
- ii. Closed 4 loans for the month 3 in Montrose County, 1 in Gunnison
- iii. We have requested an additional \$500,000 amendment to the Grant. The total balance then would be \$1,348,000. The original grant started out a \$348,00
- iv. Since July 2020
 1. We have funded \$913,000 loans to businesses within the 6 counties. Goal was set at \$1 M for the fiscal year.
 2. Avg Loan amount \$31,000 during that period

- v. A lot of inquiries for Loans coming through. Conversations we are having with businesses are about moving forward rather than making it through.
 - vi. The CARES Act has been paying on the SBA loans which represent about 60% of our loans and so there are no loans past due currently.
 - vii. **Action Item: Approval/Authorization of SBA Loan Resolution**
 - 1. The Board gave approval to apply for the loan but the SBA requires a the Formal Resolution 160 as presented.
 - 2. As the officers are in town, please come by. The SBA requires actual physical signatures.
- Motion to approve: M/S: Kris Holstrom/ Kristi Borchers as accepted.** None opposed.
- c. **Small Business Resource Center** - Nancy Murphy
 - i. Our consulting numbers tend to be a little bit low and that tends to be because we have expanded the online classes. Which makes it able to reach all 6 counties.
 - ii. Leading Edge class graduates next week – 7 people.
 - iii. On-Demand Child Care class continues to gain momentum. There are 50 people signed up and one of them is from the Region 10 area.
 - 1. **Ben:** For the Child Care course, “How do we outreach to those in our area to get more people from our Region?”
 - 2. **Nancy:** We have put out a click-able PDF Flyer and that is also being distributed through *Bright Futures* that is our Child Care Council in the area. We have plenty of time to get this out. We have the Early Childhood Grant through the end of the year, and we have licensing to the program for about 3 years.
 - 3. **Ben:** If you could send it directly to the members here and each county’s social services department.
 - 4. **Nancy:** Completion of the class does qualify them to receive higher CCAP Rates. Childcare providers get 8 professional development credits that would raise their CCAP Rating.
 - 5. **Ben:** We have a bunch of empty CCAP seats in Ouray County and I think others do too. AS people return to work I think this will be more important.
 - iv. PPP (Payroll Protection Program) continues until May 31st.
 - v. EIDL continues.
 - vi. Shuttered Venues Operator’s Grant application crashed this past weekend on the day it opened, and it is expected to be back up this weekend. Accessed through an SBA portal.
 - vii. Restaurant Revitalization Fund will be open until funds are expended.
 - viii. Climber Fund – For businesses, implemented through CHFA.
 - ix. **Dan:** Colorado Rescue Plan Stimulus
 - 1. Climber Fund – Access to \$250 M in funding distributed by banks, credit unions and nonprofits.
 - 2. Statewide EDA Revolving Loan Fund
 - 3. Energize Colorado Loans & Grants will be available going forward. Between \$12-20 M upcoming
 - 4. Other programs that the State is developing:
 - a. Businesses in the Marijuana Industry
 - b. Business in Urban, Distress and Underserved Founders Fund
 - 5. **Ben:** It might be helpful to have a special section to get a deeper dive on what all those programs are, what they can do and what type of funding there is.
 - Dan: a. We could get together a PowerPoint that talks about the investments are going to be made.
 - b. There are some that we will participate in that the funds revolve back into our Loan Fund. There are some that we may participate in because they are larger but less apt to participate in because the funds revolve back to the State.
 - d. **Community Living Services** – Michelle for Eva Veitch
 - i. Our Region 10 Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) started up on April 1st.
 - ii. Working with team and Regional stakeholders to deploy some funding that they have received.
 - iii. Revitalizing the Senior Volunteer Companion Program
 - 1. The two Volunteer Programs are a way to serve areas where it may be difficult to find staffing, They are both senior-to-senior programs
 - iv. Working on some new concepts for the Meals on Wheels programs. Trying to look at a way to get some in person dining.
 - 1. Talked with Shepherds Hands, to see if they could do some of the hot meals. They would not be the official AAA meals. But we are looking at ways to support them.
 - v. Maybe something our Regions want to think about is supporting the Age Friendly communities.
 - vi. We have new partners for legal services.
 - 1. Included in the Board Packet is the upcoming legal seminars for the Virtual Senior Law Series.

e. **Community Development** – Trish Thibodo

- i. We are in the process of update CEDS.
 1. Did a survey and also had a SWOT virtual meeting.
 - a. We got close to 270-280 responses from the SWOT survey. From that survey we will be able to pull responses by:
 - i. Region
 - ii. Counties
 - b. The majority of respondents were from the private sector.
 2. Collecting data and working with the demographers to update some of the demographic information.
 3. Next phase in CEDS is to develop strategies & goals.
 - a. Would want to do an in-person meeting to discuss and develop these.
 - i. We are looking at the 3rd week of June (Friday June 18th) in Montrose at the Events Center. We would like feedback from the Board is it appropriate to do an in-person meeting?
 - ii. **Ben:** It seems that most counties are returning to some form of in person meetings.
 4. Enterprise Zone Projects there are two new applicants:
 - a. Crested Butte Center for the Arts – For General Operations. They have been getting their letters of support locally
 - b. Gunnison Valley Health Foundation – New EMS Facility with Lodging
 - i. They serve a 4400 mile area, the largest in Colorado
 5. **Action Item:** Approval to Submit Enterprise Zone Applications
Motion to approve: M/S: Ben Tisdel/Kristi Borchers as accepted. None opposed.
 6. The Data Dashboard is live, not yet linked to our website. As we are understanding it more we are learning that it may require some training to use. We have been talking with See Source to look at some geolocation data to see who is moving around in our communities.

f. **Regional Broadband** - Virgil Turner

- i. We were awarded an EDA grant to expand the network from Grand Junction to Glenwood Springs. DOLA is a financial partner with us on this. We will be negotiating with 4 different Fiber owners for equipment to be deployed, and for Fiber that is not built yet.
- ii. We had a meeting in Lake City to meet about Broadband with a Private ISP (Visionary)
 1. Lake City is a difficult community to see a return on investment on the market base for a private ISP.
 - a. They put together 3 different projects, a core network in the center of town, secondary network up to morning side, and one up to the Lakes in San Cristobel to be able to serve properties along the highway.
 - b. The piece that we were waiting on was getting a connection to back haul traffic out of Lake City and that is accomplished with two circuits that are going into Gunnison.
 2. Working with Visionary to enhance a telecommunication building that they have there and working on getting a contract for Region 10 to operate that as an open access Carrier Neutral location there.
- iii. Learned that DOLA with the continuing reduction in severance taxes they have decided to reduce the Broadbands in the Environmental Impact Fund
- iv. House Bill 2112.89 would deploy a one-time \$5 million Fund for Broadband.
 1. Reducing those middle mile funds and increasing the last mile funds
 2. Industry likes to say the middle mile projects are over-building their existing projects but without the middle mile projects it stifles the last mile growth.
 3. Predominantly those middle mile projects are gaining access to existing Fiber. The few places that we are building are communities that do not have adequate access, like Lake City.
 4. When I pulled up the numbers for the 1060 miles of DOLA funded middle mile projects Region 10 accounts for over 500 of those miles.
 5. Any help and support you all can provide to back this bill is helpful.
- v. Heard a lot about the problems with Broadband Maps there is some funding coming to the FCC
 1. Aggregating maps to help understand the actual state of the availability of Broadband.
 2. National Broadband Availability Map has made a lot of strides.
 - a. Working with the State and have asked for maps of all our Counties.

- vi. **Ben:** I have been following the middle mile/last mile funding and Senator Kennedy stepped in at a critical point. Hooray, cheers, many thumbs up for bringing that attention to Hinsdale County and Lake City.
 - 1. The piece that remains is that the market in Lake City does not have a Return on Investment for a private entity. We will come to Region 10 to get to a bridge the gap for the ROI.
- g. **Gunnison Valley Transportation Region Committee** - Vince Rogalski
 - i. The Revitalization of Main Street Grant that has \$30 M application is open. It is open in to ways Small Grants (\$8 Million for grant up to \$150, 000) Large Grant (\$22 Million for up to \$2 M) - In Kind is eligible for the match
 - ii. STAC meeting review of the legislation fee based MMOF to identify and prioritize them in the 10 year plan.
 - 1. Current talk was about 50/50 match and they talked about reducing that match to 20% because the smaller communities with a lower revenue might not be able to match that.
 - 2. Electrical Vehicle are having an impact on communities and the Electrical Vehicle fees are gradually increasing.
 - 3. VMT fee (Vehicle Miles Traveled), charging a fee for each mile traveled, it is not considered because the implementation costs are very high upfront.
 - 4. GHG Rule Making: House Bill 1261
 - a. When they talk about Land Use they have no authority over Land Use.
 - 5. Office of Innovative Mobility: Mobility services, mobility technology and electrocution and energy.
 - a. How are these going to affect the future?
 - iii. Bustang: One of the plans that they are putting together or have put together and got approval from the Transportation Committee is the Bustang Microtransit. Plan is to order twelve 14-passenger van vehicles (\$1.2 million) that are handicap equipped and run every hour back and forth as far as Avon up I-70. Implemented by December of 2021
 - iv. Transportation Commission and STAC are planning to meet in person starting in June.
 - 1. Kathy Hall of Grand Junction will be Chair of the Transportation Commission starting in July.
 - 2. Next TPR meeting is planned for July 1 on Zoom, may be the last meeting on Zoom
 - v. **Ben:** Is there any word on Little Blue?
 - 1. No but they are behind schedule. Director Lew and Commissioner Hall met with Senator Corum and other interested parties over the last couple of weeks to go over the projects. Commissioner Hall reported at the Transportation meeting that those meetings went well.
 - 2. Signs indicate that there are closures, but it is not yet closed.
 - a. **Michelle:** There is a website, www.us50info.com, and you can sign up for text alerts: Text us50 to 21000.

Motion to approve Reports: M/S: Kristi Borchers/Kris Holstrom as accepted. None opposed.

7. Roundtable Discussion

a. Delta County

- i. **Patti Michael - Cedaredge:** Working on ordinance for Marijuana Applications. 2 retail and 2 medical and we hope to see a big boost in Income. Trish was our facilitator for our Trustee and Town Council future planning, and we have been okayed to go ahead with Applefest this year. We have started working on drought phase 1 and we have expanded our Golf Course reservoir. Last month we were up 100% on construction materials. Retail food and restaurants were up 21%. Working on a grant come May for a dewatering on our wastewater treatment plant.
- ii. **Mary Bachran - Paonia:** Working on our Marijuana ordinance and on Tuesday it will have a second reading and then will begin taking applications. We will have a total of 3 a combination of retail and medical. Our festivals are all planned for the summer and we have a concert series taking of this weekend. Movie theater back open operating at 50%. Hayes drugstore is closing down after almost 100 years, the building has been bought. Currently doing a survey on short term rentals because we are looking at some sort of regulation on them. All the commercial properties that were empty downtown have been purchased.
- iii. **Les Mergelman - Delta County:** The second weekend of May, the 7-9th, Hotchkiss has the Sheepdog trials, which is one of the best Sheepdog trials in the state.

b. San Miguel

- i. **Kris Holstrom – San Miguel County:** Had a site visit with DOLA to look at some projects. It has been our off season as the ski area closed the first week in April. The Town of Telluride is working on their Festival Plan with the Health Department. The Bluegrass Festival is the first to come up and will be happening over two weekends with a capacity of 3,000 people. There is a great deal of talk surrounding conservation of water and wildfires, I think we are all in the same boat. Continuing to work on our Broadband issue and our Economic Development Group. We will be on a call with Western State about starting a new program on Climate and Food Systems.

c. **Montrose County**

- i. **Jon Waschbusch – Montrose County:** March ended up being the second busiest month in history for Montrose Regional Airport. The *Request for Proposals* for the expansion of the Main Terminal will be out next week. The expansion will be adding gates, restaurant space, and parking improvements. The last mass vaccination clinic will be on the 29th, with over 20,000 doses administered. We are comfortable discontinuing the mass vaccination as we have a lot of local providers taking it on. The COVID Census at Montrose Memorial hospital has been hovering at 0-1 with more days at 0. We are seeing the same trend with Sales Tax in the County and are up 16.2% from last year. Building is extremely strong with commercial permits up 84%, single families up 64%, valuations up 77%. Building in Montrose was not affected by COVID and this housing boom is similar or more than the boom in 2005. City and County have come along on the light at Chipeta.

d. **Hinsdale County**

- i. **Kristi Borchers – Hinsdale County:** Commissioner Levine did give an update on the Broadband and we have some ideas for our portion of the match. Commissioner Heard attended the last transportation meeting and we thank you for your involvement on the 3rd Street project. We have an individual interested in a boutique hotel. We will be receiving two CDOT Revitalization Grants. Moving forward with design for workforce housing on a Federally own administrative site. Met with the Lake Forth Valley Conservancy to plan out the next steps for the Observatory. Held a public meeting for the peninsula and lake facilities access to the lake. Travel along the road has been improved by pulverizing. Working on tourism messaging that is consistent and that focuses on stewardship.
- ii. **Dave Roberts – Lake City:** Huge thank you to Michelle and Virgil for coming up and working on the Broadband. The town is going to drum up some support and get some financial backing for this project. Town is busy. I would love to throw my name in the ring for consideration for the Executive Committee, but I am concerned about the time constraints.

e. **Gunnison County**

- i. **Michael Bacani - Mt. Crested Butte:** Sales tax projection is right on or just above. We are finalizing the Town's strategic plan and hope to have the done and approved by the end of Summer.
- ii. **Jim Schmidt – Crested Butte:** There are now only three RV dump stations. One is private by Taylor Park, one in the Town of Crested Butte and one in Gunnison. However, our Town Council voted to close the Dump Station and now the Town is revisiting it. For now, everyone must go to Gunnison for the Dump Station starting September 1st. Forrest service said that they are not willing to open one and in fact they have been closing most of theirs. We are getting close to heard immunity in Gunnison County, 9,000 have received at least one does. Once we get over 10,000, we will be considering opening up. We are going to have one-way traffic on Elk Avenue again this year so that the restaurants can have seating in the street. Our school is over capacity already and the School District is proposing a bond built for 750 and was at 820 last year. A developer, Mark Walter, has come in and bought 4 buildings on main and has bought rights to develop a hotel, 6th Street Station. That 6th Street Station is the largest hotel project the Town has approved. He has been unattainable about what his plans are or what he is going to be doing with the properties.
- iii. **Jim Gelwicks – City of Gunnison:** We have approved a couple of projects for what is known as Lazy K to put in infrastructure for sewer, water and roads for the affordable housing. The City has applied for one of the \$150 Main Street Grants for a bus stop, sidewalk and street re-alignment to serve the library. Small pocket park at Virginia and Main is being revitalized to increase its longevity. The Garden Walk had 11 units left 10 days ago with 13 applications being processed. It is expected to be full by May with 100% of 26 units occupied. Paintbrush is another 70 units that is progressing along. We did get money set aside to re-work the ditch that runs by it and have it enclosed. Revised our Title 12 ordinances, discusses the uses/misuses of utilities. There is an opportunity to greatly improve that facility in Gunnison. Western has been able to proceed with classes throughout the semester with in-person and online. The Graduation will go ahead with limited tickets to each student. The student body at Western is at about 50% of inoculation, which shows that the students have been very responsible in Gunnison. Gunnison is putting transformers for electrical system and one is being repaid by Gunnison Rising.
- iv. **Vince Rogalski - GVTPR:** The County is doing some work just north of the River that will be a park with a Boat Ramp to the River and River Access.

Motion to Adjourn: M/S: /Vince Rogalski. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at: 2:46 PM