



1. **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS**—Meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm.
 - a. **Staff:** Michelle Haynes (R10 Director), Nancy Murphy (Small Business Development), Corey Bryndal (Broadband Director), Eva Veitch (AAA Director), Courtney Tribble,
 - b. **In-Person Board Members:** John Clark (Town of Ridgway, Chair), Dave Frank (City of Montrose, Vice Chair), Michelle Nauer (Ouray County),
 - c. **Remote Board Members:** Joe Gillman (City of Delta), Greg Levine (Hinsdale County), Greg Hart (Cedaredge), Mike Bordogna (San Miguel County), Dave Roberts (Town of Lake City), Michael Bacani (Mt Crested Butte)
 - d. **Guests/Other:**
Dana Hlavac (DOLA), Joe Gillman is proxy for Elyse Ackerman-Casselberry (City of Delta)

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**
 - a. DOLA Update after approval of minutes
Motion to approve amended agenda: M/S Dave Frank/Michelle Nauer: as accepted. None opposed.
Motion passed unanimously.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for October 2023, Board Meeting**
Motion to approve amended minutes: M/S: Michelle Nauer/Dave Frank as accepted with addition.
None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Introduction of Adriana Chavira, she will be working with us in the Small Business Resource Center as well as Hispanic Outreach.

5. **DOLA (Department of Local Affairs) Update | Dana Hlavac**
 - a. First cycle of 2024 and hearings are scheduled for the end of February. Next cycle opens March and closes April 1.
 - i. Energy Impact funding, More Housing Now, Climate Resiliency Challenge, Mainstreet LIVE, plus one more, approximately \$100 million for the year, with large focus on housing.
 - ii. New Executive Director Maria DeCambria out of the governor's office, will be visiting around the state. Dana and Patrick will reach out to coordinate meetings with local officials.
 - iii. John Clark noted DOLA has been more transformational for Ridgway for community development.
 1. Dana-It is a state agency whose function is there for the local governments and to make an impact on the local level.

6. **Action Items:**
 - a. AAA (Agency on Aging) Funding and Grant Approval
 - i. With the sunset of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding there will be a significant shortfall for funding on the AAA services that Region 10 helps to provide. We worked to carry over ARPA funding last year to spread the impact over time, but funding will expire in 2024. In the past, our program has received homestead funding of approximately \$120,000 plus admin funding. This year we will receive about \$86,000 plus very little for admin. Next year, with the ARPA funding ending we will need to have it spent by September but will likely have that spent by the end of June.
 1. We are currently having to limit services through targeting population demographics: If a person's income is even slightly over the federal level for poverty they are put on a waitlist for the in-home services , transportation and meals.

2. We are expecting a \$600-700,000 shortfall in overall funding. For example, homemaking & personal care that is a \$300-400,000 decrease in funding, meals approximately \$150,000 and transportation about \$150,000.
 3. The percentage of older adults as a population is 32%-33% of our residents. The majority of the people we are helping are above 75 years old.
 4. We will also cut the community paramedicine program completely which helps to keep older adults in their homes, as we are out of funding for this program.
- ii. Question: Is there a legislative bill that is supporting funding for older adults?
 1. SB 040: emergency funding to make it through this year, it is \$2 million for the 16 AAAs in the state. The AAAs are asking for an increase in our base funding and that would increase it \$5 million and cause them to have to review it every other year for inflation.
 2. Region 10 would receive 4-6% of the \$2 and \$5 million but that won't replace all the funding that we are at a shortfall of.
 3. Dave Frank will take it to the CML (Colorado Municipal League) policy committee to support it.
 - iii. Michelle noted AAA services are pre-Medicaid services, and Region 10 typically estimates spending of \$4500 to \$6500 a year on a client. That provides support in areas such as homemaking, meals, lifeline, transportation, ramps. If they were in a facility on Medicaid that would cost \$4500-\$6000 per month per client. We see these as highly leveraged funds that can save communities taxpayer funds.
 - iv. The State wants us to bring back congregate meals and the only way that is feasible is if we have the volunteer support to make that successful; we are working on potential solutions for the program.
 - v. We are planning to submit a grant for the Senior Companion Program. We are currently supporting some of this service through our RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). The grant would pay a stipend to volunteers that does not count towards their other public benefits. We are planning a budget for about \$250,000-\$300,000 with a 10% match

Motion to approve submission of AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program Grant; M/S: Dave Frank/Michelle Nauer as accepted. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

- vi. Can we put a press release out that explains and shows these numbers to residents of our region.
- vii. Get people to reach out to the JBC (Joint Budget Committee) in the capital.
- viii. DRCOG (Denver Regional Council of Governments) that has created a flyer that can be customized.
- ix. The Colorado Sun also has a good article that we will send.

7. Reports:

a. ED/Financial reports

i. Review of Handbook updates:

1. Pg 7 Equal employment and diversity. Changed it to be basic or "any other protected class or and other non-merit-based characteristics" rather than the individual items which may not be inclusive.
2. Pg 8: Diversity and Equality: removed flexible schedule to accommodate work life balance to remove potential ambiguity in the statement.
3. Pg 11: Employment of Relatives; you cannot refuse hire someone because they are related, add some clarifying language to the statement.
4. PG 16: Benefits: We updated the flexible holidays to allow the company to designate some holidays as flexible—we are piloting this program for this year and may have changes in next year's holiday schedule.
5. Pg 7: Sick Leave; as discussed in the previous meeting, we changed to total accumulation to 240 hours (previously 480 hours) and matched the language in state policy how the sick leave can be utilized.
6. Pg 18: Inserted a guideline for FAMLI (Family And Medical Leave Insurance) leave implemented by the state.
7. Pg 22: Bereavement: is now a part of sick leave per state policy.

Motion to approve amended Employee Handbook: M/S: Michelle Nauer/Dave Frank as accepted with addition. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

- ii. Financial Report
 - 1. The audit will be presented at next month's meeting.
 - 2. The auditor (Blair & Associates) has recommended we should not be filing a Tax Form 990 due to the organization status of being formed by governments. We would need to get a letter from the IRS. Would the committee prefer for Blair to explain this more next month or go ahead and get started on the process?
 - a. Michelle Nauer mentioned that Blair does numerous audits throughout the region and am confident that we can trust their recommendation to get the process started. John Clark and Dave Frank echoed this recommendation.
 - iii. Insurance Review: we are working with an agent to make sure that we are covered well and an update on policies is in the packet. Additional policies have increased premiums approximately 100% over previous years. We have requested the agent look for places where we can have policies to provide broader policies for efficiencies and savings when possible.
 - iv. Hinsdale County Broadband Legal Challenge: We are still communicating back and forth between attorneys as to whether we owe the business for potential future losses.
 - v. Regional Navigator Program: We received the contract for a 2nd year. Colleen Hannon is not able to continue past May. We do have a second navigator Shay Coburn but at her rate we may not be able to take the funding as far as we would like.
 - vi. Project7 tour will be in March; we will send an invitation.
- b. **Small Business Resource Center** –Nancy Murphy
- i. Gunnison office has moved across the hall from Suite 1C to 1E. There is more space with street access and signage.
 - ii. James Lammers of the Cultivator has resigned due to a move to Denver. This has prompted us to rethink what the Cultivator is and what we want it to be. We are thinking that we may be more focused on Community based rather than regional to have some more Hispanic Outreach. There is a group of folks who are interest in starting a Western Slope Hispanic Chamber and so that may be something that can be based out of the Cultivator.
 - iii. The SBDC has provided a new program about Exit Planning and in the included report you'll see that there is some statistics regarding business exits; for example, 70% of business owners that are age 50 plan to retire within the next 10 years. The businesses will need help with valuation and starting the process to exit.
 - iv. Community Business Preservation Program: Callie has been working with a group of businesses in Gunnison to apply for \$250,000.
 - v. Loan Fund: update on sheet included in the packet. We are currently managing 111 loans.
 - vi. We are setting up a Town of Olathe Business Fund as they have received a REDI (Rural Development Initiative) Grant for a business façade improvement; the loans could assist with match or expansion of the project and will funded from our SBA (Small Business Administration) loan funds.
- c. **Community Living Services** –Eva Veitch
- i. RAC (Regional Advisory Council for the AAA) will meet at the Region 10 Montrose office on March 7th and would like to see a R10 Board Member there and participation of government members. There are representatives from each of the counties representing the senior population, but support from government officials would be appreciated.
 - ii. All 3 of our long-term SHIP Counselors decided to retire after the Open Enrollment period. Currently, have one counselor who is newer. We are actively recruiting and if you know of anyone who would be interested all the training is provided for the volunteer position.
- d. **Broadband** – Corey Bryndal
- i. Expansion grant to reach Denver, SLC and down into Durango is moving along:
 - 1. Orders for equipment have been placed.

2. Now in the process of contracts to access existing fiber.
 3. Technical Labor is working on staging/configuration of equipment.
 4. Vall Technologies was contracted to assist in review and support of the current network equipment.
 5. STX Fiber will help with more complex routing for the network expansion.
 6. Considering a RFP (Request for Proposals) for operational support of the network.
 7. Lots of contracting, legal review and agreements are in process.
 - ii. Lake City IRU is close to being turned over to for substantial completion.
 - iii. Assisted Mt. Crested Butte in a RFP for a line from Crested Butte to Mt. Crested Butte and a Carrier Neutral Location in the community.
 - iv. A larger ISP in Montrose has approached us to get a 100-gig circuit and we are close to signing agreements to support that.
 - v. Durango Herald has an article that Corey worked on for his contract with DOLA to provide assistance on development of additional broadband fiber for the community.
 - vi. From a question related to CDOT (CO Dept of Transportation) Right of Way (ROW) fees:
 1. CDOT has proposed a recurring fee on the CDOT ROW for broadband fiber. Other utilities do not pay these fees. The fees could increase costs of projects which could result in homes and business not receiving the complete amount of funds for implementation if a portion of construction costs go to CDOT for the fees.
 2. Contact Matt Salka (La Plata County) or Eric Burman (CCI – Colorado Counties Incorporated)
 - vii. ACP (Affordable Connectivity Plan) funds are being cut. The legislature approved \$9 million but the need was about \$23 million and so it was highly underfunded program. It provided \$30 per month to low-income consumers in hopes that they would be able to afford internet at home rather than use their cell phones.
- e. **GVTPR - Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region Committee** | Vince Rogalski
- i. MMOF (Multimodal Mitigation Opportunity Fund), we have multiple years of funding to approve for our communities for various projects.
 1. \$500,000 per year for 2024 and 2025. The formula for distribution will be approved by the commission at the March STAC (Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee) meeting.
 2. About \$70,000 of available funding is already allocated to All Points Transit as they were requested to adjust their ask in the last round of funding
 - ii. The Federal government approved billions of dollars for passenger rail, specifically on the Front Range. There is some discussion about Mountain Rail (From Denver to Craig) and they are looking at the Moffat Tunnel for a route. In the rest of the State, there are rail tracks available; some of the tracks have been turned into bike paths. There are tracks available from Junction to Montrose.
 - iii. Long Rang Planning for the 2050 Plan is beginning and is due to be completed by next summer.
 1. Formula funding is approved and so then the GVTPR will host community meetings to get input on regional projects. Previously identified projects are:
 - a. HWY 92 through Rogers Mesa in Hotchkiss needs to be completed. It is complicated with the ROWs that are required.
 2. Hwy 550 has another \$20 million potential project.
 3. It is not too soon for you all to look at the projects that may be eligible for the 2050 Long Range Plan and begin discussions with CDOT and elected officials.
 - iv. HB 23-1101: TPR Boundaries and the operational structure of the TPRs (Transportation Planning Regions) has been passed in concept by the STAC. CDOT has opened the rules for public review.

Motion to approve Reports; M/S: Michelle Nauer/Dave Frank. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Next Meetings:

- a. **GVTPR:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 1-3pm

- b. **BLF Committee Meeting:** February 22, 2024, 10-11am
- c. **Board of Directors Meeting:** February 22, 2024 Noon-3pm
- d. **Regional Advisory Council AAA:** March 7, 2024

9. Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

APPROVED 2-22-2024