



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

- a. **Staff:** Michelle Haynes (R10 Director), Nancy Murphy (Small Business Development), Corey Bryndal (Broadband Director), Brian Bowler (AAA Director), Courtney Tribble (Community Development)
- b. **In-Person Board Members:** Commissioner Mike Lane (Delta County), Commissioner Michelle Nauer (Ouray County, Treasurer), Commissioner Sue Hansen (Montrose County), Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank (City of Montrose, Vice Chair), Councilmember Jim Gelwicks (City of Gunnison), Linda Riba (Montrose County Appointee)
- c. **Remote Board Members:** Vince Rogalski (GVTPR Chairman), Councilmember Bruce Nation (Town of Mt Crested Butte, joined at 12:30pm), Mayor Dave Roberts (Town of Lake City)

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve Agenda M/S: Jim Gelwicks/Michelle Nauer, as accepted.** None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for December 2024, Board of Directors Meeting**

- a. Approval of minutes #3 put the month
- b. Need to reflect that there were no motions,

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve the amended minutes: M/S: Mike Lane/Michelle Nauer, as accepted.** None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Letter of Intent for Region 10 as Enterprise Zone Administrator
  - i. As part of the 10-year redesignation process for Enterprise Zone, Region 10 must submit a Letter of Intent to apply as the organization who administers the program for the 6-county region. The purpose of this letter of intent is for the state to understand if there are any other entities that are interested in administering the program that are not already doing so.

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve submission of Letter of Intent for Region 10's application to the state to administer the Enterprise Zone Program for the 6-county region: M/S: Jim Gelwicks/Sue Hansen, as accepted.** None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Region 10 Small Business Development Center – Operational Economic Development Organization Project
- c. Montrose Regional Health Foundation – Operations Healthcare Project

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve proposed applications for Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects: M/S: Jim Gelwicks/Michelle Nauer, as accepted.** None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **REPORTS:**

a. **ED/Financial Reports | Michelle Haynes**

i. Financial Report

1. Processing December, but as of November we are mostly in line with our budget.
2. We continue to watch the AAA programs, the biggest challenge is Home-Delivered Meals Program. We had been \$90,000 short for the program at the start of the year, but are closer to budget with some savings and additional contributions.
3. Line Item 4930; late fees and penalties, it is 1000% of what was budgeted. That account is related to the Business Loan Fund, and we are experiencing late fees and penalties for those loans that are delinquent. We are starting to file default judgments and pursuing collections for the loans that are past 120 days. We have begun to be more aggressive about the past due payments. We have also implemented some new processes to encourage payments with monthly statements sent out and the availability of online and ACH payments. The goal of the loan fund is to make these small businesses bankable and part of that means that we are not letting delinquent payments go because a bank would not allow that, and it does not teach the owners how to be bankable.

4. We received the fiscal audit draft and sent back to have some minor corrections. It will be presented to the full board in February. We are concerned that we will be late submitting it to the state but will have it submitted in the next couple of weeks.
- ii. Executive Director Report
    1. We received a \$100,000 grant from Just Transitions for Broadband Assistance.
  - iii. Community Development
    1. Regional Grants Navigator (RGN)
      - a. We are working through drawing down a small grant from OEDIT \$40,000 to help communities access grant funding outside of the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA)/Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding. We had received verbal approval about a year ago, but we didn't receive the contract until October, and it has until March 31 to be drawn down.
      - b. With the Executive Orders that have been signed to limit IIJA funds, we are in a "wait and see" mode with the RGN Program but the state has approved funding for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025. We will wait to see if funding is available to continue that program through the remainder of the year.
    2. Community Development
      - a. We will convene the Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee in late March or April to review and begin to update our current CEDS for the next 5 years.
- b. Small Business Resource Center (SBRC) | Nancy Murphy**
- i. SBRC/Business Cultivator
    1. Adriana, Callie, and Dario are participating in Valley Food Partnerships Food and Farm Forum that is happening this weekend. Adriana is presenting a session in Spanish for them kitchen clients to 7 clients.
    2. Adriana has been with the Business Cultivator for 1 year, and in that year, she has grown the Cultivator's awareness, reach, and kitchen program. We now have seven kitchen clients.
    3. Callie is working with the Northwest Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and they are developing and updating business startup information.
  - ii. Business Loan Fund (BLF)
    1. 20 loans last year for almost \$1.5 million.
    2. Currently serving 105 loans.
    3. We are looking to receive 6-7 applications this month and are on schedule to close 2 of those this month.
    4. Of the loans in default, there are three (3) owners representing four (4) businesses. One of them has come to terms with the pay-off, another will go to bankruptcy, and we are waiting to hear from the others.
    5. LoanWell is a new loan software program that we are implementing to manage our loan portfolio. It is an end-to-end solution for managing and producing loans. It allows applicants to apply online, upload the supporting documents, creates reports for the BLF Committee to review, records decisions and denials, creates loan documents and logs all clients into a database. It will also let us record our Technical Assistance (TA) and help us report for our Small Business Administration (SBA) TA Grant.
- c. Community Living Services (CLS) – Area Agency on Aging (AAA) | Brian Bowler**
- i. Grant Applications we have submitted:
    1. Telluride Foundation gave us more than they have in the past and so that will help our budget.
    2. Have two applications out with AmeriCorps to cover San Miguel & Ouray counties and are waiting to hear back on the status of those.
    3. Western Colorado Community Foundation has been applied for, and we are expecting that we may receive funds.
    4. Daniel's Fund Grant that we had to focus more on personal care and homemaking for it and if received it may help fill in some gaps with the Home-Delivered Meals program if we can shift program funds.

5. Long Term: Working with Colorado Associations of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) – Considering submission of a grant to Anschutz Foundation for several of the AAAs on the Western Slope. It would be a larger grant which is why it requires multiple AAAs on the Western Slope to collaborate on and apply, which that has not ever been done in the past.
  - ii. We have seen some more movement in our waitlists, which is good for clients.
  - iii. Medicare Advantage plan from Aetna currently does not include the Montrose Regional Health and so we have been receiving a lot of calls from seniors who have those Medicare Advantage Plan. The issue is about a contract with Aetna that has not been signed because the hospital was unhappy with the proposed reimbursement.
  - iv. Delta Senior Center's pipes burst, and the City of Delta is working to take care of that issue. The State has a fund that could help with emergencies like this; we have shared the information with the senior center.
  - v. Shepherd's Hand is looking for some skilled help with administrative experience.
  - vi. We received three (3) new volunteers through the Senior Companion Program.
  - vii. Chandra Panther is coming on-board as a volunteer Ombudsman. We now have three (3) volunteer ombudsmen and there are 14 statewide, so our region is unique in that we have multiple volunteers for the program.
  - viii. Board Discussion: There has been some dissatisfaction with conservatorships/guardianship for the elderly, and Commissioner Hansen has reached out to legislation to make sure there is some oversight over those tasks. Would like to see financial oversight and oversight that the services are being performed.
    1. Region 10 will investigate if Colorado Legal Services or Brown & Brown PC would host a class on conservatorships.
  - ix. Mayor Dave Roberts shared that there is a local resident who has started a Senior Center in Lake City and is serving lunches. Last Friday they served 75 lunches. He has informed them to reach out to Region 10 for support if needed as it grows.

**d. Broadband | Corey Bryndal**

- i. Corey shared a diagram that shows the broadband expansion project. The goal has been to bring better, faster, cheaper, higher quality source of bandwidth from Denver and Salt Lake City to the Western Slope. We are building and acquiring fiber along I-70 and from Grand Junction down into the Region 10 communities. We have done several construction projects Glenwood, Denver, Rifle, etc.
- ii. Some Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) splicing is left on that route and then our equipment will be deployed from the labs it is currently in.
- iii. Working on selecting a network operator to monitor and manage the equipment for the current and expansion network. We have been reviewing and interviewing applications from an RFP.
- iv. Within the six (6) counties, we are evaluating the equipment that was deployed 6-7 years ago and have been working with VOL consulting and Erik Hittle from Echo Consulting to help take stock of the existing equipment that needs updated.
- v. Deploying equipment in Lake City that will be configured over the next couple of weeks.
- vi. Talking with Mt Crested Butte and Crested Butte to see if we can get funding from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) or Colorado Broadband Office (CBO) to extend a network from Mt Crested Butte, through Crested Butte, down to the new Whetstone housing development along Hwy 135.
- vii. In his DOLA capacity, Corey has been working with Region 9 to extend the same expansion project through the Durango, Cortez and Archuleta county areas and they are close to ordering their optical equipment.
- viii. For existing Carrier Neutral Location (CNLs) sites, we need to evaluate their capacity and to upgrade the UPSs (batteries) in some of the locations. Currently, we have been replacing those on an as failed basis rather than before they have failed. Cost per site depends on the site because of the size, Delta & Montrose are larger and so that would be around \$15,000-\$20,000 and for smaller sites in Gunnison, Crested Butte, Ouray or Ridgway it would be about \$5,000. Upgrading these is dependent on availability of funding.
- ix. Commissioner Hansen asked about services in the West End: We do have a CNL there and services, however we have had challenges partnering with the local phone company. We will plan to reach out to them again to re-engage in conversations.

e. **GVTPR - Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region | Vince Rogalski**

- i. The Transportation Commission (TC) is continuing to work on the combining or separation of some of the Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs). They were waiting for some guidance from legislation and there is a new HB 25-1046 in legislation that allows the decision up to the TC.
- ii. The Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) is looking at different work plans for the planning process. Rural Planning Assistance is grant funding provided to the TPRs to support the process and offset expenses. Currently there are only two in-person STAC meetings, the rest of the monthly meetings are on Zoom.
- iii. There was an update at the most recent STAC meeting about the 2050 plan that gave an update on the first two meetings that were held. The 3<sup>rd</sup> planning meeting is on February 13<sup>th</sup> for our region.
- iv. Call for projects for Multi-Modal Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF) had been sent out and those were to be sent into CDOT (Colorado Department of Transportation) for review by December 6<sup>th</sup>.<sup>then</sup> they will disperse them to the individual TPRs for consideration and scoring. These applications will be reviewed by the MMOF Review Committee on February 13<sup>th</sup> in a meeting held that morning before the GVTPR meeting.

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve Reports; M/S:** Sue Hansen/Michelle Nauer, as accepted. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07pm

Approved by the Board of Directors on the 27th day of February 2025