



1. **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS**–Meeting was called to order at 12:34 pm.
 - a. **Staff:** Michelle Haynes (R10 Director), Nancy Murphy (Small Business Development), Corey Bryndal (Broadband Director), Eva Veitch (AAA Director), Courtney Tribble (Community Development), Jo Lance (Finance Director)
 - b. **In-Person Board Members:** Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank (City of Montrose, Vice Chair), Councilmember Jim Gelwicks (City of Gunnison), Colleen Hannon (Gunnison County Private Appointee), Vince Rogalski (Gunnison County Private Appointee, GVTPR Chair), Commissioner Jonathan Houck (Gunnison County), Commissioner Mike Lane (Delta County), Linda Riba (Montrose County Private Appointee), Commissioner Michelle Nauer (Ouray County, Board Treasurer),
 - c. **Remote Board Members:** Mayor Greg Hart (Town of Cedaredge), Bruce Nation (Town of Mt Crested Butte), Commissioner Greg Levine (Hinsdale County), Commissioner Lance Waring (San Miguel County), Mayor Paige Smith (Town of Paonia)
 - d. **Guests:** Brian Blair, Peter Blair (Blair & Associates, CPA), Carolyn Tucker (CDLE)

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for January 2025, Executive Committee Meeting

- a. Pg 2, Under Small Business fix the Spanish presentation by Adriana.
- b. Medicare Advantage Plan, who have that have that Medicare Advantage Plan
- c. Commissioner Hanson has reached out to the Legislature(s)

ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve Minutes: M/S: Jim Gelwicks/Michelle Nauer, as accepted. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Houck and Colleen Hannon abstained from voting.

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. FY Audit 2024 Presentation
 - i. Thank you to Jo Lance and Michelle Haynes for support during the audit. The audit was issued with a clean opinion, and no findings. Only one adjustment was made to the financial statements, which was related to depreciation. The financial statements were reviewed with some comparison to prior year. The most significant difference between the two years was increase in assets due to purchases of Broadband assets.
 - ii. Auditor briefly reviewed the budget to actual. Grant revenues and expenditures were higher than anticipated, primarily related to broadband.
 - iii. The audit documents contain an overview of outstanding loans, including receivables (due from borrowers) and liabilities (due to the Small Business Administration).
 - iv. The Single Audit portion was reviewed. Federal regulations require 20% of federal funds be tested for the single audit. The audit firm selected the HUD/CDBG (Community Development Block Grant Loan Program) and the AAA (Area Agency on Aging) Caregiver Program for the single audit. The Single audit also had a clean opinion, with no findings.
 - v. Question from the Board regarding the use of De Minimis indirect rate: does Region 10 have a negotiated indirect rate? Michelle responded: we do not have a negotiated indirect rate, but have considered if it would be beneficial to the organization. We would probably need consultant support to complete a proposal for a negotiated rate.
 - vi. Michelle also noted on the budget presentation, we typically do not include capital grants in the budget; the budget is primarily based on anticipated operational revenues and expenses.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve the Audit as presented: M/S: Jonathan Houck/Michelle Nauer, as accepted. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Community Investment Overview (Presentation & Discussion)
 - i. Attached to your packet is the 2024 community investments as an overview of financial operations. Almost 90% of our funding is grant funding from federal or state agencies. Membership Dues (approximately 2% of funding) is used to leverage grant funding, for example, as match or other support.
 - ii. In Small Business Services, the number of loans closed for 2024 went down as compared to 2023; however, the overall loan funds lent out increased slightly.
 - iii. In the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), the graph shows services provided in counties, with a line to show population in each county. The program has implemented a consumer directed service to help provide more services in the counties that don't necessarily have agency contracted service providers, which helps us provide services to older adults without being dependent on contractors.
 - iv. There were over 30,000 hours of volunteer time through the RSVP program. The Senior Companion Program can provide a stipend to lower income volunteers who are serving other older adults. These programs supplement the AAA services, which have been reduced due to funding cuts.
 - v. Enterprise Zone business tax credits allowed \$2.4 million in credits to the businesses in our region that they can reinvest into their business and the community.
 - vi. The document has Multi-Modal Options Funds (MMOF) previously awarded through 2024. The GVTPR (Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region) is in the process of allocating CDOT (Co Dept of Transportation) MMOF grants of approximately \$2.4 million for state fiscal years 2024-2028.
 - vii. Regional Development section shows the broadband investments through carrier neutral locations, with a map of the network. Communities that have been assisted through the Regional Grants Navigator are also included.
- c. Executive Committee Elections: Several board members have offered to serve on the Executive Committee:
 - i. Sue Hansen (Montrose County)
 - ii. Jonathan Houck (Gunnison County)
 - iii. Mike Lane (Delta County)
 - iv. Lance Waring (San Miguel County; Mike Bordogna is resigning from Executive Committee, but remaining on the Board of Directors.)
 - v. No nominations from the floor; will consider a motion to consent for all.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve Executive Committee members: M/S: Colleen Hannon/Michelle Nauer, as accepted.
None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

a. ED/Financial Reports | Michelle Haynes

- i. Financial Report-December report covers the first half of the fiscal year, which provides some insight into the expected performance for the year.
 - 1. Overall, the Balance Sheet does not have any specific areas to highlight.
 - 2. Revenues highlights:
 - a. Cultivator USDA grant--we are going to draw down/expend less than expected (due to changes in staffing levels). We will ask for a no-cost extension of the grant to extend the operational support for an additional 1-2 years.
 - b. We expect Broadband to go up a bit as DOLA approved an additional year of coordinator support.
 - c. We are not planning on having any carry over funds and are expecting to see a reduction in AAA funding up to 10% cut from the legislature and so we are expecting to see a cut between \$250,000 and \$400,000
 - d. Looking at our clients that are receiving AAA services we do see that we are spending about \$1800-\$2000 per year to help seniors stay in their homes. In comparison if someone is on Medicaid and in a nursing home the state is spending about \$72,000 per year to keep them in the nursing home.
 - 3. We can bring an updated budget to the board for approval if the board wants to see it. Board response is to review potential impacts of the budget changes, and bring an updated version for approval if there will be an significant overall impact.

4. With recent federal grant changes, we have received 25% of our SBDC (Small Business Development Center) allocation for FY 2026. The RGN (Regional Grants Navigator) program has received funding for the 1st quarter 2025. We are waiting to see what happens in the next few weeks for those programs.
- ii. Executive Director Report
 1. DOLA (Dept of Local Affairs) awarded \$50,000 of \$100,000 of a grant we applied for through DOLA for a mini-grants program. We have not yet received the contract for the grants.
 - iii. Community Development
 1. Regional Grants Navigator report is included in the packet.
 2. Community Development / Enterprise Zone
 - a. Submitted EDA Partnership Planning Grant for \$210,000 for 3 years.
 - b. Working with EDA to close out an \$880,000 grant that we received through the CARES Act in 2020 for the Broadband expansion project.
- b. Small Business Resource Center | Nancy Murphy**
- i. SBDC/Business Cultivator
 1. Adrianna has now been with us at the Cultivator for a year and she is doing a great job with Hispanic Outreach, as well as addition of new clients for the kitchen.
 2. Callie has been working on Start Up programming with other SBDC programs on the Western Slope, with an overall goal to have programming for businesses from pre-inception to expansions.
 3. Working with Lake City stakeholders to do more outreach; Callie and Sarah are planning to be in Lake City at least once a quarter for business meetings.
 - ii. Business Loan Fund
 1. Currently servicing 303 loans; continuing to see demand for new loans, and also working with several businesses that are past due on payments.
 2. Montrose County Commissioners approved our request to extend the CDBG grant to August 1, 2027 (the County is the fiscal agent for the program). DOLA (Dept of Local Affairs, who hosts the Community Development Block Grant) asked that we consider an extension; in that process we requested an additional \$380,000 of funds to lend and support administrative services and technical assistance. The request was approved by the state review committee.
- c. Community Living Services | Brian Bowler**
- i. Sandy Walker, the regional Ombudsman, has decided to retire. The Ombudsman program is a state mandated program to provide advocacy for nursing home residents. Claudette Nicolas has decided to accept the position as the Regional Ombudsman and will transition over the next few weeks to that role. We receive a small amount of funding for the program, so we are planning to compress some of the roles within the organization to accommodate the budget.
 - ii. Some of the team went to San Miguel County at one of the meals sites to have a conversation about transportation needs. We have engaged with All Points Transit on this conversation to help fill the need. The challenge is hiring a driver in San Miguel County at a competitive rate for All Points and so Commissioner Anne Brown is looking to see how the county could fill in the wage gap.
 - iii. Waitlists for services are down, with less on wait lists for nutrition and home-making. We are expecting to have to have further reductions in services in the coming fiscal year as the ARPA (American Recovery Program Act) to expire and potentially further cuts from either federal or state funding.
- d. Broadband | Corey Bryndal**
- i. The expansion project from Denver and Salt Lake City, that consists of fiber development along I-70 is working on the splicing, Zayo's portion is complete and CDOT is finishing up.
 - ii. Optical equipment that is in a lab in California is being prepared to be shipped to be deployed along I-70.
 - iii. Our partnership with Region 9 is going well to extend a network down into Durango. They have placed their order for optical and routing equipment.

- iv. A number of the devices in our legacy regional network have reached their end of life and so we are working on a replacement plan. Working on activations in Ouray, Ridgway and Lake City. Mt Crested Butte is considering a build of a Carrier Neutral Location (CNL).
- e. **GVTPR - Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region Committee | Vince Rogalski**
 - i. In the February Newsletter there is an outline regarding I-70 use during high traffic times.
 - ii. STAC (Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee) Meeting Highlights are included as well.
 - 1. The budget items covered included and expected \$12.8 million decrease in fuel tax revenue.
 - 2. There is a match for a PROTECT grant (Federal Highway grant that was formerly RAISE) that includes avalanche mitigation.
 - 3. CDOT will support a bill that will allow private business construct chain stations.
 - iii. MMOF (Multi Modal Option Funds) Program
 - 1. We had a meeting on February 13th to award MMOF Funding. We awarded 4 projects with some contingencies based on projects that may receive funding from other sources.
 - iv. Transportation Planning
 - 1. We have had 3 meetings with CDOT Regions 3 & 5 and there will be a 4th meeting to see the progress on the Long Range Plan. At the previous meeting we discussed priority projects that each of the counties wanted to see included in the plan.
 - 2. There will be a survey released by CDOT soon for public input for the Long Range Plan.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve Reports; M/S: Jim Gelwicks/Michelle Nauer . None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

6. ROUNDTABLE

- a. MONTROSE COUNTY
 - i. Dave Frank-City of Montrose: Just hosted the 2nd annual State of the City Address and it was successful. It was well attended. We had tables set up for each department for people to go meet and learn more about what the city is doing. Ogden Road bridge replacement is wrapping up, we had to wait on the canal water replacements to be installed. Roundabout at Woodgate and East Grove Road is ahead of schedule.
- b. OURAY COUNTY
 - i. Commissioner Michelle Nauer: There was a large rockfall at Camp Bird Road, with miners and residents stuck above the rockfall. They have taken a drone up to take pictures of the rocks that need to be removed. Camp Bird Road is closed currently with no time frame known for how to clear the road. County is concerned about the termination of the 2 rangers that have been let go through the federal terminations. The county Manager, Connie Hunt, has given her notice and so we will be in search to replace that position and her last day is March 31. We do have an interim Manager in place that is working with her currently.
- c. GUNNISON COUNTY
 - i. Commissioner Jonathan Houck: The county has a project that is two phases in the City of Gunnison called Sawtooth. Received \$8 million of ARPA funding during COVID that was used for the project, plus funds from the lodging tax. Phase one was 18 units, and phase 2 is 32 units. The project was done with Fading West who built the units off site and brought in. We are in the process of the lottery to get folks into the 32 units. They will all be deed restricted and you will have to be employed in Gunnison County. We chose the modular build because the local builders were not able to do so. It was completed at just under \$300 per square foot at conditions for Gunnison County. By utilizing up front funds, future rent funds will continue to support housing issues. We think that this is a project that could be duplicated by other communities who are facing the same issues and so if you want to know the details you can reach out. Whetstone project that is a mile and a half outside of Crested Butte has received a grant to extend the utilities to the project for \$10 million, and funding from CDOT for the needed transportation improvements. Other than housing, the County is concerned about forest service and BLM staffing and services due to the recent terminations.
 - ii. Jim Gelwicks-City of Gunnison: Overlay project on 12th Street is being re-bid. We are working with the Fire District to help upgrade the fire station or secure a new station. We are getting design

specs for a Water Treatment Plant. Working on an Economic Development Plan and will receive that sometime this summer.

- iii. Colleen Hannon: The Gunnison County Recreation District has initiated a decommission process for the towers previously used for public television.
 - iv. Bruce Nation-Mt. Crested Butte: approved housing development currently on hold by the water district due to trunk line capacity. A new condo complex has been approved that will have some affordable housing. Concern regarding a threat of strike at Vail Resort has passed.
- d. DELTA COUNTY
- i. Mike Lane: We received notice from the JBC (Joint Budget Commission) to close the prison in Delta County that has a capacity of 300 and employees around 120 employees, so this is concerning for the County. In Hotchkiss, the bridge on the Miner's Trail was placed to connect the High School to downtown with a walking path. Almost finished with the Jail remodel that was funded by \$6 million of ARPA funding.
 - ii. Paige Smith-Town of Paonia: We hired a hydrogeological firm to look at the water system. We are looking for a \$1 million grant to replace 10,000 feet of water line, a total cost of \$10 million. We need to empty and reline our water tank and had to put in a temporary tank to do so. Was on the CML (Colorado Municipal League) call today that discussed federal funding which is concerning for small communities that need assistance with these type of projects.
- e. SAN MIGUEL COUNTY
- i. Lance Waring: Share many of the concerns of federal funding cuts and terminations to the forest service and BLM staff. A joint housing project on county property with partnership with CDOT for County Road & Bridge employees as well as CDOT employees is in discussion.
- f. Hinsdale County-no report.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m

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