



1. **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS**–Meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm.
 - a. **Staff:** Michelle Haynes (R10 Director), Nancy Murphy (Small Business Development Director), Corey Bryndal (Broadband Director), Brian Bowler (AAA Director), Courtney Tribble (Community Development)
 - b. **In-Person Board Members:** Mayor John Clark (Town of Ridgway), Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank (City of Montrose), Commissioner Michelle Nauer (Ouray County), Commissioner Mike Lane (Delta County), GVTPR Chair Vince Rogalski (Gunnison County Appointment), Commissioner Sue Hansen (Montrose County), Councilmember Jim Gelwicks (City of Gunnison)
 - c. **Remote Board Members:** Commissioner Greg Levine (Hinsdale County), Commissioner Jonathan Houck (Gunnison County), Mayor Paige Smith (Town of Paonia), Mike Bordogna (San Miguel County Manager)

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**
ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve Agenda M/S: Dave Frank/Sue Hansen, as accepted. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for February 2025, Board of Directors Meeting**
ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve minutes: M/S: Michelle Nauer/Dave Frank, as accepted. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **REPORTS:**
 - a. **ED/Financial Reports | Michelle Haynes**
 - i. Financial Report
 1. Financials for January are included in the packet. We have made some recovery in the Cash on Hand after receiving some delayed grant reimbursements and membership dues for the upcoming year.
 2. Revenue and Expenses: we are on target with most of the departments and line items.
 - a. Deferred Revenue includes membership dues (we collect them once a year and then recognize the revenue monthly) and funding of \$25,000 received for the Regional Grants Navigator through April.
 - b. Question regarding Late Fees and Penalties: the loan fund has several loans that are past due; we have been more aggressive about collecting loan payments and charging late fees than we have had in the past. We also changed our loan origination fees from 1% to 2% and so that has increased the revenue as well.
 3. Budget:
 - a. AAA: we received draft numbers for our Area Agency on Aging (AAA). We knew we would have to cut about \$250,000 and now an additional \$40,000-\$60,000 that we are looking to cut out. We will be working with contractors that do assessments for information and referrals to reduce those by about \$30,000-\$60,000 and are cutting out some software that is not being fully utilized. We are also rearranging staff in that department by reducing staff by a Full-Time Employee (FTE). We are narrowing down who qualifies for services, in hopes that we will be on target for the next fiscal year funding cuts.
 - b. Loan Fund: We have several loans that are over 120 days past due that we will bring for approval to write-off (a total of about \$300,000); we have an additional loan (approximately \$200,000) that is 60 days past due that we are monitoring.
 - c. Broadband: We are looking at a shortfall of about \$30,000 per month with the expansion of the network. We are working with our contractor on the operations and sales to increase revenues to cover the program's costs.
 - d. SBDC: The program is approved as an Enterprise Zone Contribution Project and will begin soliciting donations from local banks.
 - e.

- ii. Community Development
 - 1. Enterprise Zone overview of HB 25-1296
 - a. A link to the bill text is included in the board packet. The bill covers an array of Tax Credit reforms with Section 19 focused on Enterprise Zone Tax Credits. It has been introduced to limit the EZ Tax Credits to \$2 million per business location (this would require an investment of \$66 million to reach the cap).
 - b. The proposed legislation eliminates the tax credits for specific industries– oil, gas and mineral extraction, gas/diesel fuel sales, aviation fuel, telecommunications construction.
 - c. We have been in communication with the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce that is lobbying for an amendment as those industries that are proposed to be excluded are major industries for our rural areas.
- b. **Small Business Resource Center | Nancy Murphy**
 - i. SBDC/Business Cultivator
 - 1. Startup Colorado came to Gunnison at the end of February for a funding panel for rural entrepreneurs; both Callie and Sarah participated.
 - 2. One of our Cultivator clients, Cedars food truck, had a recent newspaper article which we included in the report.
 - 3. We have ongoing bi-weekly meetings with SBDC Lead Center regarding the status of the Small Business Administration (SBA) and funding. Currently, our funding from the SBA is still intact.
 - 4. Callie has been working with Kristie Borchers, executive director of Lake City DIRT (Downtown Improvement & Revitalization Team), in efforts to hold more in-person meetings in Lake City. She and Sarah will be meeting in Lake City once a quarter.
 - ii. Business Loan Fund
 - 1. Dario joined the Delta Library Innovation Workspace in both Hotchkiss & Cedaredge to talk about funding strategies for businesses and the Region 10 loan fund.
 - 2. Currently serving 105 clients.
 - 3. Closed three loans in March.
 - 4. We are filing court judgments on loans that are delinquent. Depending on the source of funding for these loans, we have different requirements for delinquency. For example, the Small Business Administration (SBA) requires programs to write off a delinquent balance after 120 days, and then the borrower is in default with the source indefinitely. We try our best to work with these business owners to come up with solutions so that we don't have to write off loans, but some borrowers do not cooperate.
 - 5. The pipeline of inquiries for the loan fund continues to be strong.
- c. **Area Agency on Aging | Brian Bowler**
 - i. The team has worked with the state on a few programs to find some issues with their reporting system that can affect the federal funding that is received.
 - ii. We did not receive the AmeriCorps grant that we had applied for. But we are exploring additional grant funding sources.
 - iii. Currently, we are updating some information on our website to reflect some of the changes that we have had to make to our services and resources.
 - iv. Dan McGee, a representative on the Aging & Disabilities Resource Committee (ADRC), is retiring and moving to Oklahoma, we are thankful for his service on the ADRC committee.
 - v. Staffing Changes: Sandy Walker, our retiring regional Ombudsman, is working with Claudette Nicolas who is shifting from the Senior Companion Program Coordinator to the Ombudsman position. Kerry Brickley, our Volunteer Programs Coordinator, will be absorbing the Senior Companion Program.
- d. **Broadband | Corey Bryndal**
 - i. The I-70 route is in the final stages to connect Denver and Salt Lake City to our Carrier Location in Grand Junction. We have done optical testing and are working on the routing equipment.

- ii. Negotiations to expand the contract with the current Network Operator are in process to help provide network monitoring and boots on the ground to assist with equipment and services as needed.
 - iii. Corey is working with Region 9 in the southwest under the DOLA (Department of Local Affairs) contract; they have ordered equipment that is consistent with the equipment in the Region 10 network and are expecting construction of a new connection from Durango to Pagosa Springs.
 - iv. We have had an increase in service inquiries from communities-- Internet Service Providers (ISPs), regional universities, Front Range Giga Pop, etc. Additional revenue streams will help stabilize the network's financial operations.
 - v. We participated in a call with Gunnison County, Crested Butte, and Mt Crested Butte to determine next steps for broadband in the county. Corey is providing technical assistance for Mt Crested Butte to connect to Crested Butte.
 - vi. Funding landscape for Broadband projects is shifting with the Colorado Broadband Office taking over from DOLA (Department of Local Affairs). The federal funding program from National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and its Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program (BEAD) have a shift in their priorities and there have been some staffing changes that are causing some delays for the program's implementation.
- e. **GVTPR - Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region | Vince Rogalski**
- i. The Transportation Commission (TC) is engaging in public engagement for the statewide plan through town halls, surveys, or other forms of engagement.
 - ii. Vision for 2027-2036 is being discussed and the current planning funding estimates are between \$200-250 million. Three areas of focus for the plan are: 1) Advanced Transportation Safety, 2) Fixing Our Roads, and 3) Transportation Choice.
 - iii. HB 23-1101: Update is that the TC is not taking a position on it. The proposal to increase the number of Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs) in the state failed in legislation, so there is no movement on the change of the current TPRs.
 - iv. Multi-Modal Mitigation Options Funding (MMOF)
 - 1. Selected four projects to receive funding. The recommended awards are included in the packet.
 - 2. Note that Cedaredge is awarded funding for their project but depending on if they receive another award, they may be able to turn some back that will be awarded to Nucla for the remainder of their project.
 - v. The next planning meeting, Meeting 4, will be held May 8th, we are hoping to approve a draft of the 2050 Plan.
 - 1. Regions 3 & 5 have set the priority projects that will be included in the draft.
 - 2. The Division of Transit & Rail Agencies have not yet set their priority projects.

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

5. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:08 pm

Approved by the Board of Directors on the 24th day of April, 2025