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2015 Annual Report



As Liz Mullen, Executive Director of NWCCOG, says in her introductory letter, "Spring is one of my favorite times of year - in part because I enjoy the promise of new growth in our surrounding country-side and in part because it's the time we look back to the previous year to recount our accomplishments."

And 2015 was quite a year for accomplishments. Here's just a small sample:

-The Alpine Area Agency on Aging added two new services:

Medicare counseling and volunteer coordination for the Alpine Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). These programs provide information and opportunities for our residents to be informed and involved.

- **The Mountain Ride Call Center** completed a successful first year of regional transportation coordination. The number of rides coordinated through the call center exceeded expectations and continues to grow. Through the efforts of 8 agencies in 7 counties, we coordinated 4,864 rides (one way) to essential appointments.

- **The Elevator Inspection Program** hired and has been training two new inspectors to meet the increasing demand for both new and existing conveyance inspections. Because there is no formal training program, they must be trained on the job by a QEI certified inspector for a minimum of 12 months before they are eligible to sit for the Qualified Elevator Inspector (QEI) test. The number of elevators inspected in our service area increased by 114 in 2015.

- **The Northwest Loan Fund (NLF)** helped nine business to get loans which helped to create more than 20 jobs.

- **Weatherization** was responsible for performing energy efficiency upgrades to 120 homes, inside and outside the NWCCOG region. They discovered and fixed numerous serious health hazards in the process.

- **Leveraging member investment** - Again this year, we were able to take \$205,487 in member dues and generate \$4,889,665 to use toward providing critical services to the communities in our region and beyond.

As always the success of NWCCOG's programs is attributed to our members and partner

organizations. We could never accomplish this much, and be this successful, without them. And of course, great appreciation goes to the dedicated staff whose commitment to excellence contributed to an amazing year.

[The 2015 Annual Report has a brand new look, and you can view it here.](#) We invite you to spend some seeing what we accomplished last year.

Working together has its benefits!

Spotlight Kim Cancelosi Northwest All Hazards Emergency Management Region (NWAHEMR) - Coordinator



The NWAHEMR is a ten-county region located in the northwest corner of the state. It is comprised of Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Mesa, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit Counties. An Executive Board/Steering Committee, made up of each county's emergency manager as well as discipline representatives, meets on a regular basis to develop strategies to improve the preparedness of the region through the use of homeland security grant funds. NWCCOG provides fiscal management and program coordination for the NWAHEMR.

Each year, the NWAHEMR applies for funding from the State of Colorado Governor's Office of Homeland Security for various projects that improve the region's capability to be prepared for emergencies and terrorist attacks. This funding ultimately comes from a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Kim Cancelosi is an independent contractor engaged by the Northwest Council of Governments (NWCCOG) and is responsible for ensuring the NWAHEMR complies with the terms of the requirements set out in the Grant Guidance documentation. Along with her many compliance duties, she is also responsible for submitting the yearly grant application on behalf of the region, and coordinating all of the regional meetings.

In Kim's words, "The absolute best part of working as an independent contractor for NWCCOG is the high degree of professionalism within the office. Everyone there is so dedicated to their work and the people, communities they serve. It is an honor to be a part of an organization that works to better the region and the residents who live here."

She also has a deep respect for the people who make up the NWAHEMR and the work they do.

The emergency managers, responders, and all the county and local department and community groups work together in planning, training, and responding to natural and man-made hazards and emergencies throughout the region.

She goes on to say, "Within our community we have so many wonderful, fun people who really love their work and I am blessed to be surrounded by them."

When asked what she thinks surprises most people about the work being done by NWCCOG, she mentioned weatherization, helping people find health care options, the elevator inspection program - and, "oh yes, the Northwest All Hazards Emergency Management Region."

Because Kim's father was a pilot in the US Air Force, she grew up in many places throughout Europe and was treated to a broad world-view. However, attending college in Greeley in the late 1970's really sealed the deal for her. She decided Colorado was the place she wanted to live.

In 1995, she met her husband, and shortly after, they moved to Summit County. She and her family, which includes her husband and two sons, love any activity outdoors; skiing, hiking, biking, camping, golf, and just being out in nature. And when she really wants to calm her mind, she turns to knitting.



Clean-up after Strawberry fire near Meeker.

Staff Member Spotlight

David Pickett-Heaps

Elevator Inspector



David's been performing elevator inspections at the NWCCOG for nearly a year. He came to this position with electrical knowledge and experience as a heating, ventilation, and air conditioner (HVAC) technician.

As an Elevator Inspector he performs a variety of inspections, acceptance tests, major and minor modifications, and a lot of time traveling from job to job!

When asked what he likes best about working with NWCCOG he says, "It's hard to say what

I like best; there are so many positive attributes. I like the 4 day work-week, the great benefits, awesome co-workers, the traveling around our beautiful state, and a fantastic career opportunity."

David thinks people are most surprised by the diversity of the programs done by the NWCCOG and the territory we cover - both inside our region and outside the region.

Originally from Canberra, Australia he grew up in Boulder. His love of the mountains and outdoors, plus his need to get away from the front-range cities pulled him to Summit County nearly 30 years ago.

When he's not working he loves to hike and camp with his wife and blue heelers. He also loves big mountain back-country skiing, snowboarding, multi-day mountain biking, SUPing, and hanging out in the desert drinking craft beers! No wonder he likes those four day work-weeks!



AWARDS

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments named Certified Healthy Business Leader!

According to Health Links Colorado, an evidence-based program at the center for Health Work and Environment at the Colorado School of Public Health, the NWCCOG achieved the honor of **Certified Healthy Business Leader**.

This award confirms that we have succeeded in creating a culture of health within our organization at the highest level. The following criteria were used in measuring our accomplishments:

- Provide comprehensive wellness and safety programs
- Monitor and track employee participation
- Offer wellness information and activities for family members
- Demonstrate innovation
- Collect and track health outcome data
- Actively promote health, wellness, and safety in the community as part of best business practice.

We're grateful to Rachel Lunney who has spearheaded this effort and to all the staff members who focus efforts both at work and at home to contribute to our success.

Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Congratulates Mountain Town Business Awards

The Northwest Small Business Development Center (SBDC) launched the Inaugural Mountain Town Business Awards to recognize women business leaders in Colorado's mountain communities. Award winners were honored in five different categories. Awardees were celebrated at private brunch at the Vail Chophouse on March 3rd. Event sponsors included MTN Town Magazine, St. Anthony's Summit Medical Center, the Small Business Administration, and Colorado Mountain College.

Northwest SBDC Director Lindsey Stapay remarked that nominations for the five awards stretched over 8 counties in northwest Colorado and shows that our resort and rural businesses owners are building a strong economy over snowy passes and long valley's to create a healthy and thriving economy. Each winner took a moment to speak of their dedication to becoming a business leader in our mountain communities.

Betsy Markey, the new SBA Regional Administrator was on hand to congratulate winners and noted that "small business owners have made our nation's economy strong". Fiona Arnold, Executive Director to the Office of Economic Development and International trade, came to wrap up the program with thoughtful insights about the importance of celebrating business leadership.

Congratulations to the 2015 MTN Town Business Award Winners:



L to R: Amanda Wagner, Andrea Stewart, Dr. Christine Ebert-Santos, Candy Elkind Emerson.
(not pictured: Robin Waters)

Business Legacy Winner:

Robin Waters, Executive Director, Basalt Chamber of Commerce

Emerging Business Leader Winner:

Andrea Stewart, Executive Director, Carbondale Chamber of Commerce

Creative Business Leader Winner:

Candy Elkind Emerson,
Fundraising Consultant, CLE Development Consulting, LLC.

Legacy Health & Wellness Leadership Award:

Dr. Christine Ebert-Santos, Owner, Ebert Family Clinic

Emerging Health & Wellness Champion Award:

Amanda Wagner - Executive Director, The Aspen Clinic

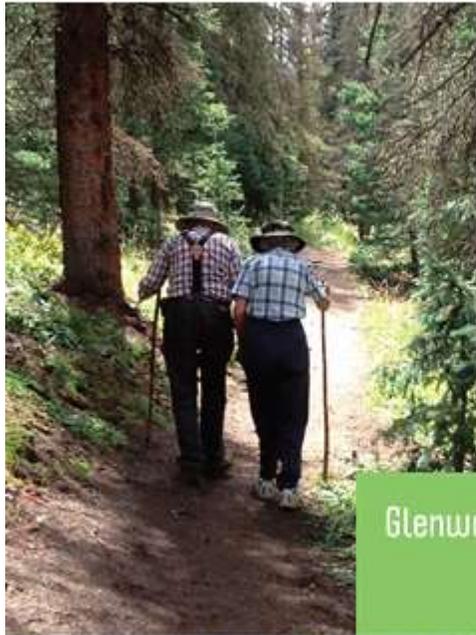
[Read full press release here](#)

SAVE the DATES:

9Health Fair - Summit County High School, 4/23/16, 7:00 to 12:00 noon - [sign up online](#)

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) recognition 5/9/16 - Colorado Mountain College
in
Edwards

Senior Awards Luncheon - 5/11/16, Summit County Community and Senior Center in Frisco



Caregiver Conference

Free
Lunch Included

June 14, 2016

Glenwood Springs Community Center
9 AM - 3:30 PM

Planning for the Future / Planning for Yourself / Planning for Your Loved Ones

2016 NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Full Council Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Approval of final 2015 financials; program updates.

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Full Council & EDD Board Meeting

Location: Glenwood Springs Community Center, 100 Wulfsohn Road, Glenwood Springs

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Review/acceptance of 2014 audit; program updates.

Thursday, July 28, 2016

Full Council Meeting

Location: Walden, Meeting Room TBD

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Approval of 2017 dues; discussion re: Annual Planning Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 25, 2016

Full Council & EDD Board Annual Planning Meeting

Location: Buffalo Mountain Room, Summit County Commons, Frisco

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Agenda Items: Strategic Planning for 2017

Thursday, October 27, 2016

Full Council Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Review of draft 2017 budget

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Full Council & Foundation Board Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: 2016 budget revisions; approve 2017 budget; adopt 2017 meeting schedule; annual NWCCOG Foundation Board meeting.

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

www.nwccog.org

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN NWCCOG!

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