



# Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

## NWCCOG Council Meeting

Eagle County Room, Facilities Building

Eagle, CO

March 23, 2017

### Council Members Present:

Anne McKibbin, Town of Eagle  
Bob Skirus, Town of Snowmass Village (phone)  
Betsy Blecha, Jackson County  
Carolyn Skowrya, Town of Dillon  
Ginger Scott, City of Steamboat Springs  
Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County  
Jeff Shroll, Town of Gypsum  
Jim White, Town of Grand Lake  
Karn Stiegelmeier, Summit County  
Mark Campbell, Town of Kremmling  
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County  
Thomas Clark, Town of Kremmling

### Others Present:

Sarah Andrews, Michael Bennet's Office

### NWCCOG Staff:

Amanda Rens-Moon  
Chelsey Voden  
Elaina Wiegand  
Erin Fisher  
Jon Stavney  
Nate Walowitz  
Susan Jurgensmeir

### Call to Order:

*Karn Stiegelmeier*, NWCCOG Council Chair, called the NWCCOG Council Meeting to order at 12:38 p.m. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

### Approval of Final December 2016 Financials:

*M/S/P Jeff Shroll/Thomas Clark* to approve the final December 2016 financials as presented.

### Approval of February 2017 Financials:

*M/S/P Patti Clapper/Jeanne McQueeney* to approve the February 2017 financials as presented.

### Approval of 2017 Employee Handbook:

*M/S/P Patti Clapper/Mark Campbell* to approve the 2017 Employee Handbook as presented.

### Approval of Funding for Mini Grants:

The Council expressed appreciation for the summary and recommendations instead of a lengthy presentation of full grant submittal. 2017 Mini Grant Requests are as follows: Town of Walden training for new accounting system software, \$7,500; Town of Grand Lake COE 404 Permit assistance for dock project, \$600; City of Steamboat Springs employee training on building relationships and trust, \$5,000; Eagle County InGear community wellness dashboard, \$7,500; Town of Dillon employee training at Dillon Marina, &875; Town of Dillon Marina Customer Service Survey, \$3,250; and Grand County GC Master Trails Planning and Map Project, \$5,000.

*M/S/P Thomas Clark/Patti Clapper* to approve funding for mini grants as proposed.

### Discussion of Upcoming Member Surveys:

NWCCOG conducted member surveys every year up until 2009. Jon Stavney would like to start surveying members again. For the most part, the 2017 member surveys will have the same questions as before. However, Jon is open to council members suggesting questions. Jon will distribute a draft survey to members for feedback.

### Discussion of RTCC Mobility Program Future Funding Model:

Jon Stavney, Susan Jurgensmeier, and Chelsey Voden presented possible fee for service RTCC funding models. The question to the council is if RTCC should start charging fee for service (for either or both inside or outside of our region). There was no consensus on a preferred model. The Kremmling representatives preferred a fee per use model with lower fees for members.

### **Program Updates:**

**Broadband Program, Nate Walowitz:** Nate is working closely with Summit County to bring fiber to homes and businesses and have more wireless solutions in rural areas. Karn Stiegelmeier and Nate plan to meet with a rural electric co-op to learn more about different ways of providing broadband solutions to the area. The Mountain Connect Broadband Conference is scheduled for May 22-24, 2017 at Keystone Conference Center. They will be offering a Broadband 101 course. Individuals are able to attend a few sessions without committing to attending the entire conference. The Broadband Program is continuing to work on a regional transport network to ensure multiple broadband connectivity pathways to/from our region to provide redundancy. The long-term goal is to use the networks in region 10 and region 9 in order to be reasonably assured that we will always have broadband coverage and access. Members requested Nate and Jon work on additional materials for 152 opt out questions.

**Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative (CBBC), Patti Clapper:** CBBC is planning their next meeting for April 28 at the Carbondale Fire Protection District Office. This meeting will be organized with a whole new format. Local fire chiefs and representatives will be invited. For the first time our region will post local stories. If interested in attending, please contact Brad Piehl at [bpiehl@jw-associates.org](mailto:bpiehl@jw-associates.org).

**Senator Michael Bennet's Office, Sarah Andrews:** Sarah started her position on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, one day prior to this council meeting. She has taken over for Noah Koerper and will be the regional contact for ten counties. Regarding any updates, it is too soon for her in this position to provide the council with any specifics. Sarah can be reached at [sarah\\_andrews@bennet.state.gov](mailto:sarah_andrews@bennet.state.gov).

### **Member Updates:**

**Pitkin County, Patti Clapper:** The Pitkin County Board of Commissioners recently welcomed the Trump family, who was visiting the area, with a full page newspaper ad referencing climate change.

**Town of Dillon, Carolyn Skowrya:** The town participated in a retreat on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 where they discussed everything they perceived as a deficiency in Dillon. They will begin water main work on April 1. The Amphitheater project commences this summer. Dillon is looking for a new Town Manager and a new Town Attorney.

**Town of Eagle, Anne McKibbin:** The town of Eagle is also updating their Employee Handbook. Vern Brock has been hired as the Town Engineer to fill in as Eagle continues to look for a permanent employee. The River Park Project is accelerating the design process, which is predicted to be ready by the middle of summer 2017. The Upland Park Project will commence next year.

**City of Steamboat Springs, Ginger Scott:** The City Council and Routt County Board of County Commissioners agreed to build a new law enforcement facility together on the west end of town. The idea for a facility was recommended by a citizen committee.

**Jackson County, Betsy Blecha:** The County is moving forward with their broadband project and expects to have wireless service this summer or fall at the latest. The impacts from this past summer's fires are not financially hurting the County; the Federal Government is expected to pay for all of the damages.

**Town of Kremmling, Thomas Clark & Mark Campbell:** The town is looking forward to their third year Cinco de Mayo celebration, which brings a variety of diverse groups from the community together.

**Town of Grand Lake, Jim White:** The town is working on their docks, and plans to replace two this spring. The \$4.3 million sales tax bond to renovate Grand Lake's downtown was approved and will start its focus downtown then extend out. They will talk about passing ordinances on the night of Monday, March 27, 2017.

**Eagle County, Jeanne McQueeney:** The County approved a Climate Action Plan at the beginning of this year. In collaboration with some initiatives, they created a goal to put fifty more electric vehicles on the road. Local dealers are offering a rebate to help the county reach this goal.

**Town of Gypsum, Jeff Shroll:** The town received permission from the state to fill the LEDE reservoir now that the multi-year expansion project is complete. They are about forty-five to sixty days out on completing their first Master Plan in a decade.

**Summit County, Karn Stiegelmeier:** The County has been delving deeper into their Energy Outreach Plan, which includes their aim to be 100% renewable. Summit County is working with the Town of Breckenridge in developing their plans. Since Summit County land is so expensive, one idea is to buy a lot of land in Park County to install solar energy cells. The County is also examining the landfill for safety by collecting and testing cells.

**New Business:**

There was none.

**Adjournment:**

**M/S/P Patti Clapper/Karn Stiegelmeier** to adjourn the NWCCOG Council Meeting at 2:29 p.m.

  
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Karn Stiegelmeier, NWCCOG Council Chair

  
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Date