



AGENDA

Thursday, December 05, 2024

IN PERSON AT NWCCOG
 249 WARREN AVE
 SILVERTHORNE, CO 80498 970-315-1291
 FOUNDATION 10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.
 NWCCOG (NLF) 10:06 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 EDD 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

VIDEO & PHONE CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88166216134?pwd=MFB0Z2VRVEpHSXhYZHRubVRXc3poZz09>
 Meeting ID: 881 6621 6134
 Passcode: 119033

NWCCOG FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING

The Foundation is a nonprofit department of NWCCOG designed to accept donations for local projects. The Foundation Board meets December of every year. The Foundation Board is the NWCCOG Executive Committee.

10:00 a.m.	1.	Call to Order – NWCCOG Council Chair, Alyssa Shenk	
	2.	Determination of Quorum	
	*3.	ACTION FOUNDATION: Minutes of December 2023 Foundation Board Meeting	Pg. 3
	*4.	ACTION FOUNDATION: Approve 2025 NWCCOG Foundation Budget - See NWCCOG Website: https://www.nwccog.org/about/people/our-council/council-resources/ - Do You have a Foundation project for 2025? Keep us in mind	NWCCOG Website
10:05 a.m.	*5.	Adjourn NWCCOG Foundation Board Meeting	

NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING

10:06 a.m.	1.	Call to Order – NWCCOG Council Chair, Alyssa Shenk	
	2.	Roll Call and Determination of Quorum	
	*3.	ACTION COG: Minutes of October 2024 Council Meeting	Pgs. 4-5
	*4.	ACTION COG: There are no NWCCOG financials this meeting – Bill Schedule to be approved by council and 3 rd Quarter NLF financials. - NWCCOG – List of Payments – See NWCCOG Website - NWCCOG - Q3 Balance Sheet - NWCCOG – Q3 Revenue Expenditures - Northwest Loan Fund – Balance Sheet - Northwest Loan Fund – Budget vs Actual	Pgs. 6-9
	5.	UPDATE NLF: NLF Report Documents are for review only - Documents are for review, not approval - 2024 Q3 Director Notes on NLF Financials - NLF Update 2024 November - Northwest Loan Fund – Risk Ratings October 2024 - Northwest Loan Fund – Portfolio Summary October 2024 - Northwest Loan Fund – Risk Rating November 2024 - Northwest Loan Fund – Portfolio Summary November 2024 - Loan Policy Excerpt as reference for Risk Ratings	Pgs. 10-22
	*6.	ACTION COG: Approval of proposed 2025 Budget - Memo - <i>Motion: I move to approve the 2025 Budget and Revised 2023 Budget with changes noted in Memo as presented as well as the updated Wage Ranges...</i> - See NWCCOG Website: https://www.nwccog.org/about/people/our-council/council-resources/	Pgs. 23-24 NWCCOG Website
	7.	UPDATE COG: Council Changes - Reminder for Jurisdictions Identify 2025 Council Members and Alternatives	
	8.	PRESENTATION COG: HCC Presentation by Steve Hilley - What does the Northwest Regional Healthcare Coalition do? - What do Hospitals and responders do when local capacity is exceeded during an incident? For what kinds of incidents do they plan?	NWCCOG Website

	9.	UPDATE COG: Status of IJJA and IRA Funding in 2025 –RGN Jonathan Godes	
	10.	QUESTION COG: Farm Bill still in play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many of our jurisdictions are backfilling USFS budgets for Front Country Rangers or other? How much in 2025? - Should NWCCOG send letter to Congressional leaders again? - Attachments: - EC BOCC Forest Service Funding Letter - Unacceptable: Colorado Lawmakers USFS... Summit Daily - USDA USFS Letter from Congressional Delegation 	Pgs. 25-34
11:00 a.m.		Legislative Updates	
		Executive Director Items and New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congrats to Chair Shenk (News) - March meeting at Gypsum Warehouse, Tiny training home tour? - Other Member Field Trip ideas? SBS Town Hall/Justice Center, Breck Housing, - Major 2025 ED Work Items - Preserving Morale and Team through funding shakeups - Onboarding process improvement - General HR, Benefits Management, recordkeeping review - NeoGov transition, platform for Performance Management - Explore Accounting Software options – integrated solutions - Next Report Content/Idea - Energizing Staff Meetings with Professional Development 	Pgs. 35-46
	14.	Program Updates: Will resume in January	
11:15 a.m.	15.	Member Updates: 3 minutes per jurisdiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is coming up in 2025 in your town or county? 	
	16.	New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QUESTION: Presentations you would like to see in 2025 Council Meetings. - Exec Comm recommends more presentations from member innovations. 	
12:00 p.m.	*17.	ACTION: Adjourn NWCCOG Meeting	
<u>NEXT NWCCOG MEETING:</u>			
Thursday, January 23, 2025 Meeting 10am – 12pm			
<u>NWCCOG Officers:</u> NWCCOG Council Chair – Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Vice-Chair – Patti Clapper NWCCOG Council Secretary-Treasurer – Carolyn Skowyra			
<u>NWCCOG Executive Committee:</u> Region XII County members –Nina Waters, Patti Clapper, Tim Redmond, Jeanne McQueeney and Randal George. Municipal members – Alyssa Shenk, Geoff Grimmer, Kristen Brownson and Carolyn Skowyra.			

* requires a vote

NWCCOG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (EDD) BOARD

12:30 p.m.	1.	Call to Order – EDD Board Chair, DiAnn Butler	
	2.	Roll Call and Determination of Quorum	
	*3.	ACTION: October 2024 EDD Meeting Minutes	Pgs. 47-48
12:35 p.m.	4.	Presentation: Creative Districts in the Region Kim Keith, Executive Director, Steamboat Creates Tamara Nuzzaci Park, President & CEO, Breck Creates DiAnn Butler – Grand County Econ Development Director, Grand Lake Creative District	
1:35 p.m.	*5.	ACTION: CO Align – NWCCOG EDD to be signatory to MOU	Pgs. 49-51
	6.	2025 NWCCOG EDD Board Meeting Schedule/Presentation Schedule	Pgs. 52-54
	7.	Roundtable Discussion: Economic Development Updates from Your Community	
2:30 p.m.	*8.	ACTION: Adjourn NWCCOG Meeting	
<u>NEXT EDD BOARD MEETING:</u>			
Thursday January 23, 2025 12:30pm – 2:30pm			
<u>EDD Officers:</u> EDD Chair – DiAnn Butler, EDD Vice-Chair – Patti Clapper, EDD Secretary-Treasurer – Ashley Macdonald			

* requires a vote

Please notify office@nwccog.org 5 days in advance if you require any accommodations to attend this meeting.

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Foundation

Meeting

December 7, 2023

Conference Call Only (“Present” means on the call”)



Board Members:

Alyssa Shenk, Town of Snowmass Village
Britta Gustafson, Town of Snowmass Village
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County
Randy George, Grand County
Jonathan Godes, Glenwood Springs
Larry Pardee,
Kristen Brownson, Town of Breckenridge
Diane McBride, Town of Frisco
Lana Bryce, Town of Gypsum
Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County
Ashley McDonald, Town of
Kremmling
Matthew Langhorst, Town of
Glenwood Springs

Others Present:

Margarat Bowes, CAST
Erin McCuskey, SBDC

NWCCOG Staff:

Jon Stavney
Talai Shirey
Anita Cameron
Rachel Lunney
Doug Jones
Dana Wood

Call to Order

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) Foundation Board Meeting to order at 10:05 am. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

Approval of December 2022 Foundation Meeting Minutes

M/S: Patti Clapper / Jeanne McQueeney to approve the December 2022 Foundation Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Passed: Yes

Approval of 2023 Revised NWCCOG Foundation Budget and 2024 Foundation Budget

M/S: Patti Clapper / Alyssa Shenk to approve the 2023 Foundation Revised Budget and 2024 Foundation budget as presented.

Passed: Yes

Adjournment of the NWCCOG Foundation Board Meeting

M/S: Alyssa Shenk/Patti Clapper adjourn the NWCCOG Council meeting at 10:07 am



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council Meeting

October 24, 2024

Board Members

Alyssa Shenk – Town of Snowmass
Patti Clapper – Pitkin County
Nina Waters – Summit County
Jeannie McQueeney – Eagle County
Randy George – Grand County
Geoff Grimmer – Town of Eagle Trustee
Kristen Brownson – Town of Breckenridge

NWCCOG Staff:

Jon Stavney
Erin Fisher
Torie Jarvis – QQ
Ashley Bembenek - QQ
Jonathan Godes
Rachel Tuyn
Moirra Vander Meer
Becky Walter

Others Present

Carolyn Tucker – SBDC
Thayer Hirsch
Chris Romer – Vail Valley Partnership
Kris Mattera – Basalt Chamber of Commerce
John Bristol – Routt County
Jonnah Glassman – Town of Silverthorne
Teagan Serres – Town of Kremmling
Matt Kireker – Regional Director US Senator Bennet’s Office
Dan Sullivan - Town of Keystone
Sara Nadolny – Town of Basalt
Ashley Mcdonald – Town of Kremmling
Chris Romer -Vail Valley Partnership
Kris Mattera – Basalt Chamber of Commerce
Teagan Serres – Town of Kremmling
Jacob Zook – City of Glenwood Springs
Jena Skinner
Corry Mihm
Diane McBride

ACTION Call to Order

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 10:03 am. Quorum was confirmed with introductions of attendees .

ACTION Approval of September 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

M/S: Alyssa Shenk made motion to approve made motion to approve the September 2024 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion approved by Randy George and seconded by Sara Nadolny.

Passed: Yes

Update: Chair to share Executive Director Evaluation Process status with members.

Alyssa provided an update on the executive director’s evaluation process, noting delays due to the election season but confirming plans to meet with Jon for his evaluation in mid-November. No questions from members at this time.

ACTION COG 2nd Quarter Financials

The financial overview highlighted a robust financial position, including \$6 million in checking and savings, and a \$426,000 loan associated with the NLF. The team praised Jon and Becky for their effective storytelling in presenting the financial data, emphasizing the importance of understanding the financial landscape as they approach budget approvals. The discussion then shifted to the budget overview, particularly focusing on indirect costs essential for covering administrative expenses. Randy George raised questions about the allocation of these costs, prompting Becky Walter to explain their necessity for funding various organizational needs. The conversation also addressed the importance of maintaining a reserve fund amid uncertain federal funding, with Randy advocating for a more conservative reserve strategy. Additionally, the meeting noted a significant adjustment in the Broadband grant, which would reduce funding

for elevator projects, and discussed a recent fraud incident that resulted in a loss of \$31,168, highlighting the need for improved practices to prevent future occurrences.

Alyssa Shenk asked for a motion to approve the Quarter 2 financials. Patti Clapper made the motion and Geoff Grimmer seconded.

Passed: Yes

Discussion: COG 2025 Budget Overview

A formal vote will occur at the December 5, 2024 Council Meeting for the 2025 Budget per bylaws. The 2025 Draft Budget is available on the NWCCOG website as well as the 2024 Revised Budget. Noted was the 10% in reserves per NWCCOG bylaws, and that the members are facing very tight budgets for 2025, so understanding the dues increase for NWCCOG and what services NWCCOG provides were important for members in upcoming budget discussions in their communities.

Presentation; Wage Range Analysis and Reserve Analysis from Becky Walter

Wage Range and Compensation Analysis was also discussed with changes to be applied in 2025 and reflected in the 2025 Budget.

Update: NLF Reports

Northwest Loan Fund Risk Rating for outstanding loans were shared as well as the redacted Portfolio Summary. These documents were for review only, not for approval or motion.

ACTION 2025 Proposed NWCCOG Meeting Schedule

In-person meetings for 2025 will be held in the Silverthorne location with remote option. Dates presented: January 23, 2025 / March 20, 2025 / May 22, 2025 / July 24, 2025 / September 18, 2025 / Mid-October TBD Annual Executive Director Review & 2026 Budget Workshop / October 23, 2025 / December 5, 2025

Alyssa asked for a motion to approve the 2025 NWCCOG Council Meeting Schedule. Nina Waters made the motion and Sara Nadolny seconded.

Passed: Yes

Presentation: NWCCOG Program Presentation – QQ

Ashley Bembenek and Torie Jarvis Presented on the Watershed Services Program. Explanation that NWCCOG is the designation Regional Water Quality Management Agency for Region 12, with participation in Water Quality Control Commission rulemaking, assisting members in adopting water quality protection measures, review water quality control division site applications, and participate in adaptive management efforts. Discussion of the \$100K Legal Defense Fund will be discussed at the upcoming fall meeting on November 15, 2024. There has not been a contribution to the reserve in at least 13 years.

Presentation: Unita Rail Project Appeal reaches SCOTUS

NWCCOG and QQ attorneys participated in the Amicus Brief submitted in October to the Supreme Court with focus on the Colorado River protection if there is a spill or environmental issue. It is an ongoing issue and discussion will continue as to if it is better for QQ or NWCCOG to lead the matter. Matt Kireker, the Regional Director for US Senator Bennet’s Office did state that it is an issue that the Senator is following.

ACTION Adjournment

M/S: Alyssa Shenk asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Patti Clapper made the motion, it was seconded by Nina Waters. NWCCOG Council meeting adjourned at 12:19PM

Passed: Yes

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair

Date

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2024

	<u>Sep 30, 24</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	6,797,975.69
Accounts Receivable	1,438,513.40
Other Current Assets	240,987.99
Total Current Assets	<u>8,477,477.08</u>
Fixed Assets	3,470,142.19
Other Assets	4,861,968.59
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>16,809,587.86</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	274,732.34
Credit Cards	49,340.70
Other Current Liabilities	29,258.42
Total Current Liabilities	<u>353,331.46</u>
Total Liabilities	2,492,115.56
Equity	
3000 · Fund Balance	12,013,825.13
3400 · Other Fund Balances	221,598.01
Net Income	2,082,049.16
Total Equity	<u>14,317,472.30</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>16,809,587.86</u></u>

NWCCOG

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

09/30/2023

75% of the year

	2024 REVENUE BUDGET	REVENUE YTD ACTUAL	REVENUE BUDGET TO ACTUAL	2024 EXPENSE BUDGET	EXPENSES YTD ACTUAL	EXPENSES BUDGET TO ACTUAL	2024 NET BUDGET	REVENUES OVER EXPENSES ACTUAL	ADVANCED / CARRY OVER FUNDS	Beginning of Year RESERVED PROGRAM FUNDS	End of Year RESERVED PROGRAM FUNDS	NET
COG PROGRAM FUNDS												
Internal Programs												
REGIONAL BUSINESS	523,999	678,002	129%	579,395	455,376	79%	(55,396)	222,626	5,135			227,761
BROADBAND	210,462	166,031	79%	247,646	219,400	89%	(37,184)	(53,369)				(53,369)
PROJECT THOR	1,425,217	1,763,955	124%	1,136,016	1,270,228	112%	289,201	493,727		204,767	698,494	1,192,221
ELEVATOR INSPECTION	2,065,112	1,529,971	74%	1,760,439	1,334,665	76%	304,673	195,306				195,306
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIST	154,150	161,933	105%	153,559	159,231	104%	591	2,702	2,783			5,485
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION	194,343	291,750	150%	194,343	118,427	61%	0	173,323				173,323
Vintage - AAA												
ADRC- CO HLTH FOUND		53,800			0			53,800	53,800			107,600
SHIP- Insurance Consulting		51,127			23,369			27,758	32,107			59,864
SMP								0				-
AGE/NUTRITION (General)								0		68,451	68,451	68,451
AGE/NUTRITION (State FY 23-24)		1,069,094			895,285			173,808	193,068			366,877
AGE/NUTRITION (State FY 24-25)		411,292			554,769			(143,477)				(143,477)
AGE/NUTRITION TOTAL	2,178,379	1,585,312	73%	2,167,622	1,473,423	68%	10,757	111,889	278,975	68,451	68,451	459,315
Energy Management												
ENERGY BEECH		132,135			11,912			120,223		28,726	148,949	269,172
ENERGY CARE		919,661			1,229,800			(310,139)		420,616	110,477	(199,662)
ENERGY NEEP		0			8,916			(8,916)		36,217	27,301	18,385
ENERGY CIP		56,151			38,347			17,804		64,216	82,021	99,825
ENERGY RE-ENERGIZE		205,444			244,970			(39,526)		32,864	(6,662)	(46,188)
ENERGY FEE FOR SERVICE		7,372			14,813			(7,441)		10,228	2,787	(4,654)
ENERGY TRAINING CENTER					8,000							-
ENERGY ADMIN					7,179							-
ENERGY (State FY23-24)		2,098,254			2,148,466			(50,212)	35,600			(14,612)
ENERGY (State FY24-25)		982,016			736,668			245,348				245,348
ENERGY MANAGEMENT TOTAL	5,391,962	4,401,033	82%	5,250,555	4,449,071	85%	141,407	(32,859)	35,600	564,048	339,000	338,794
Total COG Internal Programs	12,143,624	10,577,987		11,489,575	9,479,822		654,049	1,098,165	322,493	837,266	1,105,945	2,538,835
External Programs												
HOMELAND SECURITY	184,092	32,150	17%	184,092	51,140	28%	0	(18,990)				(18,990)
NWR HEALTH CARE COALITION	231,176	153,562	66%	231,176	169,835	73%	0	(16,274)				(16,274)
WATER QUALITY/QUANTITY	187,563	222,277	119%	187,563	161,454	86%	0	60,823	8,312	127,010		69,135
WATERSHED SERVICES	69,166	73,283	106%	65,314	63,295	97%	3,852	9,988	32,280	24,693		42,269
WILD & SCENIC	128,530	111,598	87%	120,426	127,240	106%	8,104	(15,642)	9,807	39,154		(5,835)
NWCCOG FOUNDATION	1,550		0%	120		0%	1,430	0		21,414	21,414	21,414
Total External Programs	802,077	592,870	74%	788,691	572,964	73%	13,386	19,906	64,760	212,271	21,414	106,080
Total Program Funds	12,945,701	11,170,857	86%	12,278,266	10,052,786	82%	667,435	1,118,071	387,253	1,049,537	1,127,359	2,644,915
NORTHWEST LOAN FUND	2,090,644	1,352,651	65%	241,191	169,591	70%	1,849,453	1,183,060		4,696,963	5,880,023	7,063,083
INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS												
INDIRECT	721,775	548,527	76%	738,223	564,024	76%	(16,448)	(15,497)		134,245		(15,497)
BUILDING FUND	161,750	121,313	75%	175,384	319,400	182%	(13,634)	(198,087)		100,732	(97,355)	(295,443)
MOTOR POOL	0			8,284	4,971	60%	(8,284)	(4,971)		44,718	39,747	34,775
Total Service Funds	883,525	669,840	76%	921,891	888,395	96%	(38,366)	(218,556)		279,695	(57,609)	(276,164)
COG FUNDS Subtotal	15,919,870	13,193,347	83%	13,441,348	11,110,772	70%	2,478,522	2,082,575	387,253	6,026,195	6,949,773	9,431,834

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
Balance Sheet - Northwest Loan Fund
As of September 30, 2024

	<u>TOTAL</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1015 · 1st Bank NLF Checking	99,231.88
1065 · NLF Alpine Operating	13,508.75
1070 · NLF Alpine Money Market	253,800.24
1071 · NLF Alpine ICS	3,000,441.03
1073 · NLF Mountain Valley Bank	246,420.78
1075 · NLF Yampa Valley Bank	248,091.59
Total Checking/Savings	<u>3,861,494.27</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	273,500.00
Other Current Assets	
1090 · Undeposited Funds	9,602.39
1315 · NLF - Allowance for Loan Loss	-278,458.02
Total Other Current Assets	<u>-268,855.63</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>3,866,138.64</u>
Other Assets	
1615 · NLF Loans Receivable	
CDBG-20-630-Covid	495,392.01
1615a · CDBG-13-589	841.22
1615b · CDBG-16-602	403,321.61
1615c · CDBG-20-630	1,183,232.52
1615f · Forest Service	405,436.84
1615o · OEDIT-2017	9,693.48
1615r · Revolved	1,005,530.74
1615s · CO Start-Up	40,131.17
Total 1615 · NLF Loans Receivable	<u>3,543,579.59</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>3,543,579.59</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>7,409,718.23</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Total Accounts Payable	<u>46,017.56</u>
Total Credit Cards	<u>5,033.48</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>51,051.04</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>0.00</u>
Total Liabilities	51,051.04
Equity	
3000 · Fund Balance	
3100 · NLF Net Equity	6,175,607.09
Total 3000 · Fund Balance	<u>6,175,607.09</u>
Net Income	<u>1,183,060.10</u>
Total Equity	<u>7,358,667.19</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>7,409,718.23</u></u>

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - NLF, OEDIT, CDBG, Revolved
 January through September 2024

	Jan - Sep 24	% of Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4000 · Grant Income			
4100 · Federal Grant Income	686,713.80	49.4%	1,390,000.00
4200 · State Grant Income	102,000.00	51.0%	200,000.00
4250 · Administration-State Funds	5,100.00	2.29%	222,400.00
4251 · Administration-Federal Funds	109,874.20		
Total 4000 · Grant Income	903,688.00	49.86%	1,812,400.00
4510 · Local Funding			
4520 · Other Local Funding	220,000.00		
Total 4510 · Local Funding	220,000.00		
4720 · Loan Interest Income			
Revolved Interest	56,757.00		
4720 · Loan Interest Income - Other	112,065.93	46.92%	238,839.00
Total 4720 · Loan Interest Income	168,822.93	70.69%	238,839.00
4730 · Fee Income	12,068.01	34.09%	35,405.00
4820 · Interest Income	19,108.62	477.72%	4,000.00
Total Income	1,323,687.56	63.32%	2,090,644.00
Gross Profit	1,323,687.56	63.32%	2,090,644.00
Expense			
6100 · Payroll Expenses			
6112 · Program Director	86,726.34	75.0%	115,635.00
6210 · Taxes & Benefits	17,072.72	72.87%	23,430.00
Total 6100 · Payroll Expenses	103,799.06	74.64%	139,065.00
6130 · Meeting Expense	726.23	36.31%	2,000.00
6410 · Contract Staff	1,283.75	42.79%	3,000.00
6520 · Outside Contract			
6510 · Contractor	3,663.75	30.53%	12,000.00
Total 6520 · Outside Contract	3,663.75	30.53%	12,000.00
6610 · Office Supplies	3,941.37	394.14%	1,000.00
6615 · Loan Loss Reserve	-49,114.30		
6620 · Bank Charges	70.00	70.0%	100.00
6640 · Postage	140.93	12.81%	1,100.00
6655 · Program Expense	2,239.15	44.78%	5,000.00
6660 · Advertising Expense	829.59	82.96%	1,000.00
6680 · Dues & Subscriptions	3,931.93	65.53%	6,000.00
6720 · Rent & Utilities	2,497.95	18.71%	13,354.00
6730 · Telephone Expense	1,494.20		
6811 · Vehicle Gas/Oil/Supplies	1,224.70	43.74%	2,800.00
6930 · Bad Debts - written off	0.00	0.0%	24,192.00
7110 · Program Supplies	983.47	98.35%	1,000.00
7130 · Travel & Meeting	6,767.16	75.19%	9,000.00
7320 · Pass-Through Funds	70,801.79		
7910 · Indirect Cost Allocation	14,309.82	75.0%	19,080.00
Total Expense	169,590.55	70.75%	239,691.00
Net Ordinary Income	1,154,097.01	62.35%	1,850,953.00
Net Income	1,154,097.01	62.35%	1,850,953.00
Less Loan Disbursements	709,500.00	44.62%	1,590,000.00
Total Net Income	614,187.56		260,953.00

2024 Q3 Director Notes to NLF Financials:

With cash received relative to 2024, NLF Net Income would be:

2024 Grant Admin received	\$114,974.
Loan Interest	\$ 168,822.
Fee Income	\$ 12,068.
Account Interest	<u>\$ 19,109.</u>
TOTAL Income	\$ 304,973.
TOTAL Expenses	<u>\$ 169,591.</u>
Net Income	\$ 135,382.

Note: If used, Amount Loaned Out includes ALL loans (CDBG reimbursed, CDBG not yet reimbursed, Revolved, Forest Service Funds).

Northwest Loan Fund Program (NLF) Update 2024 November

Six new loans have been approved this year.

In upcoming months, Anita will attend all nine County Commissioner meetings to show activity/success in those counties and to ask the Counties to sign on to a new Grant Application.

At this writing, Anita has met with Eagle and Jackson counties and has scheduled with Grand and Pitkin counties.

On November 20, Anita will present at the Grand County Economic Development Summit on Access to Capital.

Risk Ratings Report through 09/05/2024
 By Master Loan
 Grouped by Risk Rating > Loan ID

LoanID	Borrower	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +	180d +	Risk Rating	Rating Date	Reserve Percentage	Reserve Amount
Risk Rating: A. Satisfactory														
2021-0408-2	[REDACTED]	200,000.00	147,356.57								A. Satisfactory	07/19/2021	1.00%	1,473.57
2021-0610-1	[REDACTED]	162,665.38	98,639.29								A. Satisfactory	10/15/2020	1.00%	986.39
2021-1014-1	[REDACTED]	243,000.00	186,763.24								A. Satisfactory	11/09/2021	1.00%	1,867.63
2021-1116	[REDACTED]	40,000.00	20,671.86	760.00							A. Satisfactory	01/10/2022	1.00%	206.72
2023-0413	[REDACTED]	300,000.00	263,336.89								A. Satisfactory	05/05/2023	1.00%	2,633.37
2023-0608	[REDACTED]	80,000.00	72,036.95								A. Satisfactory	06/08/2023	1.00%	720.37
2023-0914	[REDACTED]	300,000.00	281,682.61								A. Satisfactory	10/31/2023	1.00%	2,816.83
2023-1011	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	95,384.06								A. Satisfactory	10/31/2023	1.00%	953.84
A. Satisfactory : 8 loans		1,425,665.38	1,165,871.47											11,658.72
Risk Rating: B. Watch														
2014-0313	[REDACTED]	20,000.00	1,051.19								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	105.12
2017-0914	[REDACTED]	250,000.00	123,527.42								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	12,352.74
2018-0305	[REDACTED]	280,000.00	129,919.71	4,400.00							B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	12,991.97
2018-0510	[REDACTED]	25,000.00	4,631.27								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	463.13
2019-0516-1	[REDACTED]	95,000.00	57,809.45								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	5,780.95

Risk Ratings Report through 09/05/2024
 By Master Loan
 Grouped by Risk Rating > Loan ID

LoanID	Borrower	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +	180d +	Risk Rating	Rating Date	Reserve Percentage	Reserve Amount
2019-0516-1R	[REDACTED]	295,000.00	194,414.05								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	19,441.41
2019-0910	[REDACTED]	79,500.00	56,141.00								B. Watch	11/21/2023	10.00%	5,614.10
2019-1010	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	33,692.09								B. Watch	08/04/2022	10.00%	3,369.21
2019-1216	[REDACTED]	50,000.00	29,919.20								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	2,991.92
2020-0326	[REDACTED]	51,000.00	7,383.26								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	738.33
2020-0330	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	30,560.97								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	3,056.10
2020-0331	[REDACTED]	60,000.00	49,836.81								B. Watch	11/21/2023	10.00%	4,983.68
2020-0514	[REDACTED]	170,000.00	131,195.98								B. Watch	07/28/2021	10.00%	13,119.60
2021-0610-2	[REDACTED]	54,000.00	13,121.00								B. Watch	01/10/2022	10.00%	1,312.10
2021-0610-3	[REDACTED]	75,000.00	7,268.72								B. Watch	07/28/2021	10.00%	726.87
2021-0708-2	[REDACTED]	80,000.00	61,889.90	858.33							B. Watch	08/10/2021	10.00%	6,188.99
2022-0113-2	[REDACTED]	250,000.00	202,547.62								B. Watch	02/16/2022	10.00%	20,254.76
2022-0714	[REDACTED]	232,650.00	165,860.68								B. Watch	08/04/2022	10.00%	16,586.07
2023-0206	[REDACTED]	18,700.00	10,238.19	600.00	600.00						B. Watch	02/23/2023	10.00%	1,023.82

Risk Ratings Report through 09/05/2024
 By Master Loan
 Grouped by Risk Rating > Loan ID

LoanID	Borrower	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +	180d +	Risk Rating	Rating Date	Reserve Percentage	Reserve Amount
2023-0209	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	89,552.24	1,636.00	1,636.00	1,636.00					B. Watch	02/16/2023	10.00%	8,955.22
2023-0413-2 R	[REDACTED]	46,428.00	42,352.07								B. Watch	04/28/2023	10.00%	4,235.21
2023-0713	[REDACTED]	61,800.00	54,160.19	1,300.00	1,300.00						B. Watch	07/22/2023	10.00%	5,416.02
2023-511	[REDACTED]	565,000.00	481,861.48								B. Watch	05/16/2023	10.00%	48,186.15
2024-0314	[REDACTED]	162,000.00	39,346.26	3,414.00							B. Watch	03/19/2024	10.00%	3,934.63
2024-0314-2	[REDACTED]	202,500.00	188,325.39								B. Watch	04/15/2024	10.00%	18,832.54
2024-0509	[REDACTED]	25,000.00	24,603.86								B. Watch	06/17/2024	10.00%	2,460.39
2024-0613	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	97,068.14								B. Watch	06/25/2024	10.00%	9,706.81
B. Watch: 27 loans		3,548,578.00	2,328,278.14											232,827.84
Risk Rating: F. Foreclosure														
2022-0113-R9	[REDACTED]	50,000.00	40,636.23								F. Foreclosure	11/01/2023	80.00%	32,508.98
F. Foreclosure: 1 loans		50,000.00	40,636.23											32,508.98
Report total: 36 loans		5,024,243.38	3,534,785.84											276,995.54

Portfolio Summary Report -- ACTIVE ACCOUNTS
By Master Loan
(All transactions)

10/31/2024 03 47 PM

Page 2 of 2

LoanID	Borrower	Close Date	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	Cumulative Pmts		Latest Pmts		Periods Past Due						Days Past	
					Principal	Interest	Amount	Date	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +		180d +
2020-0514	[REDACTED]	05/18/2020	170,000.00	131,195.98	38,804.02	32,560.11	150.00	10/14/2024								< 30
2021-0610-2	[REDACTED]	06/21/2021	54,000.00	13,121.00	27,592.80	4,087.12	102.52	10/14/2024								< 30
2021-0610-3	[REDACTED]	07/28/2021	75,000.00	7,268.72	67,731.28	6,499.34	225.62	10/17/2024								< 30
2021-0408-2	[REDACTED]	07/19/2021	200,000.00	145,839.72	54,160.28	23,692.22	2,048.75	10/04/2024								< 30
2023-0914	[REDACTED]	10/19/2023	300,000.00	280,239.13	19,760.87	17,633.03	3,739.39	09/30/2024								< 30
2023-0209	[REDACTED]	02/16/2023	100,000.00	89,552.24	10,447.76	10,821.24	1,636.00	06/05/2024	1,636.00	1,636.00	1,636.00					60 +
2019-1010	[REDACTED]	11/07/2019	100,000.00	32,803.24	67,196.76	17,254.24	1,115.00	09/30/2024								< 30
2021-0610-1	[REDACTED]	10/15/2020	162,665.38	98,639.29	62,652.98	12,717.33	1,100.00	08/16/2024	1,100.00							< 30
2023-0413-2 R	[REDACTED]	04/28/2023	46,428.00	41,900.68	4,527.32	5,883.79	800.79	10/04/2024								< 30
2024-0314-2	[REDACTED]	04/15/2024	202,500.00	179,331.13	23,168.87	9,731.13	6,580.00	10/23/2024								< 30
2023-0413	[REDACTED]	05/05/2023	300,000.00	260,410.31	39,589.69	23,265.31	4,604.00	10/04/2024								< 30
2024-0509	[REDACTED]	06/17/2024	25,000.00	23,972.47	1,027.53	520.47	516.00	09/17/2024								< 30
Report total: 36 loans			5,405,543.38	3,604,713.86	1,486,169.99	619,465.38	75,378.72		4,932.33	2,643.92	1,636.00					

**Portfolio Summary Report -- ACTIVE ACCOUNTS
By Master Loan
(All transactions)**

LoanID	Borrower	Close Date	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	Cumulative Pmts		Latest Pmts		Periods Past Due						Days Past		
					Principal	Interest	Amount	Date	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +		180d +	
2020-0514	[REDACTED]	05/18/2020	170,000.00	131,195.98	38,804.02	32,560.11	150.00	10/14/2024									< 30
2021-0610-2	[REDACTED]	06/21/2021	54,000.00	13,121.00	27,592.80	4,087.12	102.52	10/14/2024									< 30
2021-0610-3	[REDACTED]	07/28/2021	75,000.00	7,268.72	67,731.28	6,499.34	225.62	10/17/2024									< 30
2021-0408-2	[REDACTED]	07/19/2021	200,000.00	144,317.39	55,682.61	24,218.64	2,048.75	11/04/2024									< 30
2023-0914	[REDACTED]	10/19/2023	300,000.00	278,327.05	21,672.95	19,460.34	3,739.39	10/28/2024									< 30
2023-0209	[REDACTED]	02/16/2023	100,000.00	89,552.24	10,447.76	10,821.24	1,636.00	06/05/2024	1,636.00	1,636.00	1,636.00						60 +
2019-1010	[REDACTED]	11/07/2019	100,000.00	31,864.39	68,135.61	17,430.39	1,115.00	10/28/2024									< 30
2021-0610-1	[REDACTED]	10/15/2020	162,665.38	98,639.29	62,652.98	12,717.33	1,100.00	08/16/2024	1,100.00								< 30
2023-0413-2 R	[REDACTED]	04/28/2023	46,428.00	41,426.90	5,001.10	6,210.80	800.79	11/08/2024									< 30
2024-0314-2	[REDACTED]	04/15/2024	202,500.00	167,324.93	35,175.07	10,884.93	6,580.00	11/15/2024									< 30
2023-0413	[REDACTED]	05/05/2023	300,000.00	257,465.09	42,534.91	24,924.09	4,604.00	11/04/2024									< 30
2024-0509	[REDACTED]	06/17/2024	25,000.00	23,972.47	1,027.53	520.47	516.00	09/17/2024									< 30
Report total: 36 loans			5,405,543.38	3,554,663.40	1,536,220.45	636,965.91	75,383.72		4,116.92	2,601.00	1,636.00						

Risk Ratings Report through 09/05/2024
 By Master Loan
 Grouped by Risk Rating > Loan ID

LoanID	Borrower	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +	180d +	Risk Rating	Rating Date	Reserve Percentage	Reserve Amount
Risk Rating: A. Satisfactory														
2021-0408-2	[REDACTED]	200,000.00	147,356.57								A. Satisfactory	07/19/2021	1.00%	1,473.57
2021-0610-1	[REDACTED]	162,665.38	98,639.29								A. Satisfactory	10/15/2020	1.00%	986.39
2021-1014-1	[REDACTED]	243,000.00	186,763.24								A. Satisfactory	11/09/2021	1.00%	1,867.63
2021-1116	[REDACTED]	40,000.00	20,671.86	760.00							A. Satisfactory	01/10/2022	1.00%	206.72
2023-0413	[REDACTED]	300,000.00	263,336.89								A. Satisfactory	05/05/2023	1.00%	2,633.37
2023-0608	[REDACTED]	80,000.00	72,036.95								A. Satisfactory	06/08/2023	1.00%	720.37
2023-0914	[REDACTED]	300,000.00	281,682.61								A. Satisfactory	10/31/2023	1.00%	2,816.83
2023-1011	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	95,384.06								A. Satisfactory	10/31/2023	1.00%	953.84
A. Satisfactory : 8 loans		1,425,665.38	1,165,871.47											11,658.72
Risk Rating: B. Watch														
2014-0313	[REDACTED]	20,000.00	1,051.19								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	105.12
2017-0914	[REDACTED]	250,000.00	123,527.42								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	12,352.74
2018-0305	[REDACTED]	280,000.00	129,919.71	4,400.00							B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	12,991.97
2018-0510	[REDACTED]	25,000.00	4,631.27								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	463.13
2019-0516-1	[REDACTED]	95,000.00	57,809.45								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	5,780.95

Risk Ratings Report through 09/05/2024
 By Master Loan
 Grouped by Risk Rating > Loan ID

LoanID	Borrower	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +	180d +	Risk Rating	Rating Date	Reserve Percentage	Reserve Amount
2019-0516-1R	[REDACTED]	295,000.00	194,414.05								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	19,441.41
2019-0910	[REDACTED]	79,500.00	56,141.00								B. Watch	11/21/2023	10.00%	5,614.10
2019-1010	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	33,692.09								B. Watch	08/04/2022	10.00%	3,369.21
2019-1216	[REDACTED]	50,000.00	29,919.20								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	2,991.92
2020-0326	[REDACTED]	51,000.00	7,383.26								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	738.33
2020-0330	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	30,560.97								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	3,056.10
2020-0331	[REDACTED]	60,000.00	49,836.81								B. Watch	11/21/2023	10.00%	4,983.68
2020-0514	[REDACTED]	170,000.00	131,195.98								B. Watch	07/28/2021	10.00%	13,119.60
2021-0610-2	[REDACTED]	54,000.00	13,121.00								B. Watch	01/10/2022	10.00%	1,312.10
2021-0610-3	[REDACTED]	75,000.00	7,268.72								B. Watch	07/28/2021	10.00%	726.87
2021-0708-2	[REDACTED]	80,000.00	61,889.90	858.33							B. Watch	08/10/2021	10.00%	6,188.99
2022-0113-2	[REDACTED]	250,000.00	202,547.62								B. Watch	02/16/2022	10.00%	20,254.76
2022-0714	[REDACTED]	232,650.00	165,860.68								B. Watch	08/04/2022	10.00%	16,586.07
2023-0206	[REDACTED]	18,700.00	10,238.19	600.00	600.00						B. Watch	02/23/2023	10.00%	1,023.82

Risk Ratings Report through 09/05/2024
 By Master Loan
 Grouped by Risk Rating > Loan ID

LoanID	Borrower	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +	180d +	Risk Rating	Rating Date	Reserve Percentage	Reserve Amount
2023-0209	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	89,552.24	1,636.00	1,636.00	1,636.00					B. Watch	02/16/2023	10.00%	8,955.22
2023-0413-2 R	[REDACTED]	46,428.00	42,352.07								B. Watch	04/28/2023	10.00%	4,235.21
2023-0713	[REDACTED]	61,800.00	54,160.19	1,300.00	1,300.00						B. Watch	07/22/2023	10.00%	5,416.02
2023-511	[REDACTED]	565,000.00	481,861.48								B. Watch	05/16/2023	10.00%	48,186.15
2024-0314	[REDACTED]	162,000.00	39,346.26	3,414.00							B. Watch	03/19/2024	10.00%	3,934.63
2024-0314-2	[REDACTED]	202,500.00	188,325.39								B. Watch	04/15/2024	10.00%	18,832.54
2024-0509	[REDACTED]	25,000.00	24,603.86								B. Watch	06/17/2024	10.00%	2,460.39
2024-0613	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	97,068.14								B. Watch	06/25/2024	10.00%	9,706.81
B. Watch: 27 loans		3,548,578.00	2,328,278.14											232,827.84
Risk Rating: F. Foreclosure														
2022-0113-R9	[REDACTED]	50,000.00	40,636.23								F. Foreclosure	11/01/2023	80.00%	32,508.98
F. Foreclosure: 1 loans		50,000.00	40,636.23											32,508.98
Report total: 36 loans		5,024,243.38	3,534,785.84											276,995.54



2022 Risk Ratings – Northwest Loan Fund

Loan Grades and percentage of loan balance in Allowance for Loan Loss

LOAN GRADE	GUIDING DESCRIPTION	% OF LOAN BALANCE IN ALLOWANCE FOR LOAN LOSS
Satisfactory	Performing As Agreed and well secured	1%
Watch	New Loans - Non Real Estate secured	10%
Substandard	Issue with performance	30%
Doubtful	Concern for full collection	60%
Foreclosure	Foreclosure	80%
Probable Loss	Probable Loss-keep on reports until Charge-Off	100%



MEMORANDUM

To: NWCCOG Council
From: Jon Stavney, Executive Director and Becky Walter, Finance Director
Date: December 2, 2024
Re: **Adjustments to Budgets from Oct DRAFT to Dec FINAL**

The following significant changes were made to the Draft 2025 and 2024 Revised Budget, presented at the October 24, 2024 Council Meeting. Minor adjustments and corrections under \$10,000 are not listed.

1. General:
 - a. Vintage matching contribution from Regional Business increased from \$73,246 to \$75,000. This affects both Vintage and Regional Business budgets.
 - b. Footnotes added to Energy Program Re: 7130 – Travel & Meeting expenditures.
 - c. The FY2025 rent increase was corrected from 10% to 5% on ED/FD Letter.
 - d. Added page 15, a comparison of 2024 and 2025 net revenues.
2. Indirect Budget:
 - a. Temporary Office Contractor:
 - i. \$4,500 added to 2024 Revised for Temporary Office Assistant Contractor
 - ii. \$35,100 added to 2025 Indirect Budget for Temporary Office Assistant Contractor. This might eventually develop into a permanent contracted Benefits Coordinator position.
 - b. Server Replacement Project:
 - i. Moved \$10,000 in 6675 – IT Security from 2025 due 2024 for installation and deployment of new server.
 - ii. Added \$23,725 of expense to the 2024 Revised under 8000 – Capital Outlay for a new server. Much of this project was moved from 2025 to 2024 due to pricing and availability of equipment.
3. Elevator Budget:
 - a. Increased 2024 transfer to Broadband from \$62,936 to \$74,258 (see #4)
 - b. Increased 2025 transfer to Broadband from \$22,177 to \$33,499 (see #4)
 - c. Increased 2024 transfer to the Building Fund from \$60,000 to \$110,000 (see #5)
 - d. Total 2024 projected revenues were increased from \$2,028,662 to \$2,256,475, a difference of \$227,813.
 - e. A new 2025 revenue line was added: 4480 – Third Party Inspections Fees. This is a new service offered outside of IGA served areas. Additional revenue is conservatively estimated at \$25,000.

4. Broadband Budget:
 - a. 2024 Revised and 2025 Budget State Grant Revenue adjusted from \$141,322 to \$130,000 to reflect actual contract amount
5. Building Fund:
 - a. Increased the 2024 Elevator Program's transfer-in from \$60,000 to \$110,000. The additional projected EIP revenues allows for a larger transfer, thus helping the goal of maintaining a balance of at least \$100,000 in the Building Fund.
6. NLF Budget:
 - a. Starting 2024 NLF Revolved Fund balance adjusted on budget summary from \$1,251,766 to \$3,471,240. The increase is due to a change in budget methodology to better reflect NLF cash assets.



Board of County Commissioners

970-328-8605

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Dear Chief Randy Moore,

Subject: Forest Service Funding Deficit and Potential Impact on Local Agreements

Eagle County highly values our long-standing partnership with the White River National Forest. Public lands are vital to our residents, with over 80% of Eagle County encompassing National Forest lands, wilderness areas, and BLM land. The White River National Forest, a crown jewel within our county, is the most visited national forest, attracting over 17.8 million visitors annually, surpassing iconic parks like Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and Rocky Mountain National Park combined.

These public lands sustain our world-class recreation industry and contribute significantly to our local economy. The coexistence of historical ranches, tourism, and ski resorts, supported by numerous grazing allotments on BLM and Forest Service lands, is a hallmark of Eagle County's unique character.

The effective management of public lands profoundly impacts our local communities, underscoring the importance of a substantial federal land management partner. Recognizing the high visitation to the White River National Forest, Eagle County, local towns, and the Forest Service collaborated in 2019 to establish the Front Country Ranger Program to expand visitor services on forest lands. This Front Country Ranger Program has operated successfully since then.

Recently, the National Forest Service's budget deficit and potential implications for our local agreements have been a cause for concern. The Forest Service is facing a \$1 billion salary deficit for 2025, and Region 2, including Colorado, is grappling with a \$70 million deficit in 2024. This deficit stems from increased funding allocations from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), leading to the hiring of 4,000 new employees. While the original plan was to phase in these new hires over five years, the agency was directed to expedite this process, resulting in a financial strain on permanent employee funding.

Regional Forester Troy Heitker recently proposed a potential solution: that partners consider flexibility in their agreements funds to contribute to permanent employee salaries instead of funding seasonal staff. While we appreciate this proposal, many neighboring counties share our concern about diverting agreement funds from their intended purpose. These funds were designed to enhance services within the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District and White River National Forest through a seasonal workforce.



Board of County Commissioners

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While we remain committed to our partnership with the White River National Forest, we believe using agreement funds for permanent salaries would be counterproductive. Such a move does not address the underlying deficit and could hinder our ability to provide essential services to our communities. Reconsider taking back the millions in the national contracts funded by BIL and IRA. We urge the Forest Service to reevaluate its staffing strategy and explore ways to maximize efficiency and collaboration with local partners like Eagle County.

We are open to exploring alternative solutions that support your staffing needs. These could include:

- **Supporting Permanent Seasonal Staff:** We are willing to collaborate to fund permanent seasonal staff who perform on-the-ground work historically covered by the agreement.
- **Youth Corps and Trail Crews:** We could explore options to hire youth corps or trail crews directly through the county agreement, with Forest Service employees supervising.

Eagle County is dedicated to finding mutually beneficial solutions that serve the needs of our communities. Adhering to the original intent of the agreement funds will best serve our shared goals and strengthen our collaborative relationship.

Thank you for your partnership. We look forward to continuing the conversation.

Sincerely,

Matt Scherr
Chair

Jeanne McQueeney
Commissioner

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Commissioner



Wildland Urban Interface Building Code Group

Background:

The risk of severe wildfires in Eagle County poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of its residents. The [Eagle County Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(CWPP\)](#) outlines strategies and actions to improve the resilience of our community. As a desired end goal of the plan, every structure within Eagle County will be built and maintained in a condition where it will stand alone, without the need for firefighter intervention, in the face of a wildfire. If every structure is resistant to wildfire threats, then every community will be as well.

- ❖ *CWPP GOAL: Reduce Structural Ignitability and Improve Community Wildfire Resilience.*
 - *Strategy: Develop and adopt a unified Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code across all jurisdictions in Eagle County.*

The [Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative \(ECWC\)](#) agreed that the development of a unified WUI Code should be a top priority for CWPP stakeholders. In 2022, an analysis of wildfire risk in developed areas of Eagle County showed that the majority of structures in the county are located in higher density development. This information is important to consider with regards to the shared risk (if one burns the likelihood of the other to burn is high) that each structure has, and points to the need for community-wide solutions.

Home insurance costs are also rapidly rising, and finding insurance carriers is increasingly difficult in Eagle County, exacerbating the cost of homeownership. The issue is critical due to volatility in insurance related to wildfire risks, where insurers hesitate due to uncertainties in neighboring properties' mitigation efforts. Urban fires are becoming more frequent, yet predicting vulnerability in the built environments lacks adequate data and modeling. Implementing a unified WUI code across all jurisdictions in Eagle County will ease underwriter concerns related to wildfire risk, and reduce volatility in the home insurance market.

Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code Board

Recognizing the need for statewide minimum building standards for wildfire protection, the Colorado State Legislature passed [Senate Bill 23-166 establishing a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board](#) who is charged with the development and adoption of codes and standards. The Wildfire Resiliency Code Board has been working since fall of 2023 to define a standard, as well as the area where the code will apply, with a deadline of July 2025 for statewide adoption of a code.

All jurisdictions in Colorado will have 3 months from the adoption of the statewide code to adopt the code, or standards which meet or exceed the state code; and an additional 3 months to begin enforcing the code. While draft code language has not yet been released, members of the Eagle County WUI Code Group are actively engaged in the statewide effort, and feel that the direction that we are working is in alignment with the Wildfire Resiliency Code Board efforts.

Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative WUI Code Group:

Formed in February of 2024, The WUI Code Working Group includes representatives of the Planning and Building Departments from the towns of Avon, Minturn, Red Cliff, Eagle, Gypsum, Vail, and Basalt; as well as Vail Fire, Eagle River FPD, Greater Eagle FPD, Gypsum FPD, and Eagle County Community Development, Open Space & Natural Resources, and Emergency Management. The WUI Code Group began by looking at each jurisdiction's existing codes, then identified alignment and gaps with community needs and the capacity to enforce. After that, the group did a comprehensive overview of the [International Wildland Urban Interface Code \(IWUIC\)](#) and the [California Building Code Chapter 7A](#). Following discussions on each jurisdiction's capacity to adopt and implement new building codes, the decision was made to go with a model code similar to Chapter 7A for the following reasons:

- Ability to adopt as an appendix to the International Building Code with Chapter 7A WUI Construction design requirements.
- Identifies the local building official as enforcing authority.
- Focused on structural ember resistance.
- Singular code – no levels of code, all the same standard for WUI areas (addresses capacity concerns).
- Building materials listing maintained by CalFire and highly informed by nationwide product availability.

Applicability:

The Eagle County CWPP defines the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) as an area that includes all developed private parcels of land in Eagle County, and areas of special interest including Vail and Beaver Creek Resorts, the I70 corridor and major utility lines, and extends one and one half (1.5) miles from the edges of these features, including public lands. In rural areas outside of the Hwy 82 and I70 corridor(s), WUI can be defined as areas that extend one and one half (1.5) miles from the edges of structures and other developed features, including public lands.

This proposed WUI Building Code would be applicable to all new construction, additions, and exterior modifications falling within the [WUI boundaries established in the Eagle County CWPP](#).

Proposed Building Code Amendments

- Applies to the construction, alteration; movement, repair, maintenance and use of any building, structure or premises into or within the wildland-urban interface areas.
- Building code amendments designed to prevent structure ignition by embers.
- Class A Roofing (metal, asphalt, tile, synthetic shake).
 - Non-combustible or ignition resistant siding materials

- Ignition resistant decking materials.
- Enclosure of buildings (under floor, under deck, vent screening, soffits, etc).
- Non-combustible materials include metal, stone, stucco and concrete.
- Cal Fire maintains a comprehensive database of materials meeting the ignition resistant materials guidelines:
 - [Building Materials Listings - Search Listing Services](#)

Landscaping

- Parallel process underway - alignment with Land Use Regulations through ComDev departments.
- Most jurisdictions have regulations in place that address landscaping - many do not have site-visit capacity to enforce.
- Ensure alignment with water conservation and non-usable turf reduction.
- Model landscaping code recommendations from WUI Code Group in 2025.

Proposed Process:

- Collaborative development of code language by WUI Code Group (ongoing).
- Alignment with Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code Board recommendations (2025)
- Adoption of amendments to International Building Code (IBC) by each jurisdiction through normal code adoption process (this may occur on different cycles for different jurisdictions).
- Outreach - HOAs, builders, Realtors, etc.
- Code implementation (TBD 2025)

Links

2023 CWPP - https://drive.google.com/file/d/18bTybWXc1JIO6t_pTEKEuMa0TXGtSjQ3/view

Wildfire Resiliency Code Board - <https://dfpc.colorado.gov/WRCB>

California Building Code Chapter 7a -

<https://www.hcd.ca.gov/building-standards/state-housing-law/wildland-urban-interface/docs/2010-part-2-cbc-ch7a.pdf>

CalFire Building Materials Listings Search - <https://calfire.gov/motus.org/BMLSearch/Index>

International Wildland Urban Interface Code - <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IWUIC2021P1>

Eagle County Wildfire Collaborative - <https://www.ecwildfire.org/home>

'Unacceptable': Colorado's federal lawmakers respond to U.S. Forest Service seasonal hiring freeze

Local governments including Summit County, Eagle County, Pitkin County, Chaffee County and the towns of Vail and Aspen provide funds to U.S. Forest Service seasonal positions impacted by the hiring freeze

News [FOLLOW NEWS](#) | Oct 29, 2024



Ryan Spencer [FOLLOW](#)
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U.S. Senator Michael Bennet listens to U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Michael Woodbridge on Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2023. Bennet and other members of Colorado's United States congressional delegation are criticizing the Forest Service's hiring freeze and calling for changes.

John F. Russell/Steamboat Pilot & Today

The Colorado congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., is calling on the U.S. Forest Service to continue partnerships with Rocky Mountain communities amid the [agency's hiring freeze on seasonal employees](#).

Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper as well as Colorado Representatives Joe Neguse and Brittany Pettersen penned a letter Monday, Oct. 28, to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack.

In particular, the letter takes issue with the Forest Service applying the hiring freeze not only to positions funded through the federal budget but also to positions supported by local funding.

The Forest Service, which falls under the Department of Agriculture, did not return a request for comment Monday.

"We are deeply concerned by the Forest Service's announcement about the agency's budget shortfall and subsequent hiring freeze of all non-firefighting, temporary seasonal employees," the letter states. "Colorado's forests are some of the most visited in the nation and serve as critical infrastructure for Colorado." ³

One-fifth of Colorado is comprised of U.S. Forest Service–owned lands. In places like Summit County, where the White River National Forest makes up 85% of the county, the federal government manages the majority of local lands.

Traditionally, seasonal Forest Service crews have provided on-the-ground work in many of these communities, from maintaining trails to patrolling campgrounds, educating visitors and conducting field work.

But U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore announced in September that the federal agency wouldn't be hiring any seasonal workers, other than seasonal firefighting positions, in fiscal year 2025.

Moore explained in a call with Forest Service employees that the hiring decision was made as the agency plans for the “most conservative funding possibility.” The Forest Service is [currently using the House Interior Subcommittee funding levels](#) proposed for Fiscal Year 2025 to guide its hiring decisions. A spending bill that recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives gave the federal agency about \$500 million less than it requested.

Meanwhile, the federal agency has exhausted the supplemental funding it received through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Moore said. The increasing cost of living has also contributed to the budget crunch, he said.

“We just can't get the same amount of work done with fewer employees,” Moore told Forest Service staff. “So, in other words, we're going to do what we can with what we have. We're not going to try to do everything that is expected of us with less people.”



[241028_USDA_USFS_Seasonal-Hires-External-Partnerships-FINAL](#) [Download](#)

But seasonal Forest Service staff are so critical that many Western Slope governments have dedicated local funds to support the federal agency's seasonal staffing levels. Yet, across Colorado, the Forest Service has indicated that it will not be hiring even those positions supported by town and county budgets.

In Summit County, for example, voters in 2018 passed Ballot Measure 1A, known as the Strong Futures Initiative, approving an increase in local property taxes to help fund wildfire mitigation, as well as other local needs.

In 2023, almost \$750,000 in taxpayer funds raised through the Strong Futures Initiative went toward the Forest Service's seasonal wildfire mitigation and education in Summit County, with much of that money going directly to the federal agency to hire seasonal staff.

“The voters of Summit County passed (the Strong Futures Initiative) because the White River National Forest was so understaffed that these critical functions weren't getting done,” Summit County Commissioner Tamara Pogue told Summit Daily News last week. “We've literally been paying for them because the federal government isn't doing its job.”

But Forest Service regional press officer Donna Nemeth said that only two positions supported by the Strong Futures Initiative will be hired next summer because they are considered “fire series” employees. The remaining positions supported by those local dollars are “recreational technicians” who focus on fire prevention and education, and currently won't be hired back next summer, Nemeth said.

Other local governments — including Eagle County, Pitkin County, Chaffee County and the towns of Vail and Aspen — have also provided local funds dedicated to supporting Forest Service seasonal hiring that could be impacted by the hiring freeze.

The congressional delegation wrote in its letter that the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain region, which includes Colorado, "typically accepts millions of dollars from external partners to hire seasonal employees."

"The current hiring freeze jeopardizes these partnerships, risking hundreds of jobs and leaving resources on the table," the Colorado congressional delegation wrote.

The letter also notes that some of the funds the Forest Service receives from local governments are generated through voter-approved tax measures that limit how the funds can be used. The congressional delegation says that some local governments have reached out with concerns that the Forest Service might use local funds for purposes other than what they've been dedicated to.

"In Colorado, the Forest Service developed these fees and partnerships in close coordination with local communities, who supported their implementation with the understanding that funds would be used for specific local recreation and visitation pressures," the letter states. "Using the funding for other purposes would breach their trust."

The Colorado congressional delegation in the letter urges Vilsack to find "creative solutions" to allow the Forest Service's partnership with local governments to continue as the programs were intended.

"Extending the seasonal employee hiring freeze to external partnership agreements and user fees is unacceptable," the Colorado congressional delegation wrote in its letter. "It will leave critical funding for the Forest Service on the table and Colorado communities without desperately-needed services."

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Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

October 28, 2024

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We are deeply concerned by the Forest Service's announcement about the agency's budget shortfall and subsequent hiring freeze of all non-firefighting, temporary seasonal employees (1039). Colorado's forests are some of the most visited in the nation and serve as critical infrastructure for Colorado.

Specifically, we request that the hiring freeze for seasonal employees not extend to seasonal staff hired through external partnerships and user fees. In Colorado and throughout the West, the Forest Service works with community partners, including state and local governments, to hire seasonal staff. In USFS's Region 2, which includes Colorado, the USFS typically accepts millions of dollars from external partners to hire seasonal employees. The current hiring freeze jeopardizes these partnerships, risking hundreds of jobs and leaving resources on the table.

In Colorado, external partnership agreements help the Forest Service maintain high-use campgrounds and trails, clean bathrooms, reduce wildfire risk, and manage parking. In general, these agreements provide funding to the Forest Service for specific services that are often executed by seasonal staff. Notably, some of these local government funds are generated through voter-approved tax measures that limit the eligible uses of these funds.

Several external partners have reached out to our offices concerned that the Forest Service, if it is able to accept these local funds, may use external funding for needs other than what is specified by the partnership agreements. Similarly, we are concerned about the Forest Service repurposing of user fees for permanent salaries. In Colorado, the Forest Service developed these fees and partnerships in close coordination with local communities, who supported their implementation with the understanding that the funds would be used for specific local recreation and visitation pressures. Using the funding for other purposes would breach their trust.

Extending the seasonal employee hiring freeze to external partnership agreements and user fees is unacceptable. It will leave critical funding for the Forest Service on the table and Colorado communities without desperately-needed services. Therefore, we urge you to find creative solutions to allow these external partnerships and user fees to move forward as intended by Colorado communities.

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sincerely,



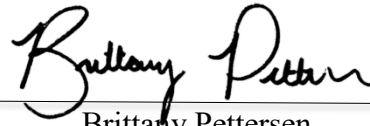
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

cc. United States Forest Service Chief Randy Moore

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Alyssa Shenk sworn in as new Snowmass Village mayor

Shenk adds to her 10 years of public service as a town council member

News [FOLLOW NEWS](#) | Nov 20, 2024

[Skyler Stark-Ragsdale](#) [FOLLOW](#)

sstark-ragsdale@aspentimes.com



Alyssa Shenk.

Brandy Lauren Photography/Courtesy photo

Amid applause from onlookers at Town Hall on Monday, former Snowmass Council Member Alyssa Shenk began her first term as mayor.

charles SCHWAB **SEASON OF** *compassion.* LEA

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“I have every confidence that we are going to do it well, and it’s going to mean great things for our community,” Shenk said.

She also thanked former mayor Bill Madsen, who she said has been a wonderful colleague to her over the past 10 years, for his time as a public servant.

The next two years will mark Shenk’s first term as Snowmass mayor and follows her 10-year service as a Snowmass council member.

“I’ve always felt like giving back to your community, no matter which way you do it,” Shenk told The Aspen Times at the Daily Diner on Tuesday, in between talking to community members who congratulated her on her inauguration. “.. It’s the ultimate way to not just talk the talk, but to actually walk the walk.”

She said that could mean volunteering for a nonprofit, participating in a community event, or sitting on a board or council. In her case, one of the reasons she chose to get into politics in 2014 was to be involved in the community, which she greatly valued.

Shenk grew up in Columbus, Ohio, coming to Snowmass for the first time in her early teenage years to visit her uncle.

After graduating from high school in Columbus, she attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied political science. Not long after college she finished law school at Ohio State University, passed the Ohio bar exam, and began working in a local law firm in 2003.

At least, until her husband, who had previously worked as a ski patroller at Buttermilk, suggested they move “just for a couple years” to Aspen, she said. They packed their bags and moved from the heartland to the high country.

After working as a builders’ assistant for a brief stint when she first arrived in the valley, Shenk welcomed her first child a year after the move. For the next nine years she focused full-time on raising her children. In 2007, she and her family settled in Snowmass.

“It was great to be involved in school. And I met so many people through school, like other parents and teachers and I really put all of my focus into that,” Shenk said, “because that’s where the kids were at the time.”

In 2013, her third and youngest child passed away.

“He was 17 months old. He went to bed and never woke up,” Shenk said, adding, “That was a defining time in our life ... all of a sudden you wake up and your life is totally different than it was the day before.”

In the wake of the loss Shenk and her husband reevaluated their priorities. Shenk turned to public service.

“I had to find a way to stay sane and avoid going down the rabbit hole of grief, given that my life had been turned upside down,” Shenk said. “I knew it would help me to cope if I stayed busy, and that meant getting a job — one that allowed me to fill my time with something I enjoy most, being involved in the community.”

She was appointed to council in 2014 after sitting council member Markey Butler was elected as mayor and left an open council seat. Shenk said she competed at the time for the position with 12 to 15 other candidates, all of whom were men, and won.

Over her 10 years on council, Shenk worked tirelessly to provide accessible and educational public spaces for the local community.

She suggested the town build an ice rink and The Collective Snowmass, a community space that hosts weekly events for the public, when revamping the Snowmass Village.

“There isn’t a day where I go into the Base Village and don’t feel proud of that,” Shenk said.

She said the public spaces bring the community to the village when many people wouldn’t otherwise have a reason to go.

For much of her time on council she was the only council member to advocate for the addition of flashing pedestrian lights in Snowmass. After she advocated for six years, the town agreed to implement them.

“It makes people have a little more peace of mind with their kids crossing and getting on buses,” Shenk said.

With Madsen, she encouraged Snowmass tourism to further develop exhibits of the Snowmass Ice Age Discovery.

In her upcoming time in office, she hopes to build on her achievements by creating more workforce housing and child care facilities for the town, and seeks community involvement while doing both.





Snowmass Mayor Alyssa Shenk hosted a meet-and-greet at Taster's Pizza while campaigning before the election. From left, Kristen Tullar, Shenk, Kim Rogers, and Meredith Raarup.

Courtesy Photo

"If they want to come talk to me, it's an open door," Shenk said of community involvement in projects.

She strives to unite council on projects like the Draw Site, the workforce housing project for which the community approved funding in the Nov. 5 vote.

Snowmass Council member Britta Gustafson said she is excited for Shenk to serve as mayor.

"I think we're really ready for her kind of leadership," Gustafson said. "I would say she has a unique leadership style that in some ways may come across as casual, but I think that's what makes her approachable and fits so well with the style of Snowmass."

Gustafson said she is also impressed by Shenk's ability to unite public leaders.

Snowmass Council Member Tom Fridstein said he looks forward to the collaborative environment Shenk will help facilitate.

"She's a collaborator and she wants to get everybody's opinion," Fridstein said, "and she evaluates, she takes the information ... and I'm very excited about working with her."

| Skyler Stark-Ragsdale can be reached at 970-429-9152 or email him at sstark-ragsdale@aspentimes.com.

There was an important [victory](#) in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in August 2023 overturning the Surface Transportation Board decision approving the dramatic increase of oil train shipments through Colorado. In the wake of that court ruling the [United States Forest Service withdrew their decision](#) to construct the new rail line in Utah that would facilitate the passage of more oil trains into Colorado. Now the whole matter is headed [to the Supreme Court in December](#). In the Supreme Court case, Eagle County will lead the way arguing to uphold the DC Appellate Court ruling that required more analysis of this controversial proposal.

Please see below for more details, including links to Eagle County’s Supreme Court filing and ‘friend of the court’ filings from Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser and a large group of local governments in Colorado.

John Whitney

Senior Advisor, Public Lands & Tribal Affairs and Western Slope Regional Director

U.S. Senator Michael F. Bennet | 970-903-4467



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 25, 2024

CONTACT: [Larkin Parker](#) – 202-740-0034

Bennet, Neguse, Colorado Leaders Come Together to Oppose Hazardous Oil Trains Along the Colorado River

As Uinta Basin Railway Case Goes Before the Supreme Court, Coloradans Voice Support for Eagle County & Communities Threatened by Oil Trains

Denver — Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet and U.S. House Assistant Minority Leader Joe Neguse joined Colorado leaders to support Eagle County’s [position](#) before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado*. Eagle County is urging the Court to uphold the August 2023 D.C. Circuit Court decision to overturn the Surface Transportation Board’s (STB) approval of the Uinta Basin Railway project based on flawed environmental review

and violations of federal laws. Eagle County's arguments are supported by amicus briefs filed by the [Colorado Attorney General](#) and a broad coalition of [Colorado communities](#) that would be affected by the proposed railway.

"Anyone who has spent time along the Colorado River understands what the risks really are for our environment, our local economies, and our state. That's why I've worked for years to urge federal agencies to adequately account for the full threat that the proposed Uinta Basin Railway poses to Colorado. This train has no business increasing the transport of hazardous oil from Utah through our state, and I'll continue to stand with a broad coalition of local leaders and community members to oppose this dangerous project," **said Bennet**. "I hope the Supreme Court seriously considers Eagle County's arguments, the concerns raised by Colorado's Attorney General and numerous local governments in their amicus briefs, and the implications for those most deeply affected by a potential derailment in the headwaters of the Colorado River."

"The Uinta Basin Railway Project poses a significant threat to our state's water resources, wildlife habitats, outdoor recreation, and the broader interests of the Colorado River Basin. With these concerns and the well-being of our communities at the forefront, Senator Bennet and I have led an effort for years opposing this project," **said Neguse**. "As the Supreme Court prepares to hear *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado*, we stand united with the community and local leaders in opposing this rail line and protecting our shared environment."

In their [brief](#), Eagle County argues that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has long required agencies to consider the "reasonably foreseeable" environmental consequences of their actions, which was codified in recent amendments to the Act. Eagle County further argues that the proposed railway project and the miles of oil trains traveling through Colorado each day will foreseeably affect Eagle County – namely, through increased wildfire risk and the potential for oil spills from train accidents.

If completed, the Uinta Basin Railway would enable the shipment of up to 4.6 billion gallons of waxy crude oil per year from Utah through Colorado to the Gulf Coast on as many as five trains per day. These trains would run over 100 miles directly alongside the headwaters of the Colorado River – a vital water supply for nearly 40 million Americans, 30 Tribal nations, and millions of acres of agricultural land. A train derailment that spills oil in the headwaters of the River would be catastrophic to Colorado's water supplies, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation. In addition, an accident on the proposed railway would also increase wildfire risk as the West faces a 1,200-year drought.

"The downline effects of the Uinta line within Eagle County, and our state as a whole, are potentially catastrophic. These potential impacts, including significant wildfire and safety risks, and pollution

to the Colorado River, should be fully and thoughtfully considered. We are confident the Supreme Court will agree with the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals decision to invalidate the Uinta approval for failing to consider those and other impacts,” **said Matt Scherr, Commissioner, Eagle County.**

“The Colorado River is among the most critical natural resources in our state—and our most critical water source. The risk to our state and others from shipping hundreds of thousands of oil barrels along the river daily is significant—from wildfires caused by rail track sparks and oil car leaks contaminating the river to, at worst, derailments, and spills. The risk of harm to our state and mountain communities and others affected by this rail line are simply too great to ignore. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals was correct to throw out this project’s approval for not having fully grasped the magnitude of its impacts to the environment. The Supreme Court should apply the letter of our federal laws and uphold the appellate court’s decision,” **said Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser.**

“It is imperative that the Supreme Court recognize that communities along the Colorado River would be impacted by the proposed Uinta Basin Railway and the ensuing downline effects caused by additional miles-long trains filled with heavy waxy crude oil. As our amicus brief explains, the National Environmental Policy Act is a crucial tool giving voice to communities like Glenwood Springs that stand to bear the environmental and economic consequences that such a project can have on our rivers and public lands and the businesses that depend upon them. We hope that the justices will consider our communities’ unique perspectives in these vital economic matters,” **said Ingrid Wussow, Mayor, City of Glenwood Springs.**

“Water is an important part of the Western Slope way of life. Protecting our waters is crucial for maintaining healthy ecosystems, supporting Colorado’s outdoor recreation industry, and ensuring the foundation for Colorado’s agricultural economy. The Uinta Basin Railway project will send hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil along the Colorado River, posing a major threat to this water source that over 40 million Americans rely on. A Supreme Court ruling will have significant implications for the future of the Colorado River, and I hope the justices consider the long-term impacts this project could have on Colorado’s environment and our communities,” **said Julie McCluskie, Colorado State Representative and Speaker of the House.**

“I continue to stand in strong support of Eagle County’s demand for a robust environmental review of this proposed project and commend their efforts in bringing this need for accountability all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court,” **said Dylan Roberts, Colorado State Senator.** “My constituents in Eagle County and all along the Colorado River deserve the very highest protection of our water and I am proud to be amongst many national, state, and local leaders and governments in supporting Eagle County’s effort.”

“The Colorado River is the heart of Garfield County. A train derailment from the Uinta Project would have catastrophic environmental consequences on our agricultural and recreational communities. Given the potential impacts to my constituents’ livelihoods, we need to alleviate people’s fear and provide a full environmental review before this project moves forward. I understand that energy security equals national security, however protecting the communities I represent is just as important,” **said Perry Will, Colorado State Senator.**

“Water is the lifeblood of the Western Slope, supporting daily household needs, tourism, agriculture, local economies and everything in between. Keeping Colorado’s waterways clean is essential and the Uinta Basin Railway will jeopardize our freshwater supply. I stand alongside the people of Eagle County and the more than 40 million Americans who rely on the Colorado River for fresh, clean water – our way of life depends on it. I hope the Supreme Court recognizes the gravity of the situation and the impact their ruling will have on our community,” **said Meghan Lukens, Colorado State Representative.**

“The people of my district would be hugely impacted, and they deserve better. The Uinta Basin Railway would double the amount of oil transported by rail in the U.S. and increase hazardous materials transport TENFOLD right through our communities. It puts our lives at risk: the potential for catastrophic wildfire, water contamination and accidents is too great. Our jobs, our wildlife, our ranches and our drinking water are threatened,” **said Elizabeth Velasco, Colorado State Representative.** “This project should never have been approved in the first place. I support Glenwood Springs filing an Amicus Brief to urge the Supreme Court to support our communities and the industries that rely on the Colorado River Basin and reject this dangerous effort to send significantly more shipments of oil through Glenwood Canyon, and through the heart of small towns in Garfield County.”

“Although we understand that oil needs to be transported from point A to point B, we are also the headwaters of the Colorado River. We have significant concerns about the impact a derailment and spill in Grand County would have on the ability to deliver clean, high-quality water to our own communities, and those throughout Colorado. Additionally, a waxy crude spill in Grand County would be catastrophic to our recreation- and ag-based economy,” **said Merrit Linke, Chair of Board of County Commissioners, Grand County.**

“Routt County is proud to support Eagle County and their effort to ensure rail safety and the protection of the Colorado River Basin. As this case makes its way through the legal system, it is apparent that the approval process for the Uinta Basin Railway did not fully consider the significant risks to Colorado’s communities, our precious water resources, and the environment. Routt County continues to stand with so many of our local government colleagues in support of Eagle County,” **said Sonja Macys, Commissioner, Routt County.**

“America doesn’t need Uinta’s low quality, dirty oil, and 40 million Americans who depend upon the Colorado River certainly do not need the catastrophic consequences of the inevitable oil train derailment in the Glenwood Canyon. Citizens of western Colorado and Utah deserve better. Pitkin County stands with Eagle County in defending our river and our livelihood from this train wreck of a plan,” **said Greg Poschman, Chair of the Board of County Commissioners, Pitkin County.**

“Boulder County is proud to stand with Eagle County and a bipartisan coalition of local governments and communities who oppose the construction of a railway that will bring railcars brimming with crude oil through pristine Colorado landscapes. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals correctly determined that the Surface Transportation Board violated the National Environmental Protection Act by failing to consider the environmental impacts of the proposed railway. Given the risks of train derailment for miles-long oil trains traveling through difficult mountainous terrain, Boulder County is justifiably concerned about accidents, wildfires, river contamination, and destruction of private property inevitably caused by the Surface Transportation Board’s decision. The briefing before the U.S. Supreme Court demonstrates that the D.C. Circuit court’s decision should be upheld and that federal law requires further evaluation and analysis before the railway can be approved,” **said Claire Levy, Marta Loachamin, and Ashley Stolzmann, Commissioners, Boulder County.**

“Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners wishes to reiterate our strong opposition to the proposed activation and expansion of the Uinta Basin Railway (UBR) Project. Chaffee County leadership share the common opinion of others directly within the path and “downline” of the UBR corridor that the risks of transporting hundreds-of-thousands of barrels of toxic waxy crude oil through our mountain communities are simply too great for our residents and for the millions of visitors that journey to experience our region each year.” **said P.T. Wood, Commissioner, Chaffee County.**

“As representatives of the City of Grand Junction and its residents, we know the importance of ensuring that our community’s interests are considered during the regulatory process for any project with the potential to have a significant impact on communities like ours. We urge the honorable United States Supreme Court to uphold the rulings of two lower courts, and simply ensure that down-line impacts of the proposed project are taken into account during the NEPA process,” **said Abram Herman, Mayor, City of Grand Junction.**

“Minturn is thankful for the ongoing support from Senator Bennet in his effort to protect our environmental future. The outcome of this issue is collectively important to the communities of Eagle County and Senator’s Bennet’s commitment to our goals has been outstanding,” **said Earle Bidez, Mayor, Town of Minturn.**

“Opening up the rail line along the Colorado River for oil transportation is a guaranteed water quality catastrophe that will impact millions who are dependent on the Colorado River,” **said Eric Heil, Manager, Town of Avon.**

“Red Cliff, Colorado, a town of 280 residents nestled between Beaver Creek and Vail along the Colorado Scenic Byway (Highway 24), is deeply concerned about the potential impact of a railroad coming through our town, particularly near the waterways and natural areas we rely on. As a community surrounded by pristine wilderness, we understand all too well the dangers that a single wildfire can pose, not only to our tourism-based economy but also to the health and safety of our residents. The risk of a train derailment or sparks from passing trains igniting a wildfire is especially alarming, given the dense fuel loads in and around Red Cliff. Even more concerning is the potential derailment of trains carrying crude oil, which could result in catastrophic damage to our environment—particularly to our water quality, a vital resource for both residents and wildlife. Any of these types of events could devastate our water supply, cause landslides, debris flows, and road closures, and cripple our town’s economy for years to come. We urge policymakers to take these concerns seriously and prioritize measures that mitigate both wildfire risks and environmental threats posed by rail transport,” **said Duke Gerber, Mayor, Town of Red Cliff.**

“The Town of Crested Butte has joined the amicus brief in support of Eagle County’s work to ensure appropriate environmental review of federal actions through the National Environmental Protection Act, or NEPA. It is understandable why the residents of Eagle County want to have full disclosure of federal decision-making. Trains traveling through a complicated mountain terrain will be carrying oil that if spilled, could pollute streams, increase the risk of wildfire, and undercut private property values. More generally, while NEPA does not require a particular outcome to a decision-making process, it has been fundamental to laying bare the logic of federal decisions. Why would anyone think that it is in the best interests of our communities and private property values to let the government make decisions without disclosing the impacts of those decisions? Anybody who is worried about the heavy hand of government should take pause with how the Surface Transportation Board failed to go through the NEPA process,” **said Ian Billick, Mayor, Town of Crested Butte.**

“What happens in one place in the Colorado watershed affects all communities that are located within the watershed. That is why the Town of Basalt is proud to sign onto the amicus brief in support of Eagle County’s position before the Supreme Court. Protecting the waters that support our communities is paramount to our economy and our way of life. The proposed Uinta Basin Railway would jeopardize all of that,” **said David Knight, Mayor, Town of Basalt.**

“The Colorado River is one of our state’s most vital resources, and the risk posed by transporting large quantities of oil along its banks is too great to ignore. From potential fires and oil spills to devastating derailments, the consequences for our water, wildlife, and local economies could be catastrophic. The D.C. Circuit Court’s decision to reject the project’s approval was necessary to protect these resources, and we urge the Supreme Court to uphold it,” **said Alyssa Shenk, Council Chair, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments.**

An [amicus brief](#) submitted in support of Eagle County was signed by the municipalities of Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, Minturn, Avon, Red Cliff, Crested Butte, and Basalt, and Grand, Routt, Boulder, and Pitkin Counties, as well as the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments.

Bennet and Neguse have consistently raised concerns about the proposed Uinta Basin Railway and its risks to Colorado’s communities, water, land, air, and climate. In January, Bennet and Neguse [applauded](#) the U.S. Forest Service’s withdrawal of their Record of Decision that would have authorized the issuance of a special use permit for the Uinta Basin Railway. In August 2023, the lawmakers also welcomed the D.C. Circuit Court’s decision to [overrule](#) STB approval of the project, vacating their environmental review, and ordered a new review. Leading up to these decisions, Bennet and Neguse led several letters to federal agencies urging additional environmental review of the risks to Colorado from the proposed project – including to the [Council on Environmental Quality](#) in July 2022, and to the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#), the [U.S. Department of Transportation](#), and the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) in March 2023.

###



November 1, 2024

U.S. Representative, Lauren Boebert
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Boebert:

I am writing ask your support of the reauthorization of the U.S. Department of Commerce's **Economic Development Administration (EDA)**. The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Economic Development District (NWCCOG EDD) and other ED Districts in Colorado utilize funding from the EDA to implement impactful projects in our communities.

Initially introduced as **Senate Bill 3891**, this measure passed through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee with bipartisan support. Most recently, the bill has been incorporated in its entirety as **Senate Amendment 3103** to the **Reed-Wicker Manager's Package** of amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). If passed, the measure which would make vital improvements and reforms to EDA's core programs, enhancing its ability to address critical national priorities such as disaster preparedness and mitigation, workforce development, broadband expansion, small business support, and rural community development.

Below are some provisions of the EDA reauthorization proposal that would be most impactful to Colorado:

- Improve and reauthorize many of EDA's core traditional programs including Public Works; Partnership Planning; Training, Research, and Technical Assistance; Economic Adjustment Assistance; and Assistance to Coal Communities.
- Enhance EDA's ability to make impactful investments into high-speed broadband, disaster recovery, workforce training, and predevelopment; and
- Revise cost sharing requirements for other EDA investments. Specifically, it would change EDA's federal cost share from 50 percent to 60 percent. This would make it less burdensome for rural, small, and resource-challenged communities to apply and compete for EDA funding.
- Reauthorizing EDA is also crucial to protecting national economic security and enhancing U.S. economic competitiveness globally.

Locally, EDA investments have funded several revolving loan funds to assist start-up businesses that are not yet bankable; assist businesses during COVID; provide planning dollars to produce a CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) with our communities and prioritize community projects from water, sewer, and broadband. EDA has not been reauthorized in 20 years. As the House and Senate work to finalize an agreement, we encourage your support of the bipartisan reauthorization of the EDA.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Rachel Tuyn
Director
Northwest Colorado Council of Governments - Economic Development District
NWCCOG EDD region: counties of Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, Summit

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

City of Glenwood Springs

EAGLE COUNTY

Avon
Basalt
Eagle
Gypsum
Mintum
Red Cliff
Vail

GRAND COUNTY

Fraser
Granby
Grand Lake
Hot Sulphur Springs
Kremmling
Winter Park

JACKSON COUNTY

Walden

PITKIN COUNTY

Aspen
Snowmass Village

ROUTT COUNTY

City of Steamboat Springs
Town of Hayden

SUMMIT COUNTY

Blue River
Breckenridge
Dillon
Frisco
Montezuma
Silverthorne
Keystone

November 1, 2024

U.S. Representative Joe Neguse
2400 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Neguse:

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Rachel Tuyn
Director
Northwest Colorado Council of Governments - Economic Development District
NWCCOG EDD region: counties of Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, Summit

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

City of Glenwood Springs

EAGLE COUNTY

Avon
Basalt
Eagle
Gypsum
Mintum
Red Cliff
Vail

GRAND COUNTY

Fraser
Granby
Grand Lake
Hot Sulphur Springs
Kremmling
Winter Park

JACKSON COUNTY

Walden

PITKIN COUNTY

Aspen
Snowmass Village

ROUTT COUNTY

City of Steamboat Springs
Town of Hayden

SUMMIT COUNTY

Blue River
Breckenridge
Dillon
Frisco
Montezuma
Silverthorne
Keystone



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG EDD Meeting

October 24, 2024

Present:

Patti Clapper – Vice-Chair of EDD Board, Pitkin County Commissioner
Randy George – Grand County Commissioner
Erin McCuskey – Eagle County
Chris Romer – Vail Valley Partnership
Thayer Hirsh – Summit County Economic Partnership
Nina Waters – Summit County Commissioner
Cory Mihm – Summit County Chamber of Commerce
Kris Mattera – Basalt Chamber of Commerce
Chris Romer – Vail Valley Partnership
Carolyn Tucker – CDLE
Britta Gustafson – Town of Snowmass Village
Teagon Serres – Town of Kremmling
Ashley Macdonald – Town of Kremmling

NWCCOG Staff:

Jon Stavney
Rachel Tuyn
Moira Vander Meer

Call to Order

Patti Clapper, EDD Vice-Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

Approval of Minutes

M/S Chris Romer, Thayer Hirsh to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2024 NWCCOG Economic Development District Board of Directors' meeting. Pass: Yes

Presentation: Entrepreneurship Programs in the Region

Thayer Hirsch, Executive Director, Summit Economic Partnership gave a presentation on SEP and its programs. SEP programs seek to diversity the economy, create higher paying jobs, and encourage entrepreneurship. Thayer presented on SEP programs including an business accelerator program, economic gardening program, Summit Angel Group, and Summit Founder Coopetition. Thayer also reported on programs on the horizon for SEP including the CMC Automation Curriculum, Revolving Loan Fund, Angel Investment Group, and Fall 2025 Regional Pitch Competition. Learn more on the SEP website: <https://www.summitpartnership.org/>

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) Update

Carolyn Tucker, Industry Engagement Lead with CDLE's Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium gave a workforce update.

Roundtable Member Updates:

Vail Valley Partnership – Chris Romer, President & CEO

Chris gave an update on the VVP apprenticeship program, its goal is to have 200 registered apprentices in the next 3-4 years. The adult apprenticeship will be launched in the near future and will be branded as CareerPlus (building on CareerWise for youth). VVP has two supervisor training programs running: Taking the Lead for first time managers and Management Essentials for supervisors. <https://www.vailvalleypartnership.com/vvw/course-catalog/>

Kremmling – Ashley Macdonald, Town Manager

Kremmling is working with Downtown Colorado, Inc. on legacy challenge project. Kremmling is in conversations with Summit County on regarding transportation routes via Summit Stage between Kremmling and Summit County timed for transporting workforce. Kremmling is working on a community readiness assessment. Ashley reported that Kremmling is open for development, but is being very intentional about the type in order to preserve the identity of their community and its historic western charm.

Grand County – Randy George, Commissioner

Randy reported that there are conflicting sentiments in the county between more development vs. less development; more tourists vs. less. Randy reported that the county is trying to be more intentional about development. Winter Park resort is embarking on Winter Park Unlocked, a master development plan to guide future growth. Grand County received a grant to develop a business incubator program to help create new businesses.

Pitkin County –Patti Clapper, Commissioner

Patti stated that she finds this meeting to be very valuable, and appreciates that this is what NWCCOG EDD is all about: sharing stories and best practices with each other. Patti reported on Pitkin County’ airport development efforts, and the opposition this is facing in the community from those afraid that the Aspen airport is going to create growth. Patti reported on the Tenants for Turns program: <https://aspen.com/careers-tenants-for-turns/>

Summit County – Nina Waters, Commissioner

Nina reported that the county is facing a “budget quagmire”, and the new BOCC is faced with big priorities including water, conservation, housing, childcare, infrastructure, looking at developing a regional transportation authority with Leadville and Kremmling. Summit County is looking towards economic diversification. The county is facing a big wildfire risk. There are concerns over what will happen if we have an economic downturn with people traveling less, and the possibility of a bad snow year. Sales tax and property tax. Nina reported that the Strong Futures Fund sales tax is up for renewal in 2028.

Summit Chamber – Corry Mihm, Board Member

Corry reported that the Summit Chamber is facing many challenges and opportunities, and that the Summit Economic Partnership (SEP) is facing funding challenges.

Basalt Chamber – Kris Mattera, Executive Director

Kris reported that the Basalt Chamber’s annual meeting was held on October 1, 2024, and that the “big 3” economic issues in the Roaring Fork Valley are housing, childcare, and mental health. The meeting is posted on You Tube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4Jhk5RHfGE>
[https://basaltchamber.org/annual-meeting/.](https://basaltchamber.org/annual-meeting/)

Kris reported that things are very siloed in the RFV, and that we are all fighting for the same funds, especially to fund solutions to challenges facing our workforce.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

M/S: Ashley Macdonald/Thayer Hirsh adjourned the NWCCOG EDD Council meeting at 2:45PM

Passed: Yes

DiAnn Butler EDD Chair

Date



MEMORANDUM

To: NWCCOG Economic Development District Board of Directors
From: Rachel Tuyn, EDD Director
Date: November 22, 2024
Re: CO|Align MOU

Background

CO|Align is a statewide effort that seeks to unify local, regional, and state economic strategies, ensuring that each region's priorities are recognized, funded, and supported within a statewide framework. NWCCOG EDD has been a member of the team working on this initiative for the last 20 months. It began as the EDA Policy Academy, an effort funded by the EDA which seeks to foster collaboration and cooperation among local and regional economic development efforts and State economic development efforts. The deliverable from this effort is the Colorado Align Initiative (CO|Align), which aims to align strategies, reduce redundancies, and enhance capacity for economic development efforts across the state. Originating from Colorado's participation in the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC) Policy Academy, the initiative fosters collaboration between state and regional partners. By improving communication and coordination, CO|Align will inform Colorado's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and drive inclusive economic growth across the state.

CO|Align Website: <https://info.edcconline.org/colorado-align>

Memorandum of Understanding

One deliverable from this effort is a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in which economic development partners across the state are invited to sign. We are asking the NWCCOG EDD Board of Directors to be a signatory to this MOU at the December 5, 2024 EDD board meeting to show our commitment to this initiative, which represents a transformative approach to economic development across Colorado. By signing the CO|Align MOU, we are helping to elevate our region's unique needs and perspectives to the state level, ensuring they are included in Colorado's first statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Reasons for NWCCOG EDD to Sign CO|Align MOU:

- Signing the MOU means that the NWCCOG region's priorities will inform the statewide economic strategy (CEDS). This alignment ensures that state programs, policies, and incentives reflect local needs, creating more impactful support for our region.
- CO|Align creates a pathway for more equitable distribution of both state and federal resources, so that every region has the tools it needs to thrive. By joining CO|Align, our region will benefit from the funding necessary to drive sustainable economic growth.

- CO|Align will foster regional partnerships that enable our region to secure larger funding opportunities together, avoiding competition and maximizing resources for everyone. These collaborative efforts strengthen our shared economic goals.
- By contributing to a statewide economic strategy, our region is helping to build a framework that will endure beyond political cycles and transitions, providing stable, long-term support for Colorado's economic resilience and growth.

Individual communities can also sign the MOU. If your community would like to be a signatory, follow the instructions on the CO|Align website: <https://info.edcconline.org/colorado-align>



COLORADO ALIGNMENT

CO|ALIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

We hereby enter into the following non-binding cooperative agreement with the CO|Align Initiative to collaborate in building a unified economic development voice for Colorado. Together, we aim to align strategies, reduce redundancies, and enhance capacity in economic development efforts.

The assigned hereby acknowledge the benefits that can result from embracing a collaborative framework when planning, formulating, or implementing programs and legislation that hold direct sway over local workforce and economic development initiatives. Further, the assigned agrees to develop open and consistent communications to affect transparency, collaboration, and alignment in policy and laws designed to impact a region's ability to build strong and resilient communities.

By working to uphold this agreement to establish and promote community focused collaboration, the above-mentioned agree to:

- Develop an internal and external communication strategy that includes network mapping to leverage existing relationships.
- Identify resources needed to amplify and sustain these efforts for now and well into the future.

To provide clarity of our roles, relationships, and expectations, and to best assure success in the pursuit of common economic development goals for the State of Colorado, the CO|Align Initiative and our State/Regional/Local agency/organization/company, have determined that our competitive advantage and economic strength lies in our ability to recognize that regional collaboration, aligned with state goals and programs, is in the best interest of the State, as a whole.

The undersigned parties also agree to review the intent of this agreement within 180-days of the installation or renewal of each gubernatorial administration. This review will be undertaken by a representative from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), appointed by the executive director, an appointed member from the Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC); plus, a representative from each participating State/Regional/Local agency/organization/company.

The below listed parties hereby put into practice this CO|Align cooperative and Memorandum of Understanding, as of the date of signatures below for the mutual benefit of the citizens of the State of Colorado.



MEMORANDUM

To: NWCCOG Economic Development District Board of Directors
From: Rachel Tuyn, EDD Director
Date: November 24, 2024
Re: 2025 NWCCOG Economic Development District Board Meeting Schedule & Discussion Topics

The NWCCOG EDD Board of Directors engaged in a strategic discussion around how we can make EDD board meeting time as valuable as possible. The board's direction was that information sharing should be the main priority of board meetings and that we would dedicate time at each board meeting for a specific topic of interest (presentation and discussion) as well ensure we allot ample time for a roundtable information sharing session at the end. The board brainstormed ideas for discussion topics/presentations, which is provided in this memo. New ideas are of course, always welcome and we can add them to the list. Woven in will be workforce data and economic data updates at various times throughout the year. EDD Director is seeking input on which topics to schedule for what months in 2025.

2025 NWCCOG EDD Board Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

January 23

Election of Officers

Presentation Topic: Business Retention & Expansion Programs

Quarterly Economic Update

March 20

Presentation Topic:

CDLE Workforce Data Presentation

May 22

Presentation Topic:

July 24

Presentation Topic:

Quarterly Economic Update

September 18

Presentation Topic:

CDLE Workforce Data Presentation

October 23

Presentation Topic:

December 5

Presentation Topic:

Brainstormed Ideas for Presentations:

Workforce

- Career & Technical Education Programs in the region for careers in industries such as healthcare, entrepreneurship, computer science, and skilled trades (Summit School District; Grand County Homegrown Talent Program; etc.) Other Workforce development programs in school districts throughout the region
- Childcare efforts in the region – new facilities, new programs, initiatives, efforts, case studies [ideas: Avon, Silverthorne, Granby]
- Workforce Housing Programs – what’s working, what’s not
- Job retention efforts throughout the region
- Creating Good Jobs that pay a livable wage

Business

- (completed) Entrepreneurship programs in the region (speaker at 10/24 meeting Thayer/ Summit Economic Partnerships program including Women’s Angle Investment Network & Accelerator program (Thayer/Summit Economic Partnership presented at 10/24 meeting)
- Programs to encourage support of existing businesses
- Exit planning
- Key industries – in the NWCCOG region; industries the state is encouraging growth in
- Business Retention & Expansion Programs in the region – e.g. small business improvement grants [possible speaker Keith Hensley, Director of Existing Industry, Routt County Economic Development Partnership, keith.hensley@rcedp.org]
- Economic Gardening (possible speaker Thayer/Summit Economic Partnership)
- Disaster preparedness/planning for businesses [possible speaker: SBDC]
- [New idea] Grand County EDA Grant for Incubator Feasibility Study

Community

- Transportation/E-delivery (possible presenter Town of Breckenridge, Town of Vail/Mia Vlaar),
- Other transportation topics: – microtransit, multi-modal transportation system (possible speaker Summit County/Summit Stage)
- Mountain Rail program (possible speakers Steamboat/Routt County)

- Grant opportunities
- Establishment of Community Trusts (possible speaker Grand County)
- Value of Tourism – [Possible speaker: Tim Wolfe, CTO] - The value of tourism and visitors; appreciation for their contribution to our regional economy look at this SDN article <https://www.summitdaily.com/news/colorado-mountain-town-lodging-trends-slowed/>
- Colorado Tourism Office funding opportunities - as a region or subsets of the region
- Diversion of marketing tax to other community services such as housing, childcare, environment – pros and cons
- Community Life Cycle: where is your community on this? (community metrics project?) Is your community pressing the gas or the breaks on inviting development into your community?
- Intentional growth
- How to negotiate with developers to get community benefits like workforce housing – (possible presenter Town of Silverthorne, Town of Basalt)
- Funding strategies for workforce housing: RETT vs. RETA vs. RETF (possible presenter CAST)
- [New idea] Inclusionary Zoning for workforce housing: is this an effective strategy?
- Remote Worker Study (possible presenter Routt County Economic Partnership)

Resiliency

- Industry diversification strategies – e.g. explore creating jobs in new industries for those being displaced by the coal industry – training/WF development program for sustainable aviation fuel refinery plant (possible presenter Pitkin County)
- [New idea] Routt County Economic Development Partnership: REDI grant from DOLA for High Country Accelerator, an incubator program designed to nurture new and emerging businesses. The grant will also support the creation of a mentorship network, facilitate connections with capital and investors, and enable various community-building initiatives.
- **Destination Management – (possible speakers including Aspen Chamber [Aspen Pledge], Town of Vail [Mia Vlaar offered to present], Town of Breckenridge, Grand County)
- Destination Stewardship;; Rockies Playground (statewide plan); EDD board to serve as regional coalition [Jill Corbin, Deputy Director, State Destination Stewardship Office]
- [New Idea] Climate Action Plans/Energy Action Plans/Sustainability Plans – have 3-4 communities present