Meeting Minutes

UPPER ARKANSAS AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 17, 2026

3224 Independence Road, Canon City, CO 81212

And VIA ZOOM

Chair H. A. Buck Wenzel Called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

Roll Call of Voting Members: Ryan Stevens, H.A. Buck Wenzel, Dwayne McFall and Dana Greene. Present via Zoom were Aldy Lee, Lucas Epp and several moments later, P.T. Wood. Also In attendance were Jessica Rathke, Tom McConaghy, Elizabeth Lenz, Michael Loyd, Chris Henager, Lindsey Chapman, Veronica Vigil, Karin Petrin, Paul Vogelsag and Max Hansen.

Approval of the agenda with the following modifications: addition of ratification of investigation and expense approval. A motion to approve the modifications was made by Ryan Stevens and seconded by Dwayne McFall, all Directors voted Yes.

Review of the 4/15/2026 minutes was met with a motion to approve as submitted by Dwayne McFall and seconded by Buck Wenzel and passed without opposition.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Bank Statement Review, Budget to Actual and Budget Adjustments, Veronica Vigil and Karin Petrin. Discussed 2023 Audit and progress toward completion. All Auditor requests have been submitted. Aplos is updated through 2024 and 2025 and live in 2026 which should expedite 2024 and 25 audits once 23 is complete. Budget to Actual is close and only minor adjustments will be required.

Central Colorado Area Agency on Aging (CCAAA)-Tom McConaghy. Solar system is in and awaits approval to engage from the power company. The new

Volunteer program is being managed by Sabrina Porter and is moving along well.

Head Start-Chris Henager. Received our Notice of Award (NOA) including a small cost of living increase. Once details are received, bids will be pursued for the Stucco, Septic and Door projects.

Housing-Michael Loyd. 87 new vouchers have been assigned to us in the Alamosa and La Junta markets and we have formed a residential council on Rocky Ford. Laura Yost is working on her reverse mortgage certification and was honored with the Housing Counsellor of the Quarter award from HUD. Jackie is working on 502 loans, and we have completed our first Rehab project under the new grant.

Safe Streets For All (SS4A)- Elizabeth Lenz. The RFP for our contractor has been closed after significant input from all stakeholders, and Metric Engineering from Colorado Springs will be offered the contract. LOMA grant request is being updated to include all the municipalities involved and the change is going well. ACTION: Buck Wenzel moved and Ryan Stevens seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign a contract not to exceed $275,000 with Metric. All Directors voted yes.

Upper Arkansas Area Development Corp.- Dave Paul. Reported the closing of a small advance to a firewood company and a larger advance to a ski manufacturer that is adding a bar/nightclub to their factory to attract interest in their products and tuning services. A loan to a non-profit is being considered and the UAADC Loan Committee was briefed and concurred that based on Job creation and past loans to non-profit organizations, an application could be pursued. The prior waiver of $28,000 by UAADC failed to get approval for the same write-down by the Colorado State Forest Service.

WIC-Jessica Rathke. Med certs and currently being completed by our new hire in Lake/Chaffee. Training will continue for about a year before she is approved for full service on her own.

Executive Director-Dave Paul. Reported on ongoing support and encouragement for completion of the 23 audit. Highlighted the need to deal with the exterior condition of the building at 3224 Independence after having most of the grass around the building suffering terminal damage from the higher temperatures over the winter. In Addition, after thoroughly investigating the parking lot. There will be an upcoming request for Xeriscaping and new asphalt pavement and striping.

OLD BUSINESS

Requested approval of Resolution 2026-1, modification of travel policies. This resolution removed all previous dollar amounts for travel both inside and outside of the general service area, and set future reimbursements following the General Services Administration (GSA) prescribed parameters. Buck Wenzel moved and Ryan Stevens seconded the motion and all Directors concurred.

NEW BUSINESS

Requested Board approval for the expenditure not to exceed $14,000 to Xeriscape the area around 3224 Independence Road, including leaving the existing sprinkler system in place without water and replacing all grass and plants with stone, boulders and a diminutive number of Yucca plants. Dwayne McFall moved and Ryan Stevens seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Requested Board approval for the expenditure not to exceed $75,000 to mill all junctions and areas damaged in our parking lot and overlay with 2.5 inches of new asphalt. Very little maintenance has been done on the pavement since the building was built, and simply sealing and striping would not address the many areas where the surface has been damaged and drainage failed. Buck

Wenzel moved and Dana Greene seconded the motion to approve and it passed without opposition.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS FROM AROUND THE ROOM AND REGION

CUSTER COUNTY-Commissioner Lucas Epp

Reported concern over wildfires and ongoing Red Flag Warnings, as they are in the process of hiring a new Director for their Office of Emergency Management. The county is organizing agricultural producers for a new program, workforce housing is being investigated and the CDOT-funded sidewalk project is out for bid.

LAKE COUNTY-Commissioner Andy Lee

Reported that “All About Leadville” was a great success, bicycle race permits are being issued for race season, Twin Lakes secured a grant for trash receptacles, and the Senior Center is hiring 3 new drivers due to increased demand. Public Health handled a measles outbreak successfully, with no untraced spread, and the City and County governments are collaborating on a comprehensive plan.

CHAFFEE COUNTY-Commissioner P.T. Wood

Reported on food access group, where producers, consumers and purveyors work together to keep Ag products from the valley, in the valley, acknowledged the benefit of Places to Age potentially tapping into UAADC funds for a loan, and identified progress with CDPHE on recycling and trash management efforts.

CITY OF LEADVILLE- Mayor Dana Greene

Reported being very busy with traffic issues, having finally received updated striping for crosswalks and directions from CDOT, and enduring recent structure fires. In addition, flowers are out around the downtown area. Interim part-time City Clerk and City Manager are due for permanent replacement soon and she is optimistic about overall progress

FREMONT COUNTY- Commissioner Dwayne McFall

Reported that the county is gearing up for the 150-250 celebrations surrounding July 4 including a passport program where visits to all of the area locations included will be recognized, also noted that the Fair Board is ratcheting up for the end of July. DHS is looking for an attorney, and next week, he will be part of the NACO travelling team advocating for Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds to support rural areas that are responsible for large swaths of federal land. With our elected officials in Washington D.C.

CITY OF CANON CITY-City Manager Ryan Stevens

Reported that the lot on the corner of Justice Center and Independence received their tax credits and will by building 40 new housing units, the pool is now officially off the table, Florence has a pool, so those interested can swim there. Charging for parking was repealed, paving of 9th street is underway, drought-watch voluntary water restrictions are in effect and the city is in negotiations with a new operator for the Royal Gorge Bridge. Police Department staffing has become a challenge as other area jurisdictions entice officers away with higher wages, and the Fire Chief will be retiring, his replacement is transitioning into the position.

CITY OF SILVER CLIFF- Mayor H.A."Buck" Wenzel

Reported that the city is applying to HUD for the purchase of 40 acres of additional property, and they currently have aver $1 million in projects ongoing including pickle ball courts, baseball fields and an ADA compliant playground. A museum fundraiser is scheduled, and the American Legion and the Daughters of the American Revolution will be hosting the July 4th Independence Day celebration. The city is also working to locate a soldier from the war of 1812 who is buried in an unmarked grave in the Town Cemetery, negotiating the purchase of the Family Dollar building for use as a new town hall, reworking the camping ordinance and codifying the regulations against Data Centers.

Congressional District 7- Area Manager Max Hanson

Reported on the Congressperson's continued fight for SNAP and WIC funding and streamlining HUD regulations. Also in process are improvements to the housing supply and additional transparency for Veterans on their mortgages.

All of the area officials present, registered their concerns regarding wildland fire issues.

Executive Session under CRS 24-6-402 (4) (f) personnel matter. McFall moved and Stevens Seconded to move to executive session. All members voted Yes. Executive Session began at 11:30 AM. Greene moved and Lee Seconded to end the Executive session, with all members voting Yes. Regular session resumed at 12:31 PM.

McFall Moved approval for ratification of a personnel investigation and payment, Stevens seconded and all members voted Yes.

Contract extension for the Executive Director was discussed and resulted in a motion by McFall with a Second by Wenzel to extend the contract per the written agreement prepared by the Chaffee County Attorney for a period of four years. In addition, per the contract, the Board gave permission for the Executive Director to maintain both his Real Estate Broker's License and his Mortgage Loan Originator's License and engage in limited transactions while under contract as Executive Director. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no other business before the board, adjournment occurred at 12:38 PM.