



*Mission: 4CORE serves Southwest Colorado as the leading resource for the effective and efficient use of energy to promote and sustain our vibrant local communities.*

**FOUR CORNERS OFFICE for RESOURCE EFFICIENCY BOARD MEETING**

Date: Thursday, August 18, 2016 3:00pm – 5:00 pm (2 hours)

Location: Durango Carnegie Library Conference Room

**BOARD MINUTES**

**Location:**

Carnegie Building  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Durango, CO 81301

**Board Members Present:**

Laura Moorefield  
Paul Senecal  
Kurt Schneider  
Mark McKibben  
Werner Heiber  
Mary Beth Miles  
Jack Turner

**4CORE Staff Present:**

Laurie Dickson  
Elsa Jagniecki

**Advisors Present:**

Nancy Andrews

**Guests Present:**

Miriam Giles  
Cynthia Eileen Foster Aspen

**Absent:**

Robin Duffy-Wirth  
Heather Erb

**CALL TO ORDER (Chair—3:05)**

INTRODUCTIONS: BOARD MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS (5 minutes)

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Review & approval of the previous meetings minutes. Unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Financial Update (Cynthia Aspen)
  - Amended 2016 Budget approved.
  - Can help prepare for next Board meeting about COG to identify what money we could save specifically.
  - 2015 Audit—final report, independent review. Change in net assets was about \$5k—made more than we spent!
  - Have begun 2017 proposed budget—first draft distributed.

- Amended 2016 budget. Expenses went down for personnel and contract labor.
- ~\$8,500 burn rate/month
- Would like reserve CD be 2 months of operating expenses
- Kurt motions to approve amended 2016 budget as presented, Mary Beth seconds. Important to note \$35k difference between planned and amended. Unanimously approved.
- SWCCOG update and discussion (Werner Heiber, President)
  - Meeting SWCCOG Board May 18, 2016
  - Update of where we are on collaboration/partnership, and discussion of initiative's history.
  - 2013—preliminary discussions between 4CORE and COG. Fall 2014-April 2015, Werner/Kurt continued discussion. Laurie then did more fact-finding and presented findings to COG board. Paul & Kurt now leading discussions.
  - Miriam suggested partnering on EPA grant on recycling education.
  - July 20, 2016—Werner, Dick White, Miriam, etc. presented CBA which had been presented earlier in May.
  - 4CORE would like to review the COG CBA spreadsheet.
  - Werner spoke with East Central and Pikes Peak COGs. Both gave opinion that 4CORE could not remain a non-profit if merged with COG. But they thought we could partner and maintain non-profit status.
    - Would need partnership agreement for EPA grant application, etc.
    - Both (Rob and Joe) volunteered to help with discussions
  - Kurt spoke with Mountain States; it's beyond scope of their expertise. Recommended Denver attorney for non-profits instead. Kurt has contacted. Mountain States will refund our membership.
  - Executive Committee would like to use entire September Board meeting to discuss COG so that we can make a final decision in October.
  - Miriam—COG 2017 budget is done, would like to compare with 4CORE 2017 budget
  - Miriam—Rob and Joe are EDs, not lawyers. Has reached out to national association of COGs. This kind of arrangement hasn't been done before and is groundbreaking.
  - Miriam—Had discussed from beginning a fee-for-service model. Easy to undo but beginning step to work together. This is what COG has been interested in. COG has never thought that 4CORE non-profit status would disappear. 4CORE would be governed by COG board; 4CORE would also have advisory board. La Plata County and City of Durango want us to figure out how to do this.
  - Some think that 4CORE would have to maintain a governing board.
  - Laurie—the model that seems to meet needs best is that 4CORE is separate non-profit that shares professional services with COG, but maintain own governing board.
  - Mary Beth—There are other models. NW COG example. Doesn't think just the shared professional services is enough benefit.
  - Options being discussed: 4CORE would be a COG dept. and a non-profit, or 4CORE remains separate non-profit. Other options may exist. Need legal council to help us know what's possible.
  - Kurt—concerned about accounting requirements of department/non-profit option, 990s, etc. Miriam thinks it would not be that challenging.
  - COG not interested in shared services as long term model.

- COG board would be fiscal, legal, governing board, not advising on program details, etc.
- Jack—important to bring in lawyer. Suggests having exit clause.
- Werner—definitely see benefits to working together. Why not use Pikes Peak model?
  - Miriam—not enough staff. COG board would not approve increasing dues to incorporate 4CORE.
- Cynthia—Is it a major goal of the City and County to stop funding 4CORE? With their funding, we know what our budget is. With fee-for-service model, 4CORE funding would be less certain.
- Miriam—doesn't mean 4CORE wouldn't get funding from COG dues. Communities could fund 4CORE in addition to their dues. Benefit is to leverage funding for both groups. Would also need other sources of funding since local govt. funding isn't sustainable.
- Werner—we could still do this as a partnership.
  - Miriam—we could better leverage money as one organization.
  - Kurt—concerned that existing funders won't want to contribute to 4CORE beyond COG dues because they already gave the COG money.
- Werner—to maintain non-profit status we have to maintain independent sources of funding.
- Laurie—Even if we merge, we will always have to ask the City and County for money. Will be harder to go to governments to ask for more money beyond COG dues. Wants to make sure that everyone knows that the fundraising won't go away and may become more difficult.
- Jack—ultimately there is a certain amount of budget that 4CORE needs to operate. Is COG prepared to support 4CORE to meet that deficit to keep organization going?
- Miriam—Explained COG funding. Dues collected one time per year. Could include funding for 4CORE but we have to show benefit. If 4CORE is under COG, staff wouldn't have to go alone to request funding. COG entities set aside some funding if needed for mid-year match funding.
- Jack—need some type of transition or safety net.
  - Miriam—agrees we need transition time. Had discussed with EC before about fee-for-service for a year, then a possible merger. Learn how to work together.
- Kurt—Clarifying. \$114k dues is operational, 4 staff. Do any additional programs require additional funding from communities or outside grants.
  - Miriam—Correct, but rarely do they have to collect mid-year funding. Fill extra needs with grants. Have high success rate.
- Program updates (Laurie Dickson, Program Director)
  - EPA Solar Barn Raising—Lots of work and time here. Great work session on Saturday. Ben Jason provided electrical engineering plans and is working with LPEA. Project is moving along. Should have solar panels here first week of September.
  - ReFuel—billing will go up here from now on. Two meetings with LPEA re: CNG, EV charging, and alternative fuels. LPEA interested in grants for EV charging stations, as is Purgatory.
  - 4CORE was not encouraged to apply for DOE grant on CNG/EV stations.
  - Water Conservation—applying for rain water harvesting grants with support from Water Information Program.
  - Moving office on 8-29 through 8-31. Would like people to show up to help.

- Laurie attended NEED workshops, education for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We would pay for program; they would then help us secure funding from their sponsors. Seems like a great program. Working on proposal but waiting to have some questions answered. Can pick and choose which curriculums to use locally.
- Home Energy Score—waiting to hear about our application. CEO will disseminate information for this program. Involves realtors, education, etc. Encourage realtors to include in MLS, listings, etc.
- Solar Home Tour—has taken off. Elsa spoke with ASES so we'll have support from national organization. Will be at Farmers' Market on 9/24, 10/1 and would like Board members to sign up to help set up/tear down/etc.
  - Have two \$500 sponsors and maybe more. Tickets are \$10.
  - Will also need volunteers on 10/8 at the homes.
- CORE—Mona Newton presenting at GBR on 9/14 and then from 2-3:30 at Fairgrounds. Renewable Energy Mitigation Program will be focus of second talk. Will also meet with Laurie on Energy Smart Colorado.
- Jack, Peter May-Ostendorp, Laurie met about a new EPA grant opportunity. Also talking to Rachel Landis at Ft. Lewis. Grant is for unique opportunities to save energy in buildings.
- Colorado Gives—We're signed up. Non-profit giving day promoted online across Colorado.
- Also signed up with Kroegers for round up program. 4CORE will be recipient of round up money for several weeks. Details forthcoming; Elsa is researching.
- 4CORE also part of Amazon Smile program.
- Board of Directors Initiatives (Werner Heiber, Chair)
  - Next Board retreat, Monday, September 12, 9-1
  - Thanks to Laurie for all the commitment, being on target with budgets, programs, etc.
  - COG thoughts
    - Helpful to have Miriam here.
    - Need legal opinion on what's possible; need facts.
    - Can we get legal info prior to next meeting, as well as list of operational issues from Laurie.
    - Laurie—staff feeling pushed on COG; have different perspective on what would be good.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned: 5:07 PM

### **NEXT MEETING**

- Thursday, September 15, 2016 3-5pm (Durango Carnegie Conference Room)

Respectfully submitted by:  
 Laura Moorefield, Secretary, 4CORE Board of Directors