

**Upper Arkansas  
Area Council of Governments  
Board of Directors Special Meeting Agenda  
UAACOG Office & Microsoft Teams  
January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am**

**Call to Order**

**Buck called the meeting to order at 10:08am**

**Roll Call**

**Board:** Buck Wenzel, Ryan Stevens, Dana Greene, Dwayne McFall, PT Wood (remote)

**Staff:** Max Hanson, Dave Paul, Tom McConaghy, Chris Henager, Joan Moody, Mary Tinkcom, Jessica Rathke, Melinda Williams, Mike Loyd, Julie Griffo, Lisa Bivins and Samantha Hughes (remote)

**Guests:** Judy Lohnes, Beth Lenz, Benjamin Wood, Shakoda Walck, Lauren Snyder (remote)

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
**PT moved to approve**  
**Ryan seconded**  
**Agenda approved**

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – action item**  
**12/18/24 – Regular Board Meeting**  
**PT moved to approve**  
**Ryan seconded**  
**Minutes approved**

3. **New Business**

- a. **2024 Bank Account Discrepancy**

Dave and Benji looked into bank accounts and discovered that UAADC funds were being used to cover significant operating expenses in 2023 and 2024. These funds were not supposed to be pooled or used for COG operating expenses since UAADC is a business loan fund (federal money and block grants). Allocated public funds cannot be used for other purposes; that law has been flagrantly violated. Dave could not get straight answers from Heather or Braden.

Dave asked the board to resolve that we turn this over to the District Attorney or Attorney General for Abuse of Public Office and Embezzlement of Public Property.

**PT moved to refer to DA**

**Dwayne seconded**

**Buck – recommended amending to refer to AG office since local DA does not have capability to deal with this**

**Buck – will PT modify recommendation to refer to Attorney General’s office?**

**PT – moved this be referred to Attorney General’s office**

**Dwayne -seconded**

**Motion passed**

Dave - lots of fast and lose financial behavior was very well covered up. We need to appoint a public information officer.

Buck – suggested the board assign Max to be our public information officer.

Mary – we need to send a message to employees that is consistent and transparent.

The board, Max, Mary, and Beth are going to look for outside support to recoup misspent funds and prepare for 2023 and 2024 audits.

Chris – provided documents from JoBeth regarding bank accounts and programs.

**b. 2025 Budget Work**

Max – he and Ryan worked on 2025 budget looking for additional cost savings; revised numbers after December board meeting; we could save money by outsourcing payroll; will have presentation for board next month to decide which company to hire out for payroll, leave, benefits, workers' compensation, etc.

We are facing a \$140,945 shortfall for 2025 Admin Budget; can't seek additional funding without current financial statements; we are 2-3 years away from receiving additional government funding.

Chris – can't request reimbursements because there is no separation of duties right now; do not have a fiscal officer approved by Head Start so she can request reimbursements; office of Head Start has given Chris approval, but she does not have financial statements to request them right now; have not received any reimbursements for six months; our grant could get pulled if we don't get them.

Jessica – WIC is in same position

Tom – has been doing reimbursements regularly himself but does not know if his numbers are correct; they have been doing own accounting in house since November, 2024.

AAA's new building is paid for; can we sell our current building and pay rent to new owner until new building is ready? It's assessed at \$492,000.

Max – can UAADC provide a loan with a balloon payment to carry us through 2025?

Dave – yes, but we need 2024 and 2025 numbers first

**Dwayne moved to sell AAA building**

**Buck seconded**

**Motion approved**

**Buck moved to pursue discussion with UAADC**

**Ryan seconded**

**Motion approved**

Buck – asked Judy if she had any ideas how this happened

Judy – believes things fell apart due to lack of information and fulfilling roles; why were things done the way they were; community partnerships and relationships used to be very important; we worked in close relationships with all four counties.

Melinda – suggested we reach out to any nonprofit agency that has ever been publicly recognized as having been embezzled to find out how they dealt with it.  
Max – we have a plan for 2025; do we have suggestions for additional resources to get 2023 audit done? Consensus to reach out to Robert Half Denver office; how do we continue until then?  
Chris – she and Max will do Head Start reimbursements  
Dave – sale of AAA property

**Adjourn Board Meeting**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:52 am**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Griffo**