

Dolores County



Montezuma County



La Plata County



CORPORATE ANNUAL REPORT

2024

Archuleta County



San Juan County



OUR MISSION

TO COLLABORATE WITH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS TO IMPROVE
ECONOMIC DIVERSITY AND PROSPERITY IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO

Thank you to our Broadband project sponsors:



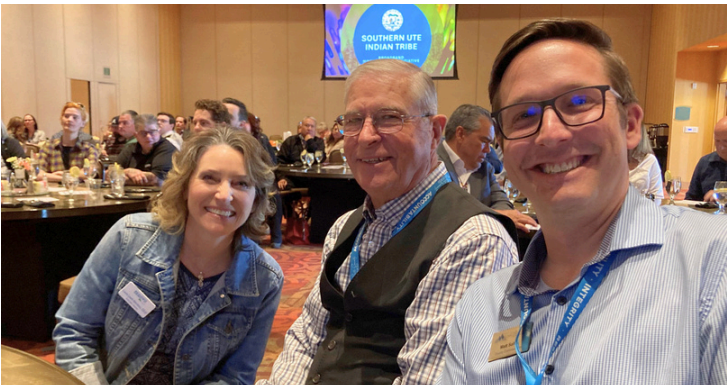
The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado Inc. (Region 9 EDD) is a nonprofit, 501 (c) 6 public private partnership that coordinates economic development efforts throughout Southwest Colorado. Celebrating its 35th Anniversary, Region 9 EDD includes five counties, ten municipalities, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

REGION 9 IS CELEBRATING OUR
35TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2025!

REGION 9 IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER & EMPLOYER

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Responded to 1,744 inquiries** covering business resources, grants, and data requests across the region. This number increased from 1,661 in 2023.
- Worked with area governments and internet service providers on **continued Broadband middle mile infrastructure funding**. Region 9 is coordinating stakeholder collaboration meetings.
- Received **\$1.33 Million in new grant funding** to Region 9/SWCCOG including: \$999,999K (DOLA) for Broadband equipment; \$14,723 (SBA) Microloan and Technical Assistance; \$90K (USDA) Rural Business Development Grant for a regional biomass study; \$34K (DOLA) economic development training and databases; \$100K (State) Grant Navigator funds; and \$92,515.66 (USDA) RMAP Business Technical Assistance funds.
- Pending grants as of December 31, 2024 include: CDBG \$270K, CHIPS Market Study \$47K, and EDA \$434,863.24 for Broadband equipment.
- Successfully sponsored Lifting Up LLC as an Archuleta County Rural Jumpstart Business.



Laura & LPC Commissioners Matt Salka and Clyde Church at Southern Ute Broadband celebration



On a mine tour in San Juan County for a quarterly Economic Development Meet-Up

- **Staff presented at 34 meetings and community events** covering everything from housing, broadband, Enterprise Zone, Grant resources, businesses financing, and data.
- Held **quarterly Economic Development meetups** for economic development professionals in the region.
- Provided quarterly e-newsletter and monthly Grant Digest.
- With 99% of all goods transported in and out of the region by truck, Region 9 participated in the Four Corners Railroad Initiative **studying the feasibility of a railroad spur line in Northern New Mexico**.
- Region 9 and Region 10 EDDs coordinated a cross-region stakeholder group which completed a High Alpine Recreation study, now available on both websites.
- Worked with housing organizations around SB174 compliance, funding opportunities, **workforce housing builds**, and **start-up housing manufacturer business support**.
- Working on **2050 Regional Transit and Transportation Plan Update for CDOT Region 5**. Region 9 administers the Southwest Regional Transportation Planning Region (SWTPR).

REGION 9 REPRESENTATION ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

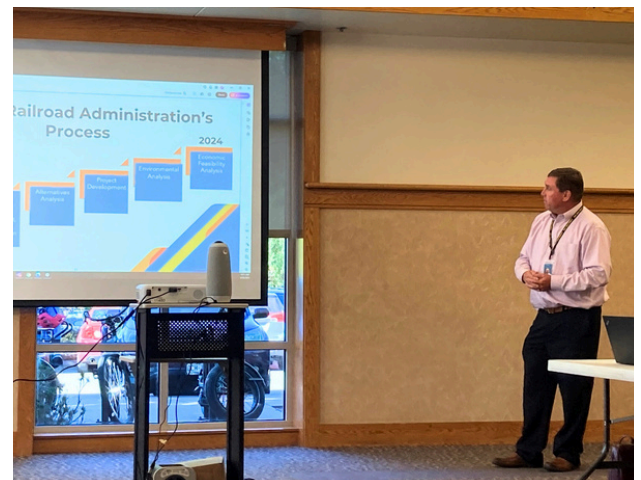
- ALICE Research Advisory Committee
- Axis Health System's QALICB Board (Qualified Active Low Income Community Board)
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) Wood Byproducts Committee
- Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO)
- Colorado Growth and Revitalization Fund Advisory Board
- Dolores County Development Corporation Board
- Durango Independent Film Festival
- Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) Board of Directors
- EDCC Data Committee
- EDCC Events and Planning Committee
- EDCC Professional Development Committee
- Ignacio Creative District
- La Plata County Food Systems Plan Steering Committee
- La Plata County Grants Award Committee
- La Plata County Loan Committee
- Mancos Schools Entrepreneur Pathway Advisory Committee
- National Advisory Committee Community of Practice EDA
- Colorado Policy Academy
- Colorado Southwest Outlook Committee
- National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Board of Directors
- Project RUN (Rural Upskill Network) Advisory Committee
- Regional Housing Alliance (La Plata County RHA) Advisory Board
- Regional Industry Convener Advisory Committee
- Resilient Colorado Board of Directors
- San Juan Development Association Board
- San Juan Four Corners Rail feasibility study workgroup
- Small Business Development Center Advisory Committee
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe CEDS Committee
- Southwest Colorado Accelerator for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE) Board
- Southwest Colorado Workforce Investment Board
- Southwest Health Systems Board of Directors
- Southwest Talent Collaborative Advisory Committee
- United Way Serving Southwest Colorado Board
- Ute Mt Ute Grocery Store Steering Committee
- Young Professionals of Durango Board



Laura presented at the NADO Conference on the Colorado Grant Navigator Program



Brian at West Slope Start-Up Week in Durango



San Juan Co., NM, administrator presents at R9 Board Meeting on the feasibility of a freight rail from the Four Corners to the I-40 corridor

REGION 9 PROGRAMS

Region 9 EDD administers the Southwest Transportation Planning Region, regional broadband, housing and transit initiatives. Other activities include business loans and financing, producing the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Grant Navigator services and data reports, Enterprise Zone Administration, facilitating the SouthWEST Opioid Response District (SWORD) and other special projects. Region 9 EDD also serves as the fiscal agent for several additional programs.

GRANT NAVIGATOR

Region 9 EDD received two years of funding to connect organizations to federal funding through our Southwest Colorado Grant Navigator. This position partners with governments and community organizations by providing research, editing, and grant writing to build capacity and accomplish priority projects. In the past year, our Regional Grant Navigator wrote and edited 23 grants, including 5 for the region and the rest for individual town/counties. **Funds granted to the region totaled \$1,881,344.**

SWORD

Region 9 EDD facilitates the SouthWEST Opioid Response District (SWORD), formed as a requirement of the Colorado Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding, to administer opioid funds in the region. The SWORD Council, facilitated by Region 9 EDD, has allocated opioid settlement dollars towards a regional recovery campus, and **funded \$438,256 in community grants.**



2025 SWORD (SouthWEST Opioid Response District) Retreat

BROADBAND, HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION

Region 9 EDD continues to accomplish priorities identified in the Southwest Colorado **Broadband** Roadmap plan (available on region9edd.org). Our work prioritizes the build out of middle mile infrastructure through equipment procurement, collaborative grant applications, and securing IRUs (Indefeasible Right of Use) to connect the region. The longer-term goal is to connect to the statewide Alpine Loop, and work closely with the Colorado Broadband Office on a statewide operations and management plan.

Regional **housing** coordination continues with agencies and organizations working towards land banking, water storage, and compliance with SB24-174. Additionally, the Point-in-Time Homeless Count will hopefully provide valuable data to inform future housing policies and funding applications.



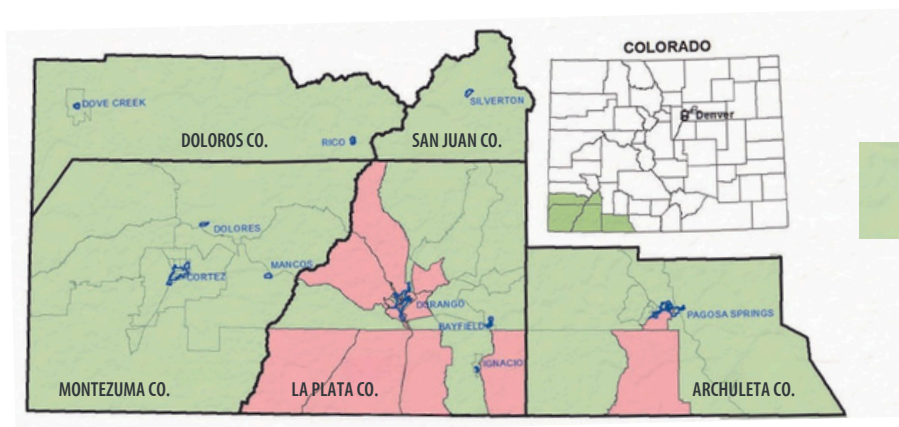
Region 9 visits with regional government representatives and internet service providers regarding continued priorities for coverage and developing a Broadband Sector Partnership.

In **transportation**, continued coordination of the Southwest Regional Transportation Planning Region and transit stakeholders will shape the 2050 Regional Transit and Transportation Plan, ensuring alignment with CDOT priorities while addressing regional needs.

ENTERPRISE ZONE

Region 9 EDD is the Southwest Colorado Rural Enterprise Zone (EZ) Administrator and identifies businesses located within EZ boundaries, processes EZ tax certification forms, oversees the designation of EZ Contribution Projects, and certifies donor contributions. Businesses in the EZ boundaries are eligible for a variety of tax credits. Currently, all of Montezuma, San Juan and Dolores Counties, and sections of La Plata and Archuleta Counties, are designated EZ areas. All but La Plata County have also been designated as Enhanced Rural Enterprise Zones (EREZ) through 2026.

Area businesses that participated in the Enterprise Zone Tax Credit Program in 2024 reported **\$26M in qualified investments and \$1.01M in tax credits**. This is an increase from \$18M in qualified investments and \$556K in tax credits in 2023. The number of businesses participating continues to decrease decreased from 224 in 2024, 274 in 2023, and 279 in 2022.



Southwest
Enterprise Zone

ENTERPRISE ZONE CONTRIBUTION PROJECTS

There were 27 designated Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects in the region. Two new projects were added, one renewed, four projects termed out, and two projects ended. **Projects generated a total of \$1.019M in economic activity through direct and in-kind contributions.** This continues a declining participation trends with last year's Projects at \$1.16M, 2022 at \$1.343M, 2021's \$1.46M; and 2020's 30 projects at \$2.35M. A decline in contributions was expected because several projects now fall under the Homeless Contribution Tax Credit Program, and many of our newly approved projects are smaller organizations.



PROJECT NAME	COUNTY	CASH + IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS
Aspen House	Archuleta	\$17,450.00
Axis Health System	Regional	\$74,650.00
Build Pagosa	Archuleta	\$29,270.00
Crow Canyon	Montezuma	\$86,917.00
Fort Lewis College Foundation-Infrastructure	La Plata	\$74,000.00
Fort Lewis College Foundation-Nursing Collab	La Plata	\$7,750.00
Galloping Goose	Montezuma	\$13,850.00
Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County	Archuleta	\$550,196.73
Habitat for Humanity of La Plata County	La Plata	\$49,150.00
Habitat for Humanity of Montezuma County	Montezuma	\$2,250.00
Mancos Common Press	Montezuma	\$4,000.00
Mercy Health Foundation	La Plata	\$82,890.72
Montezuma Food Systems	Montezuma	\$2,726.50
Montezuma Heritage Museum	Montezuma	\$3,720.00
Pagosa Springs CDC	Archuleta	\$22,250.00
Pagosa Springs Medical Center	Archuleta	\$152,404.44
Region 9 EDD	Regional	\$10,500.00
Rico Fire Department	Dolores	\$5,700.00
Southwest Memorial Hospital Foundation	Montezuma	\$101,001.00
TOTAL		\$1,357,644.95



Galloping Goose #5 at Dolores Depot Museum



Mancos Common Press in downtown Mancos



Pagosa Springs CDC Chris Mountain Park Housing Project

BUSINESS LOAN FUND

Region 9 EDD provides commercial loans to businesses for gap financing and start-up needs. Loan funding supports businesses in creating and retaining jobs, leveraging other funds, or exporting a good or service from the local economy. The Business Loan Fund (BLF) includes several Federal and State sources: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) (contracted through La Plata County); the USDA Intermediary Re-lending (IRP) & Rural Micro Entrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP); the Economic Development Administration (EDA); Start Up Loan Fund through OEDIT; Small Business Administration Microloan Program (SBA); Colorado State University Forest Service Wildfire Risk Mitigation Loan Fund, and revolved funds from previously restricted funds that are re-distributed in the community.



Ska Brewing



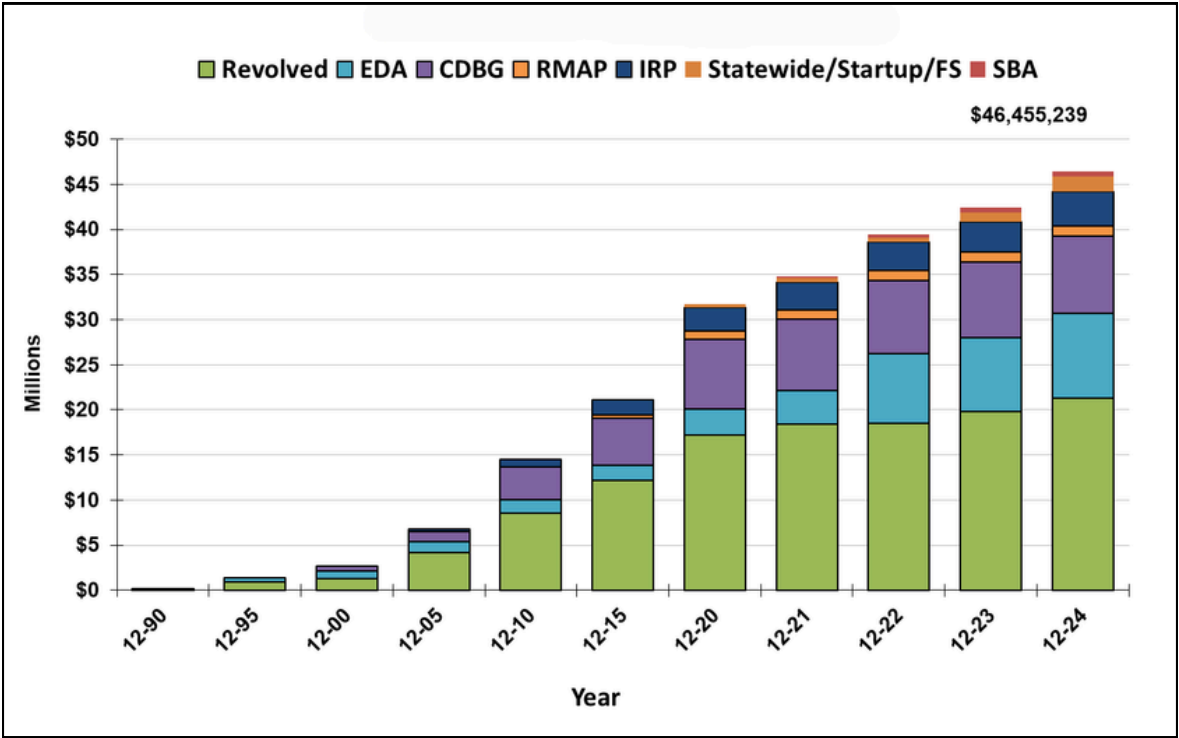
True Grit Concrete Polishing



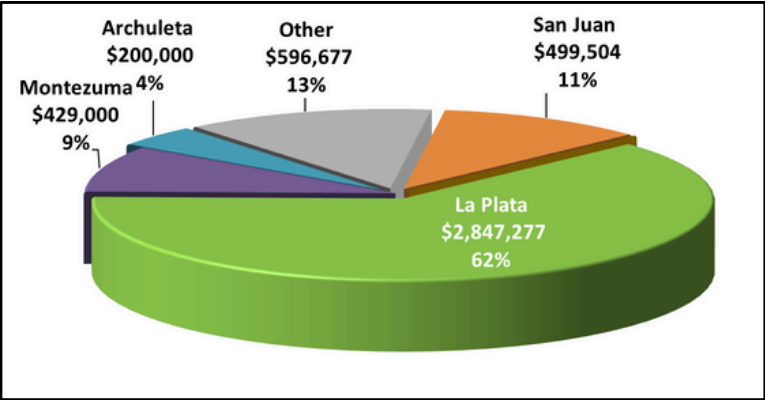
Pagosa Peak Open School

Since Region 9 EDD’s loan program began, **\$46.4M has been distributed to businesses throughout the region.** Region 9 EDD had 220 loans receivable as of Dec. 31, 2024, totaling \$12.9M, an increase from \$11.2M in 2023 and \$10.3M in 2022. Region 9 closed 49 loans, **creating 293 jobs in 2024;** compared to 34 loans and 151 jobs in 2023; and 49 loans creating 443 jobs in 2022. Thirty-nine loans paid off in 2024, 21 in 2023, and 27 in 2022. Six loans were written off in 2024 and three loans written off in 2023. Since December 2020, Region 9 EDD has made loans to businesses outside of our five counties through several statewide initiatives.

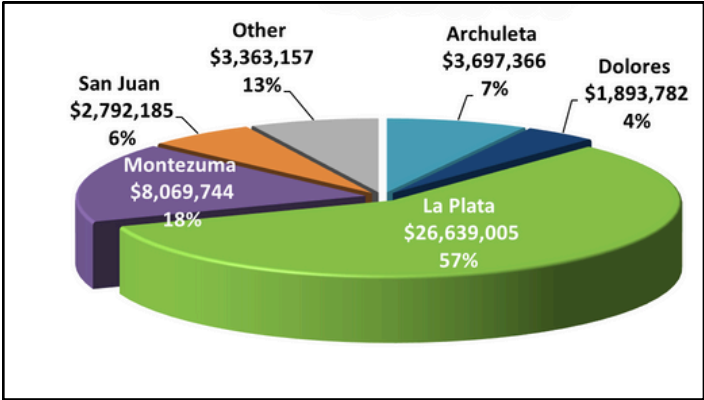
Cumulative Loan Disbursement: 1990 - December 2024
Total = \$46,455,239



Loan Disbursement by County: January 1 - December 31, 2024
Total = \$4,572,458

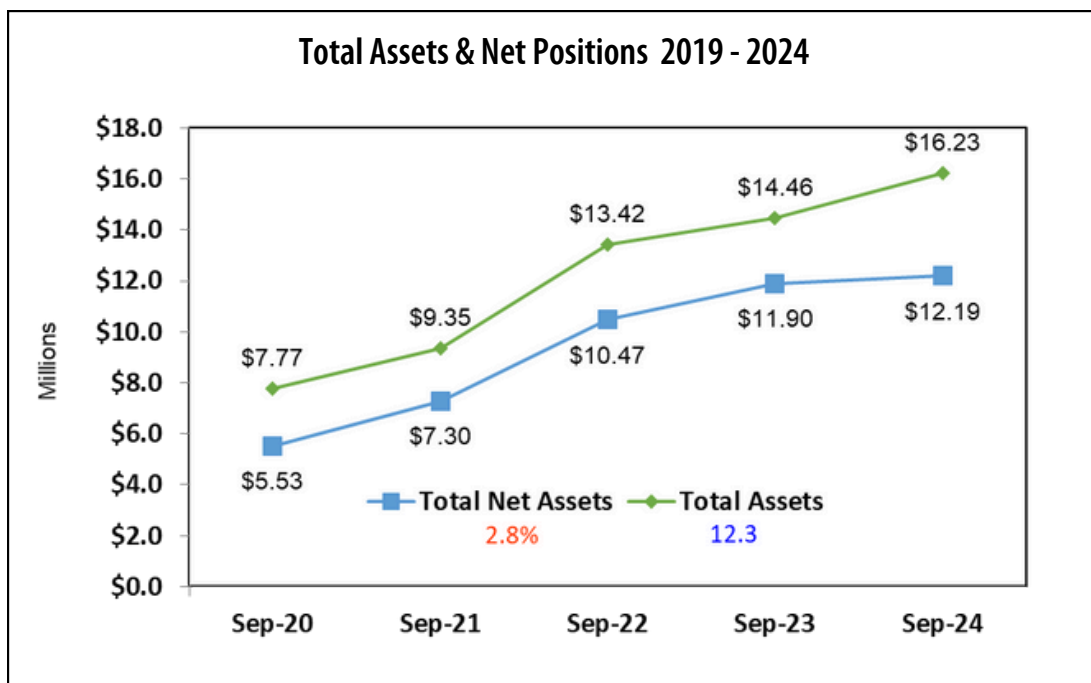
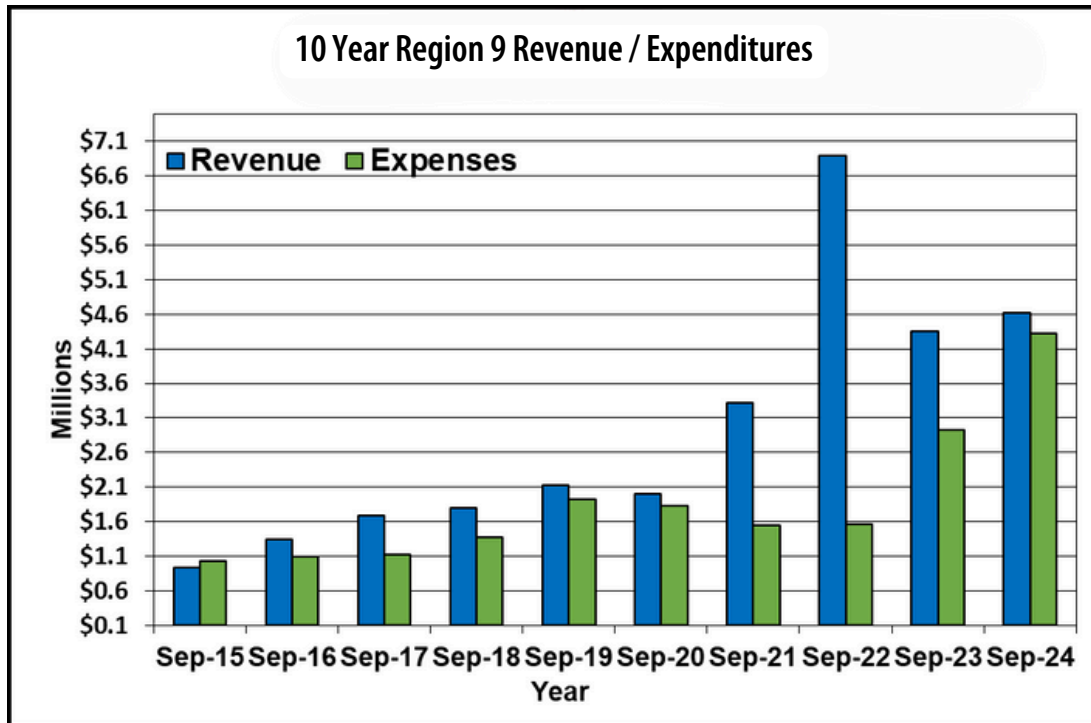


Cumulative Loan Disbursement by County: 1990 - December 2024
Total = \$46,455,239



REGION 9 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Region 9 Economic Development District's assets continue to see an upward trend. Region 9 EDD is audited annually, and copies are available on request.



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Tookey, Chair, San Juan
Mary Jo Coulehan, Vice Chair, At-large, Archuleta
Dan Fernandez, Secretary, At-large, Dolores
Colleen O'Brien, Treasurer, At-large, La Plata
Kat Katsos/Katie Sickles, Town of Bayfield
Beth Cascadden/Jessica Thurman, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Cassie Alexander, At-large, Montezuma
Charles Alex Lanis, At-large, San Juan
Chauncey McCarthy, Town of Rico
Clyde Church/Matt Salka, La Plata
Colton Black, Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Gloria Kaasch-Buerger/Dayna Kranker, Town of Silverton
Nick Manning/Jason Armstrong, Town of Mancos



David Harris/Jennie Green, SWCCOG Secretary/Treasurer, Town of Pagosa Springs
Kent Lindsay, Montezuma
Justin Osborn, At-large, La Plata
Kelly Koskie/Drew Sanders, City of Cortez
Leigh Reeves, Town of Dolores
Mark Garcia, SWCCOG Chair/**Tom Atencio**, Town of Ignacio
Nathaniel Peach, PhD. At-large, Fort Lewis College
Olivier Bosmans/Tommy Crosby, City of Durango
Robert Whitson, At-large, La Plata
Shawn Gregory, At-large, Montezuma
Linda Yellowman, Dolores
Todd Weaver/Veronica Medina, SWCCOG Vice Chair, Archuleta

LOAN COMMITTEE

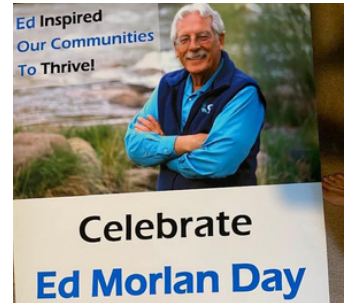


Loan Committee volunteers

Bill MacDougall, San Juan
Brad Fox, Dolores
Chris Aiken, Montezuma
Derek Farrah, Archuleta
Eric Jones, La Plata
Fritz Klinke, San Juan
Gina Piccoli, At-large region
Gus Westerman, Dolores
Kathy Keyes, Archuleta
Kris Oyler, Vice Chair, La Plata
Shawn Gregory, Montezuma
Terryl Petersen, Chair, At-large region

STAFF & CONTRACTORS

Laura Lewis Marchino, Executive Director
Brian Rose, Deputy Director
Brittany Cupp, SCAPE Program Director
Claire West, SWORD Coordinator
Donna Graves, Information Services
Elizabeth Heine, Office Manager
Elizabeth Marsh, SCAPE Executive Director
Heather Otter, Economic Development Project Manager
Irina Hauser, Staff Accountant
Jenny Stollar, Business Loan Officer
Shak Powers, Regional Projects Manager
Shirley Jones, Finance Director
Stephani Burditt, Grant Compliance Specialist
Terry Blair-Burton, Program Administrator
Tiffany Brodersen, Community Grant writer



Cortez
20 West Main Street
Inside Cortez Chamber Business
Resource Center
By appointment

Durango
135 Burnett Drive, Unit 1
In the Durango Tech Center
(970) 247-9621
www.region9edd.org

Pagosa Springs
46 Eaton Drive
In the Cascade Plaza
By appointment