

**Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs Minutes**  
**07 April 2017**  
**Centennial Public Works**  
**7272 South Eagle Street**  
**Centennial, CO 80112**

**Members and Guests**

**Members Present:**

Duane Dailey, Chair  
Rene Simard, Vice Chair  
Hollie Caldwell, Secretary  
Patricia "Pat" Hammon, Member  
Robert "Bob" McLaughlin, Member  
William "Robby" Robinson, Member  
Jack Rudder, Member

**DMVA Staff Present:**

Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Director  
Ben Mestas, CDVA Director  
Gail Hoagland, DMVA Grant Administrator  
Carissa Snyder, CDVA Administrative Assistant

**Guests Present:**

Steve Ryland, United Veterans Committee, VFW Post #41  
Theresa Rudder, President Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs, Jack's wife

**Opening**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dailey at 0900 hours. Proceedings began with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops overseas. Mr. Dailey then invited introductions from around the room.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting held on 03 March 2017 were approved as submitted.

**Board Member Comments**

Ms. Hammon said May is a busy month for veterans' events in Eagle County, with active color guards participating in graduation ceremonies and Memorial Day commemorations. The coalition participated in the Winter Sports Clinics on both Grand Junction and Snowmass.

Mr. McLaughlin said in follow-up to the meeting held in Trinidad in February, a VA town hall will be held there on 25 July.

Mr. Dailey said he attended the retirement ceremonies for Adjutant General H. Michael Edwards on 02 April. He remarked on the connection forged between the Department and the SVCLC's during the tenure of General Edwards, including the annual Blackhawk visits.

Mr. Robinson expressed his regard for General Edwards and said the state will miss his contribution. The SVCLC commission will be travelling to Florence in April. An RFP has been issued for building out the southern five acres at Fitzsimons. It will include permanent supportive housing a shelter for homeless veterans and low income veterans housing. On the north side, the commission has recommended skilled nursing care and /or a rehabilitation facility. He said he and Mr. Rylant both toured the new VAMC at the end of March and offered to set up a tour for the Board. The hospital is more than 90% complete and should be ready for full occupancy by March 2018.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Rylant said it was a pleasure to attend the Board meeting. Representative Coffman asked UVC to name the new hospital. The name chosen by the UVC committee is Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center. This name was selected because it is so inclusive. The name will be official once it has been approved by Congress. The UVC Banquet will be held on 10 April 2017 with the acting deputy secretary Scott Blackburn as the keynote speaker. VA plans continue to relocate the Greeley CBOC to Loveland to expand its capacity.

Mr. Hunt said that General Edwards is succeeded by Major General Michael A. Loh of the Air Force. General Loh is a graduate of the Air Force Academy, as is his son, and his father is a retired four-star general. He most recently served as the National Guard Assistant to the Commander of Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base. As senior National Guard officer to the commander his experience includes training, equipping, and maintaining Air National Guard Forces for rapid response. He will assume command on 11 April. Regarding the state budget, the Long Bill is in the House and the current version includes \$300,000 to increase state compensation available to for county veteran service officers. The Grand Junction One Stop is still in the budget since veterans' access to care is a priority for the CDC. Discussion continues regarding acquiring a waiver of 75/25 rule, with the current proposal being to flex to 65/35 as long as veteran beds are still available. The Durango board meeting in May should include the CVSO and the active college veteran's community.

Mr. Mestas said the Division is prepared for changes in county payments if the funding in the current budget is approved.

### **Reports**

Ms. Hoagland referred the Board to her submitted report. She said there is no need for concern of SVCLC's that have not yet spend their VTF funds, since they have the entire grant cycle to expend and often do so near the end. Mr. Robinson said he would encourage the SVCLC's that have not yet our expended their fund to do so. Mr. Rudder said that Homelake has ordered the new dining room furniture.

### **Veterans Trust Fund Allocation**

Ms. Hoagland thanked the Board members for submitting their application scores. The grants office staff also scored the applications. Although those scores do not count, the deviations between those and the Board's scores could offer insight for process improvements. She thanked Mr. Dailey for the large maps which were displayed in the room for reference. The maps were of the counties in Colorado and were plotted with the applications in each county, with one map displaying the Veterans Trust Fund applicants and one displaying the Veterans Assistance Grant applicants. The maps showed that approximately 60% of the Veterans Trust Fund applicants are located in rural areas, approximately 60% of Veteran Assistance Grants applicants are in urban areas.

Mr. Dailey reminded the Board that the Veterans Trust Fund applications are for the most part prepared by volunteers who are not trained grant writers. The Veterans Trust Fund awards help fund “boots on the ground” programs that help veterans in need throughout the state.

Ms. Hoagland said that since the Long Bill has not been signed, the amount available to the Veterans Trust Fund is only an estimate. The current available estimate is \$740,633.00. She recommended beginning the proceedings by removing from consideration any applications whose score from both the grant subcommittee and the full Board fell below the established minimum of 60. There were no objections. Only application 18-21 from DAV Post #25 in Denver had a score below 60 and was removed. Next the Board considered applications which the subcommittee scored at 60 or higher but were scored lower than 60 by the full Board.

**18-16, VFW Post 5231, Mancos:** This is a current grantee with slow spending. The Board discussed the submitted budget, particularly the gas vouchers since some veterans can have their mileage paid by the VA for service-connected medical visits. Ms. Hoagland said that if a veteran is eligible for VA mileage they are ineligible for VTF mileage, and that the gas vouchers provided by post are designed as general economic support. The subcommittee recommendation was to fund this application in less than the recommended amount without targeting any specific budget items, and allow the grantee to decide how to allocate the funds across the budget line items. Ms. Caldwell moved that the Board accept the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rudder and carried.

**Fund at \$7,000.00**

**18-17, American Legion Post 22, Northglenn:** This organization is a former grantee with a history of being difficult to work with. The representative is not computer literate and struggles to follow instructions. The subcommittee recommended funding this application in part to increase the services available in the area. Mr. Rudder moved that the Board accept the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simard and carried.

**Fund at \$20,000.00**

The Board then considered the remaining applications in numerical order, as all of them had scores of 60 or higher from both the subcommittee and the Board. The results are enumerated below:

**18-01, DAV Chapter 48, Durango:** This is a current grantee in compliance and with satisfactory spending. The application requests an increase in funding. Due to the financial constraints on the Veterans Trust Fund, the subcommittee recommended funding this grantee in a lower amount than requested. Mr. Robinson moved that the Board accept the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and carried.

**Fund at \$80,270.00**

**18-02, VFW Post 8661, Shawnee:** This is a current grantee in compliance and with satisfactory spending. The application requested funding in the same amount as the previous year. The subcommittee recommended funding the application in that amount. Ms. Caldwell moved that the Board accept the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rudder and carried.

**Fund at \$8,400.00**

**18-03, American Legion Post 25, Florence:** This is a current grantee in compliance and with satisfactory spending. The application requested funding in the same amount as the previous year. The subcommittee recommended funding in that amount. Mr. Simard moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell and carried.

**Fund at \$20,000.00**

**18-04, American Legion Post 32, Longmont:** This is a current grantee in compliance and with satisfactory spending. The application requested an increase in funding. Due to the financial constraints on the Veterans Trust Fund, the subcommittee recommended funding this grantee in the same amount as the previous year. Mr. Robinson moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and carried.

**Fund at \$60,000.00**

**18-05, American Legion Post 09, La Junta:** This is a current grantee, semicompliant and with very slow spending. The compliance issue is the slow rate of spending. This is reflected in this application, which requested a lower amount of funding than was awarded last year. The subcommittee recommended funding in the requested amount. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rudder and carried.

**Fund at \$6,080.00**

**18-06, American Legion Post 44, Steamboat Springs:** This is a current grantee that is semicompliant. The application requests an increase in funding. The compliance issues have been documentation and consistent argument from the grantee. The subcommittee considered the need for the program in the area as well as the performance difficulties with the grantee. The recommendation was to fund this application at the current level, due to both funding constraints and performance issues. Mr. Robinson moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell and carried.

**Fund at \$6,550.00**

**18-07, VFW Post 12063, Westcliffe:** This is a current grantee in compliance and with an excellent rate of spending. The application requests an increase in funding. Mr. Robinson said it seemed to be a lot of money for an area with few veterans. Ms. Hoagland said a lot of the need is for supplies to see veterans through the winter, which as propane and firewood. Mr. Rudder agreed that many veterans who live off the grid have to seek assistance in the colder months. Due to the financial constraints on the Veterans Trust Fund, the subcommittee recommended funding this grantee in the same amount as the previous year. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simard and carried.

**Fund at \$40,000.00**

**18-08, VFW Post 41, Loveland:** This is a current grantee in compliance and with an excellent rate of spending. The application requests an increase in funding. Due to the financial constraints on the Veterans Trust Fund, the subcommittee recommended funding this grantee in the same amount as the previous year. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rudder and carried.

**Fund at \$59,000.00**

**18-09, VFW Dept. of Colorado, Lakewood:** This is a current grantee in compliance and with an excellent rate of spending. This grantee has modified their program and is requesting a smaller amount that was awarded last year. The subcommittee recommended funding in the requested amount. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hammon and carried.

**Fund at \$30,000.00**

**18-10, American Legion Post 88, Hot Sulphur Springs:** Mr. Dailey recused himself from the discussion and the vote. This is a current grantee in compliance and with satisfactory spending. The application requested funding in the same amount as the previous year. The subcommittee recommended funding in that amount. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried.

**Fund at \$20,000.00**

The Board here moved to recess at 10:28 a.m. Mr. Rylant said he was unable to remain for rest of the meeting due to another engagement. He asked if he could get a copy of the decisions after the close of the meeting. The Board resumed labor at 10:36 a.m.

**18-11, VFW Post 5843, Meeker:** This organization is a former grantee. Due to the lack of resources in the area, the subcommittee recommended funding in the requested amount. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell and carried.

**Fund at \$7,500.00**

**18-12, American Legion Post 1980, Woodland Park:** This organization is a new applicant. Due to the lack of resources in the area, the subcommittee recommended funding in the requested amount. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rudder and carried.

**Fund at \$25,000.00**

**18-13, American Legion Post 108, Pagosa Springs:** This is a current grantee that is out of compliance. The application requests an increase in funding. The compliance issues include contract performance and documentation. The grantee has not yet completed a vehicle purchase that is part of the current contract, despite repeated direction from the grant administrator. Reimbursements are not timely and include incorrect documentation, also despite repeated instruction. The Board considered these concerns as well as the great need for these services in the area, and the subcommittee's recommendation, which was to continue funding at last year's level on the provision that the grant administrator make a site visit. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hammon and carried.

**Fund at \$30,000.00**

**18-14, American Legion Post 62, Craig:** This is a current grantee, semicompliant and with very slow spending. The compliance issue is the rate of spending. This is reflected in a reduced amount requested this year. Since the current spending rate of this grantee was only 13% at the time of the meeting, the subcommittee discussed whether the grantee would be able to spend even the amount of the new request. Based on this year's spending, the subcommittee recommended funding this application at less than the requested amount. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried.

**Fund at \$7,000.00**

**18-15, VFW Post 7829, Monument:** This is a current grantee in compliance and with satisfactory spending. The application requests funding in a lower amount than the previous year. The subcommittee recommended funding this application in the amount requested. Mr. Robinson moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hammon and carried.

**Fund at \$40,450.00**

**18-18, DAV Chapter 44, Cortez:** This is a current grantee in compliance and with satisfactory spending. The application requests an increase in funding. Due to the financial constraints on the Veterans Trust Fund, the subcommittee recommended funding this grantee in the same amount as the previous year. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simard and carried.

**Fund at \$63,200.00**

**18-19, American Legion Post 38, Fountain:** This organization is a new applicant. The subcommittee discussed a possible saturation of services in the area and the fact that this is a new program. Due to these concerns the subcommittee recommended funding this application in part. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell and carried.

**Fund at \$25,000.00**

**18-20, American Legion Post 4, Fort Collins:** This organization is a new applicant. The subcommittee noted that other than the Windsor Stand Down supported in this application, many of the services overlap with those provided by the VFW post in Loveland. Due to this duplication and the fact the organization is a new grantee, the subcommittee recommend funding this application in part. Mr. Robinson moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and carried.

**Fund at \$50,000.00**

**18-22, American Legion Post 16, Walsenburg:** This organization is a new applicant. The subcommittee noted the lack of services in the area and recommended funding this application in the amount requested. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hammon and carried.

**Fund at \$10,000.00**

**18-23, American Legion Post 103, Littleton:** This is a current grantee that is semicompliant. The application requests an increase in funding. Compliance issues include documentation and follow-through, and due to these as well as funding constraints the subcommittee recommended continuing funding at the current level. Mr. Robinson moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell and carried.

**Fund at \$30,000.00**

**18-24, DAV Dept. of Colorado, Lakewood:** This is a current grantee that is semicompliant. The application requests an increase in funding. The compliance issue has been documentation. Considering this as well as funding constraints, the subcommittee recommended continuing funding at the current level. Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hammon and carried.

**Fund at \$19,300.00**

**18-25, DAV Chapter 25, Grand Junction:** This is a current grantee that is semicompliant with slow spending. The application requests decreased funding. Compliance issues include documentation and abiding by the 90-day documentation requirement on advanced funds. The subcommittee recommended that the application be funded in the amount requested, with the grant administrator receiving a caution on compliance. Ms. Hammon moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rudder and carried.

**Fund at \$11,000.00**

**18-26, VFW Post 1, Denver:** This organization is a former grantee. The application included a funding request for gift cards for individuals who are not veterans. The subcommittee recommended funding this application in the amount requested for veterans only. Ms. Caldwell moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hammon and carried.

**Fund at \$4,000.00**

**Total awarded to veterans organizations: \$680,450.00**

The Board next considered the applications submitted by SVCLC's. Ms. Hoagland explained that while DHS provided a priority list for most of the CLC's Spanish Peaks was not included because it is administered by the county. She explained that during the subcommittee's deliberations, the funds not allocated to veterans organizations were divided into recommendations for the CLCs according to the CLCs' established priority list and the amount of funds available. Providing partial funding to each application did not work because most of the requests are project funding and a partial grant would not be useful. The board considered the subcommittee's recommendations:

**Spanish Peaks Application A:** \$12,016.00, full funding. Ms. Caldwell moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hammon and carried with one vote of dissent.

**Fitzsimons Application A:** \$30,182.00, full funding. Ms. Caldwell moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and carried.

**Florence Application A:** \$16,000.00, full funding. Ms. Caldwell moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried.

**HomeLake Application B:** \$1,985.00, partial funding. Ms. Caldwell moved that the Board accept the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rudder and carried.

**Total awarded to CLCs: \$60.183.00**

With the decisions made, Mr. Dailey thanked the Board members for their time and work and asked if any had suggestions for the process for the upcoming year. Ms. Hammon suggested having the applications on a zip file. Mr. Robinson suggested listing the amount of the current request on the spreadsheet. Mr. McLaughlin commended the subcommittee process and the work done by the subcommittee.

Mr. Simard asked if the Department could accommodate Mr. Rylant’s request to see the results. Ms. Hoagland said she could provide him with the names and locations of all the applicants receiving awards, but not until after the Long Bill has been signed.

**New Business – None**

**Upcoming Meetings**

The Board discussed and confirmed dates and location for upcoming meetings:

May 12, 2017	Durango – the Department will complete and communicate travel arrangements
June 02, 2017	Rifle
<i>July</i>	<i>Dark</i>
August 04, 2017	Fort Lyon

The Board considered the possibility of another August retreat and will discuss it at the May meeting.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Rudder made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Simard. The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.