

MAG Executive Council

MINUTES | February 27, 2025 | 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



MAG

Expert Resources. Enriching Lives.

Location:

Central Utah Water Conservancy District, 1426 E. 750 N., Orem, UT

Zoom: Link was sent to Committee members

Attending:

Mayor Brad Frost
Mayor Wyatt Cook
Mayor Denise Andersen
Mayor Heidi Franco
Mayor Kurt Ostler
Mayor Matt McCormick
Mayor Carolyn Lundberg
Mayor Celeste Johnson
Councilman Chris Killpack
Mayor Guy Fugal
Mayor Dan Olson
Mayor Matt Packard
Council Member Megan McKenna
Commissioner Skyler Beltran
Mayor Celeni Richins
Council Member Kendall Crittenden
Council Member Karl McMillan
Colleen Bonner
Mayor Brent Winder

Representing:

American Fork
Cedar Fort
Cedar Hills
Heber City
Highland
Kamas
Lindon
Midway
Orem
Pleasant Grove
Santaquin
Springville
Summit County
Utah County
Wallsburg
Wasatch County
Wasatch County
Wasatch County
Woodland Hills

Excused:

Mayor Neil Brown
Mayor Phillip Rubin
Mayor Zane Woolstenhulme
Mayor Nann Worel
Mayor Michelle Kaufusi
Mayor Jim Miller
Commissioner Brandon Gordon

Genola
Hideout
Oakley
Park City
Provo
Saratoga Springs
Utah County

MAG Staff:

Michelle Carroll
Linda Cole
April Crane
LaNiece Davenport
Jimmy Golding
Johnathon Knapton

Shelly Leavitt
Shawna Mecham
Mele Palemani
Phyliscia Prince
Rebecca Smyrniotopoulos
Andrew Wooley

1. Welcome and Introductions of Elected Officials and MAG Staff

The meeting was started at 6:33 pm by Chair Celeni Richins

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments sent before the meeting and no comments were given in person.

3. Approve MAG Executive Council Oct 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Action Item | Chair Celeni Richins

Mayor Heidi Franco made the motion to approve the minutes and Mayor Denise Andersen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

4. Election of MAG Executive Council Officers

Action Item | Michelle Carroll, Executive Director- MAG

This is the time of year when our officers change over. According to our bylaws, our three officers, Chair, Vice Chair and treasurer need to represent each of our three counties, Utah, Summit and Wasatch County. And historically, we've moved our treasurer to vice chair, our vice chair to chair and then elect a new treasurer. And so currently, our treasurer is Mayor Matt Packard of Springville, and so we would propose that he would move up to Vice Chair. Mayor McCormick of Kamas has been vice chair, and he would move up to chair. Mayor Celeni Richins, who's been chairing for the last year, would roll off as past chair. And then that would leave us an open treasurer position, which would need to come from Wasatch County. And as staff, we look for someone that is actively engaged in the MAG Executive Council, as well as that they intend to run again, so they will hopefully be here to fill out the three year term as an officer of the Executive Council. And so looking at that pool from Wasatch County, we reached out to Mayor Heidi Franco of Heber City. She's provided some really good feedback as we've addressed our finances over the past year and thought that she was a potentially great candidate to fill that treasurer role. The Treasurer also chairs our MAG Budget and Audit Committee. But of course, it is up to the Executive Council to choose who that treasurer is. We just did a little bit of staff due diligence prior to the meeting,

Mayor Denise Andersen nominated Mayor Heidi Franco as the Treasurer of the Executive Council and to move Mayor Packard to Vice Chair and Mayor McCormick to Chair. The motion was seconded by Mayor Brad Frost. It passed unanimously.

5. Approve MAG 2025 Scheduled Meetings Calendar

Action Item | Michelle Carroll, Executive Director- MAG

We look at all of our boards and committees throughout MAG and we present them to the Executive Council. Please see the linked calendar.

A motion was made by Mayor Celeni Richins and seconded by Mayor Brad Frost. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Ratify Appointments for 2025 MAG Policy and Advisory Committees

Action Item | Michelle Carroll, Executive Director- MAG

You can see the full list of our committees. In the staff report, each blue underlined committee has a link to list the roster of those committees and boards, and so this is to approve those committees and boards.

The motion was made to approve the committee members by Mayor Kurt Ostler and seconded by Council Member Kendall Crittenden. The motion was approved.

7. Financial Audit Review

Information Item | April Crane, Director of Finance & Operations - MAG

I'm April Crane, Director of Finance here at MAG, and I've been in this role for about two and a half years. We are getting things working and doing well as a team in the finance team. I want to give you guys a little bit of history on MAG and the situation that I inherited upon receiving this position. We had a long-time CFO who had been with us for 50 years. He was the only CFO we ever had, and he was using a DOS-based system that only a couple of people had access to. I was challenged with moving us out of DOS and into a modern software so we chose an Oracle product, NetSuite, and we've been fighting with it for the last two years. We have a four year contract, and I've been trying to make it work so that we didn't have to end that or make another switch. But the time has come for us to make change. Our FY 24 audit is still not done. Our auditor is not joining us tonight, because he is diligently working on our audit at the office, and the reason for that is that the data exports out of NetSuite are really challenging and incomplete, so we're having to do a lot of manual report-type work, and this has just made auditing MAG pretty tricky, and so we're behind. We're quite a ways behind. He's working on it now. My team and I are working on it on a daily basis and we are planning to have the audit done by mid-March. Are there any questions?

Question was asked if we have been struggling with this software program for two years, how did we complete the audit last year? What are the differences between this year and last year, if we were able to complete the audit last year?

We struggled with the audit last year and did not complete it until the end of March. I should have quit the NetSuite system sooner, but having a 4 year agreement with them, I kept feeling like I should keep trying to make it work. NetSuite is a wide open database and what you need to make it successful is a consultant that comes in and programs it to meet your needs. We have not had good luck with our consultant. Mayor Andersen does know somebody at Oracle that we will be able to work with to see if

we can get our contract canceled so that we won't have to continue paying for it while we make the switch to our new software program, Pelorus. But that is how we arrived here. We've been struggling for over two years.

A comment was made by Mayor Packard: I've been kind of involved in this from the start, because I was the treasurer, and when the program was first being used, and April really made every effort to try and make the program work, and to try and understand and learn the program. And it just was so complex and didn't really provide the answers and, quite honestly, April did everything she could, at least in my opinion, to use the program and make it a success for MAG, and it just didn't work. So I commend her for the time she put in. She put in a lot, lot more time, I'm guessing, than she got paid for.

Question by Kendell Crittenden: I know one big challenge up front was getting the data out of the old DOS program. Is that data in there now so that once we get the right program, it will be a lot easier to get it over to the new program?

April Crane: The DOS data never got moved successfully, because we can't. We couldn't even get into the program. My predecessor was not interested in doing cross-training, and so I was unable to get any training to be able to operate that DOS program. For that reason, part of our first audit out of NetSuite that included DOS data, we had to transmit all of the data from DOS into a spreadsheet and use that for a lot of our auditing. So it was rough. Our audits have gotten better each year. Each year, the auditor commends us for the improvements that we're making, and he's working with me actively to make recommendations on ways forward. The system that we've chosen is called Pelorus. They're great. NetSuite is really a private sector manufacturing software. It's very powerful, but it's just not a good match for us. And we didn't know that. We didn't have the assistance of our prior CFO in making that decision. So we kind of went into it a little bit blind but I'm working with Pelorus and we are mid-implementation right now, and we will be transferring all the data out of NetSuite into Pelorus to have the historical data imported. It'll just take us some time.

I've been working with Pelorus actively on our implementation for about a month. The owner and the gentleman who does most of the a bunch of the programming, has come to our office multiple times and sat with us, tried to understand what we do, and has given us a lot of advice on the most successful way to set it up. So I have no complaints. I mean, he's a little hard to get hold of because he's extremely busy, but he's very smart, and he's been able to advise us in a way that I'm very confident going forward into Pelorus. We are planning to do our first month-end close in Pelorus for March, so we're well on our way.

Comment by Michelle Carroll: Two other Association of Governments in the state of Utah also use Pelorus, so they're very familiar with our structure and how we're running things. And then there's a fourth Association of Government that's also going to use Pelorus because our two other sister agencies have had wild success with Pelorus so we feel very, very optimistic

Comment by Mayor Denise Andersen: I want to say something about April's efforts. I sit on the Budget & Audit committee, and April really has been working her tail off to try and get NetSuite to work this whole time. It just didn't work. It wasn't for her lack of knowledge or expertise or effort. She really did put everything into it. It just is not the right program for us. And, you know, it's just trying to put a square peg into a round hole. It just didn't work. So I'm excited about the prospect of using Pelorus and I think we won't be sitting here next year having the same conversation.

April Crane: We're going to be able to get things produced on time and the right way, and like was mentioned, there were no red flags in the audit. The auditor hasn't seen anything that's wrong. It's just being able to produce the reports. It's not working. The program doesn't work for us, and a number of things. So I just want to commend April for her really hard work and getting us to the point that we're at right now.

As soon as the audit is complete, we will present it to the Budget & Audit committee and discuss any kind of recommendations that are made, any findings that we have, and we'll disperse that as appropriate to this larger board.

8. Proposed Office Closure

Action Item | Michelle Carroll, Executive Director- MAG

Historically, anytime we offer additional paid time off at MAG, we have brought it to the Executive Council. In my time, we added the paid parental leave policy two years ago. That was my, one of my top priorities when I started at mag, we also added, under my time, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve as holidays. What I'm proposing is an office closure between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

Let me tell you a few reasons why. In your packet, I tried to put a compelling story together of the boost of morale and the positive outcomes for closing the office. But what I've witnessed at MAG over my time, our current policies in that chart in the upper right, our newer staff don't start with a lot of time off, and even once you hit that 3 to 13 years, they don't have a ton of time off. And so they come in during that week of the holidays. And those of us who've been around 13 plus years, you know, we're all taking off. It's a very slow time at MAG and there's not a lot of work happening. And those that don't have a lot of time off, who have not built time or that maybe they use all their time throughout the year, they do come into the office, but I would not say there's a lot of productivity going on. We also have a Meals on Wheels team that works very hard and rarely takes any time off. Talking with Jimmy and Heather Dorius, our Meals on Wheels program manager, we've come up with some ideas on how to give that team that week off as well and still have meals delivered to our home bound seniors. What I've witnessed over the years is that the MOW team will plan a vacation, or they'll plan to take some time off, and the nature of that program is such that there's always something urgent happening, and then they often don't have time off. And so we would love to, specifically for that team, have a plan in place that meals are being delivered, but the team can take that week off. These are our list of current holidays.(see link above) We currently have 15 paid holidays, and if you all did approve closing the office between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day,

what that would look like is two additional days this year, and then I've listed three days in 2026 and then two days going out to 2029. We are on a 4, 10 hours a day schedule, Monday through Thursday. And so depending on when those holidays fall, like if it falls on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, they're good. They're pushed either to the Thursday or the Monday. And so we're asking for a maximum of three additional days, but more likely two days. Love to hear thoughts. And I'd like to add one more thing. As you all know, if you've been around the last couple of years, we have made some changes. We didn't do COLA's last year. We have implemented performance evaluations with a merit increase. And our raises are based on those performance evaluations. And so we've made some big changes at MAG that have not always been wildly popular with the staff and as a management team, we've tried to discuss ways of how we can also provide things of benefit that we know our staff will appreciate while we try to balance the needs of the organization, particularly the financial needs of the organization. We also restructured our 401k plan and significantly cut it down.

Question: How many people does this impact?

Michelle Carroll: We have hovering between 85 and 90 employees at any given time, but this wouldn't impact our zero to 19 hour employees. This would only impact our full time employees. Rebecca, would you say around 40 full time ish, 45 full time employees, and then we have our part-time employees that are 20 to 29 hours that get prorated time off. So would you say, Rebecca, help me out, maybe 65 out of the about 85 employees.

Question: Out of those 65 employees, how many would you say don't have sick or personal vacation hours to use during that time?

Michelle Carroll: You know, that's hard to say. We've had the silver tsunami these last few years. A lot of our long time employees, those 13 plus years or more, our numbers are dwindling through retirement. So we have a lot of zero to three year staff people, and then a healthy amount of those three to 13 hours. And so, even those that earn the maximum amount, there are different kinds of PTO users. There's those that stack it up for when they want it, and then there's those that take a few hours every week and then never have a balance. And so I think we have a little bit of a mix of both. I can say we do have enough people coming into the office, just so they don't have to use their time during that week. But again, the workload, the productivity, there's not much going on.

Mayor Carol Lundberg: Are there any of those current 15 MAG holidays that you could remove to kind of offset the Christmas holiday week?

Michelle Carroll: We would be open to considering that.

Mayor Matt Packard: If I understand this correctly, for zero to 3 years, they have 8 annual vacation days and 8 sick days. Is that correct?

Michelle Carroll: Yes, and I do want to say that our sick policy is very strict about when you can use sick hours. This is not a bucket of PTO. You can't use sick hours to go on vacation. Our current policies really define when you can use sick time.

Mayor Matt Packard: To Mayor Lundberg's point, is there some way in which you might be able to do away with annual and sick leave and this holiday leave and just do some sort of a combination where you say is X number of vacation days that you can use?

Michelle Carroll: Yes, that's a great question. Rebecca, who's our HR manager is working on some new paid time off policies to really kind of have one bucket of PTO so people have more flexibility. We have also added a short-term disability policy that we've never had, Historically at MAG, we've stockpiled our sick leave in case something happens and we need to be out, like if you have a baby or if you have a big surgery, we've stockpiled those hours, where now we have a nice short-term disability policy so we don't have to stockpile those hours. So we are looking at revamping our PTO policy. But I didn't think this ask was premature, just because we have so much idleness during that week between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

Mayor Matt Packard: I think it would be a wonderful thing to perhaps look at the whole picture and make your suggestion a part of it. It sounds like you want to do it separately. My thought would be to do it all at once and make it equitable as you go through that. But that's just my thought.

Michelle Carroll: It is only February, and so we have several months to look into a more "whole picture" plan. I know that Rebecca is working diligently on those draft PTO policies. So if you want us to come back and bring a more wholistic policy, we can do that, too, if you want to table this for now.

Comment was made: I'm just throwing out an option where this Executive Council would be okay if they didn't see the floating personal preference day and then approved the additional holidays and come together on something like that until this policy is put together

Comment was made: Well we had this conversation recently with the county because we added Juneteenth and the floating holiday really helps our legal team and HR because it allows other religious holidays and things we don't account for. And we made the decision based on legal and HR, it really is not up to be removed. So I'd be curious if your team felt the same way.

Mayor Kurt Ostler: So one of the concerns is, it is always hard when we talk about this stuff, because you're dealing with, this is not about, do we appreciate the staff? Are they doing a good job? This is about, for me, as we make changes here, I know that that means that we're going to get from our staff, "Hey, you did this for MAG. Will you do this at the city?" So there's a concern about making that change. The other thing you brought up is you work 4- 10's. Well, that means that those days off, you actually add an extra two hours, because those aren't eight hour days, those are now 10 hour days. By adding extra days, we're going to have other pressures in our city. I already had a conversation

where I talked to my city manager, and he said, "Well, I hope whatever you decide there, you're willing to maybe consider what Highland does." We have 11 days? I don't think we do the Juneteenth. And we have a floating day so we're going to have 12 holidays. So you're already getting more and I have to deal with that as a city, because I have the 4 -10's so I'm going, Yeah, you're getting 10 hours a day when you have a vacation. And I'm just saying, we have to take that an equation, also with all this time that's come out, plus you have now as a salary employee, I always heard they're not supposed to clock in, clock out, but it appears we're doing that, because then they get comp time after 40 hours about I'm just that's the global picture, and I'm just trying to look at it all.

Michelle Carroll: All good points, Mayor. May I propose that we come back with the wholistic PTO policy and present that at the May meeting. We will take all your feedback as well, and craft that policy accordingly.

A motion was made by Council Member Crittenden to continue this to our May Executive Council meeting. Mayor Lundberg seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Michelle Carroll: Chair McCormick, may I ask one question before we move to the next agenda item, just for the group, as we are reworking our policies, has anyone in your cities and counties recently revamped your PTO policies within the last four to five years? We would love to see them because, to your point, Mayor Ostler, we would love to see what other cities are doing because I understand it. If MAG does it, then you have city staff wondering, well, why aren't we doing it? We'd love to look at some of your newer policies and consider how you've managed your PTO.

9. Federally Funded Programs at MAG

Information Item | Michelle Carroll, Executive Director- MAG

So January 27, the infamous OMB came out, pausing all federal funding, and we have moved past that. I don't think we're going to go back to that really chaotic, drastic situation. However, we did spend a lot of time looking at our funding sources and thinking about how our money flows, and it became very apparent that the original source of the vast majority of our funding comes through the Feds, whether it's directly from the federal government, or if it flows first to the state and then down to MAG. And this obviously was very alarming. We're still not out of the woods as they look at mass cuts in different programs, many of which, well, all of our programs, are housed under those larger organizations. And so we wanted to put this on the Executive Council's radar. (please see link above)

So to give you an idea, almost \$15 million of our budget comes either directly from the federal government or flows from the state to MAG, and this affects every single department at MAG. Everywhere, from Meals on Wheels, case managers, our heat and weatherization programs, of course, CDBG and then, of course, our transportation dollars. And so we bring this to your attention for a couple of reasons, both to talk about what we're doing internally at MAG, but also to make sure that as you talk to our federal delegation members, that you keep in mind that these cuts in programs will

impact your community members. The most recent budget that the US House just passed contains significant cuts to Medicaid and a lot of our aging programs come out of that Medicaid funding. It also really cuts the Social Services Block Grant that MAG also administers, and this is just one of many of the cuts that we're looking at. And so we are wanting to put it on your radar as you talk to our senators and our congressmen and women that these impacts affect our community members. We're looking at already facing significant shortfalls for many of our aging programs, and so it's concerning to look at how we would continue to provide these services if we face additional cuts. What we're doing at MAG is we have moved up to a very top priority to have a rainy day fund. We have a very slim rainy day fund right now, and we would like to start building that up. Particularly, it's one thing if they completely cut out a program. A rainy day fund isn't going to do much for us. But we were in DC a couple of weeks ago, Mayor Frost, and we heard from almost our entire federal delegation that we will likely have a shutdown on March 14. And while MAG has gone through previous shutdowns, they haven't been very long, and we've been okay. But if it's an extended shutdown, most of our programs are run on reimbursement, so we don't have a ton of cash just to survive for months on end. And so we would like to start building up that rainy day fund. And again, these are longer-term solutions. We're not going to be ready if this hits March 14, but we also want to start looking at diversifying some of our funding. And that's a big lift. Federal funding is huge, obviously, for MAG in the programs that we run, we only have two or three programs that federal dollars do not impact us at all. And so we would like to look at some opportunities to find non-federally sourced funding to support our programs. We are doing that with our Meals on Wheels program. As you know, Jimmy's going to talk about it after this, we're doing significant private fundraising to supplement the shortfall, and perhaps we'll need even more as they cut the funding. So do you have any questions? I know that's very heavy, and we're concerned, and we're doing the best we can. We keep up on all of the programs, our nationwide advocacy organizations and we're working closely with them. We're looking at each of our programs individually to see what the worst case scenario would look like. But I don't know that we've ever discussed at the Executive Council how dependent our programs are on federal funding and what that would do to our programs.

Question was asked: How much right now are you looking at as far as your rainy day fund?

Michelle Carroll: We have about a half a million dollars in a rainy day fund, and as we have talked to you all, and this seems like horrible timing, but we're still a few years out of that new building. In working really closely with April, we have discussed, when we sell our current building in Orem, clawing back the majority of those funds and putting it into a rainy day fund. Some of our other Association of Governments around the state have done that as they've moved to new buildings, because it's really hard to get rainy day funds. Our funding is so restricted, we have very little money that is not restricted. And so we would claw back a substantial portion of that building sale for a rainy day fund.

Mayor Matt Packard: Have you ever prioritized your programs, as if you were to lose funding, which ones you would drop off and in what sequence you would do that? Has it ever been some sort of a plan that you've gone through?

Michelle Carroll: Yes, since January 27 we have been frantically working on that. To be honest, it really looks different for every program, because every program has different funding. There's some where there's some lump funding that has several programs, but yes, we're absolutely looking at prioritizing, staffing levels, any extra expenses. Service and delivery is still top, of course. I mean, you think about our homebound seniors and making sure we keep meals going to our homebound seniors. So yes, Mayor, absolutely. I don't have anything to present tonight, but we've charged all of our department directors to work with their program managers to basically do a flow chart of if funding was cut or substantially reduced, how we will handle that.

Comment made: I'm sure you're doing this, Michelle, but I think there needs to be really good communication to the Meals on Wheels that we do. It sounds so imminent, like there's nothing that can be done to stop this, and maybe there's going to be a miracle in Washington, but that it'll affect them the most. For sure, as long as we can see it coming. I would think cities might be able to step up and meet the need. I'm not going to let the seniors in my city go hungry, for sure.

Michelle Carroll: Thank you. And there's some unseen programs as well that we don't talk a lot about. Those case managers that are going into a really dire situation, that resources are dependent on. They have the nursing staff that they need. They have house cleaners. They have people turning them regularly to prevent bed sores. These are all programs that we run that are under that Medicaid umbrella. Our Ombudsman program that goes and advocates into all of our skilled nursing facilities to make sure that the residents have a voice if something's going wrong. That doesn't even touch on our utility assistance and our single family rehab programs, and, of course, the CDBG program, which comes out of HUD. You know, we're looking at all of those kinds of cuts, sorry, that this is a really heavy topic.

Question asked: You mentioned Meals on Wheels, are there certain programs that you are hearing may be cut and are going away versus other programs that maybe we are not quite sure about? Do we know that some are at risk?

Michelle Carroll: Definitely. So obviously, it's the House Budget. So that doesn't mean that that's how it's going to end up. The Senate and House aren't going to agree, and that's what's going to happen. But for sure, the budget that was passed in the House, almost \$900 billion was cut out of Medicaid and substantial cuts to the Social Services Block Grant Program as well. Whether that will be the end budget, it's really hard to say so right now. We have no word about official cuts, but we are definitely bracing for it. All signs point to cuts.

10. March For Meals Update

Information Item | Jimmy Golding, Co-Deputy Director, Aging - MAG

This is going to be a little bit of a heavy conversation, but also an uplifting conversation, so hopefully I'll have a healthy balance here. So this is addressing specifically our Meals on Wheels and kind of where we're at right now. I gave you guys some notes last time on some of the things that we were trying to do, that we planned on doing, and so I'm going to address some of the things that we talked about then and what actually transpired, as well as some of our future plans.

So the first thing I want to touch on is the Giving Machine. So this is something that we participated in during December, and it was in the University Mall here in Orem. What it is is that individuals could come and choose what program to donate to. And so Meals on Wheels was able to participate in that, and we offered three different options. There was \$5, \$25 and \$100 depending on what they chose to donate. It was like a vending machine. So they got to pick what they wanted to give. I really wanted to be able to tell you the amount of what we made from that, but they haven't given us that information yet. So as soon as we know, I for sure will disperse that. Depending on how well we did, we will have an opportunity to do it again next year. They don't carry over every program from year to year, so it just really depends on the community's response to the program in the year that they were in it. So fingers crossed. We'll see how that goes.

And then I also wanted to update you a little bit on some of our Foundation giving. So as Michelle talked about, we have been targeting so many different avenues to receive funding, grants, individual foundations, doing events, trying to make sure that these needs of our seniors are being met. So I just wanted to highlight, just briefly, some of the bigger ones that we've received. So we got a \$300,000 Family Foundation one, and then a \$105,000 one. I want to touch on a little bit more. So this one is specifically to address the clients that are on home health and hospice, that were on our waiting list that weren't on our program yet. And so all of that funding goes directly to those individuals. We're able to pull every single one of them off and start providing them service. I mean, that's the greatest need, right? And so that was a really wonderful and generous gift. And I'm not going to specifically address the others, but I just wanted you to see that some of the work that is being accomplished, we really are trying to be very proactive in attacking this need, you know, all of these individuals, we have almost a 500 person waiting list to get onto our Meals on Wheels program. And that's just unacceptable, right? We need to make sure that that need is not only being addressed, but for future planning as well. This is only going to grow right? And so we're trying to make sure that we are being prepared and build that funding stream outside of just the Federal and state funds, so that we can address this shortfall.

I want to go over another program. And I've talked about this a little bit before, but just briefly, the Live PC Give PC event. So this was just a 24 hour day event that we were able to participate in. What I wanted to highlight is that this is our first year doing it. This is something they do every year. And they've been doing it for quite a while. I wanted to tell you some of the rankings. So in our specific category of Mental and Physical Health, we ranked ninth in donations. And then in the overall, among 134 nonprofits, we were 47th. For our first year of being a participant, that's actually pretty great. And so I just want you to know that \$20,000 was actually a really great showing for this event.

And then something I want to address, and Michelle kind of touched on it, is right now we're going through the legislative ask. We have a statewide legislative ask for all of Utah Meals on Wheels, and our ask is \$4.5 million. And as you can imagine, that fluctuates up and down depending on what the conversation is. We have a lobbyist right now, and I know that he is up there, and he is just pounding away at this conversation, trying to make sure that we get this need met. So once we actually get an answer, we'll report on that to all of you so you can see how that's going. In all likelihood, this is going to be one-time funding and not ongoing funding, and we'll do what we can with that funding as we receive it.

And then the last thing I really wanted to touch on, just because this is what's coming up next, is our March for Meals event this year. We're doing it a little bit differently, where we are trying to have a campaign for the entire month, instead of just for a couple of weeks, where we have the elected

officials go deliver. We're still doing that. So please make sure that you respond to Stephanie, our staff, who has reached out to all of your offices. We really enjoy having the elected officials go out and deliver to the people in their community and kind of be a part of that experience. But at the beginning of the month on March 3, we are holding a kickoff event. We're actually really excited about this. It's going to be at doTERRA, and we have the Lieutenant Governor coming to speak to us, as well as our keynote speaker is Bronson Kaufusi, and we also have a volunteer who's going to come and share their experience. And why I think this is so valuable is that we're inviting a lot of the community members so we can express this need and help them see and understand that this is something that they're a part of. This is their family. This is their neighbor, you know, this is something that is happening right there next to them, and trying to get them on board and to realize that this is something that they can have a positive impact on. You know, yes, there's a lot of unknown right now with some of our federal and state funding. And so we're trying really hard. You know, I believe it was Mayor Frost who kind of mentioned this. We want to make sure those seniors are fed. We don't want this to become a continual issue where we have to try and find funding to make sure that they're taken care of. And so this whole March for Meals event is really getting out in the community, making those connections, getting our corporate businesses involved, and making sure that they realize that this is something that they can help partner with and fulfill this need. And then throughout the month, we're trying to get some communication involvement. So right here at the beginning, we actually have Fox 13 news, who's going to come and do a story on us and talk about this need and kind of push it out there. And then last week, I had the opportunity to be on Spanish Fork's television station. We're trying to cultivate this conversation. So in your cities and towns, if you have some type of outlet that we can connect with, we would love to share this story. As far as the shortfall, if we get the same funding we got from the federal and state funds last year, we are still looking at a \$550,000 shortfall. Now, obviously we've been doing a lot of work to make sure to fill that shortfall, but the shortfall is something that's going to continue to build and that's not even touching our waiting list; that's only talking about the people who are currently on our program. And so this really is a conversation we need to be having to make sure that those seniors are getting their needs met. Any questions, anything that you'd like me to elaborate on? Sorry, I told you, it was still kind of heavy, but there's some wins there too, right?

Comment was made: How can we help as a community? If you could get us a flyer put together that you could give to all of our Communication Specialists, we could then put out on our social media and we could help push it. If you ask us to create it, you probably won't get it done. If you'll give it to us done, then you will probably have a better chance.

Jimmy Golding: Thank you for commenting on it. So Jonathan, he's our Communications Manager and he's actually already pieced together a flyer. What we're hoping for is that we can distribute that to your cities. So that'd be wonderful. Thank you

Question was asked: Do you have an idea of how many meals in each of our communities are being served and how many seniors are missing out? Any numbers on, if we were to make sure that our seniors don't go hungry and wanted to budget that amount into our city budgets, what would that look like?

Jimmy Golding: Yeah. So for sure, we can get the numbers on each city and how many seniors in each city are either on our program or waiting to get on our program. And that could even include the senior centers. We can gather that information for you, and then your second question, sorry, I forget that.

Question: Just from a budgetary standpoint, what would it look like if we were to step up?

Jimmy Golding: We're trying really hard, because last year we were kind of behind the ball as far as getting information out to the cities. Budgets were already in place, so we're trying to, by April, so in two months, to have information to you about what the costs look like and what the senior volume is, so that you can make those types of decisions as a city.

Comment was made: I'm also curious. I know we pay, and I'm going to use the word "assessment" every year. I'm curious as to what it would look like to potentially increase that assessment and maybe help cover some of those shortfalls slightly?

Michelle Carroll: The Jurisdictional cash assessment, we can raise it, we did it last year for the first time in a long time, but you all approve that. We can certainly get you the numbers, and particularly city by city. Oh, are you talking about what the seniors give? Oh, sorry, we're talking about two different things. We were talking about our jurisdictional cash assessment that MAG charges per capita as a member fee, and then the donation, we do ask for a donation for both our home delivered meals and our senior meals, but it is not required.

Jimmy Golding: That is actually controlled by the Older Americans Act and is something we cannot change. It is currently \$4 per meal. And that does not cover the cost of the food, which is about \$5 per meal. I just kind of want everybody to be very fully aware that this is where we're sitting at right now, as far as Meals on Wheels. And we're not alone. About a third of the Meals on Wheels programs across the nation have a waiting list. And the reality is that it's just staggering that there is a need out there, so we're trying really hard to get ahead of that amidst all this unknown.

Question: Is there a way to find out what that number is for our town or county?

Jimmy Golding: Absolutely. I don't have the numbers right now, but I will get with my team and we will get those numbers and have Shelly disperse that information.

Question was asked: You mentioned corporate partners. A lot of companies will do an employee match and if you'll get on those, as employees give then also the company will match. I assume you're reaching out to companies, because this is a need that people would probably really chime into, I mean, I can see this being something they do.

Jimmy Golding: Yes, and thank you for saying that. So we have one currently who's doing an employee match. It's Texas Instruments, but we are reaching out to all those companies, you know, we're kind of targeting them in three ways. One, just general, yearly donations and giving. Two, trying to do employee matches, and three, seeing if they want to volunteer and support us that way, or any of the above. Something that we haven't really mentioned, but about 70% of our meals are delivered by volunteers. We have a 400 plus volunteer force, and so we're trying to bolster that too, with some of these companies, and we're trying really hard to have more of those conversations and make sure that these corporations realize that right here in their community, they can make an impact.

11.2025 Legislative Roundtable Discussion

Executive Council Members

Michelle Carroll: This is definitely a round table discussion. The legislative session ends a week from tomorrow, so we're in the last marathon few days here. MAG is working, as Jimmy said, for that Meals on Wheels appropriation. It is a very slim year. What I've heard, generally, is this is the tightest budget in about a decade, at least. And so we'll see what we can get from our state appropriation for Meals on Wheels. Additionally, LaNiece and I have been diligently watching all of the transportation legislation, but really, I'd like to open it up to the group, if there's anything that you all are watching that as we're up at the legislature, that you would like us to have a voice or track for you, anything you're concerned about. I know many of you work with the Utah League of Cities and Towns, who does a fantastic job. Also UAC does a great job for the counties. So I know they're working on your behalf, but I've had the same conversation with a couple of you now that really from that regional perspective, if there's something that we can do to advocate for our region, we'd love to be partners in that.

Council Member Crittenden: How many of you have taken a close look at HB368 on Zoning? The legislature is trying to tell you how your city should be run because they know better.

Comment: Yeah, so there's a lot of stuff. I just visited with one of our attorneys today and one of the biggest concerns is that a developer could come in, sell all of these lots and walk away, and they wouldn't have to pave these roads, do any landscaping, you know, and it's, I'm just like, if the federal government was stepping in to do what the state's asked, you know, wanting to do to the counties and the cities, there'd be an uproar! So we just need to be really careful about the things that are so developer-driven, or a lot of us are going to be left with some messes, I'm afraid. In the UAC meeting this morning, they wanted to take another look at it because they changed some of the language right at the very end.

Michelle Carroll: Any other bills? So look into HB, 368, and, and so you all know, and I would love a little bit of feedback. What MAG is looking at doing is, not to step on ULCT's toes; ULCT is great. They track the bills very specific to cities. You UAC tracks bills very specific to counties. We have some organizations that are really great at tracking all of the transportation specific bills. What we find missing at MAG is a bill tracker that tracks all of the bills that impact all of the programs that MAG

runs, and so that is something that we are looking at implementing, hopefully by the next legislative session so that we're tracking social services programs, housing programs, and transportation; everything that we do at MAG. Is that something that would be of interest and helpful to you all, a wholistic bill tracker? Okay. Some of our sister organizations, during the session, have a weekly legislative meeting. They meet up at the Capitol. There's also a zoom option, and they go over and really take a deep dive into these bills. They also are very successful at having their legislators come and join them and talk about the bills. UAC and Wasatch Front Regional Council currently do this. So MAG is considering this, looking at what's under our umbrella here at MAG. We feel like there's a gap in some of the work that we do that people aren't talking about. Would you all be interested in another weekly meeting during the session six weeks only, anchor location up at the Capitol with a zoom option? And then what we would do, we would structure it in a way that we would talk about all the Aging programs clumped together, housing, transportation. So depending on where your interests lie, you know the agenda and you can come and leave, depending on what's relevant to your city or county.

Question: You mentioned that some of the other AOG's don't oversee or have been appropriated that same as MAG. Does WFRC have similar operations?

Michelle Carroll: They are different. WFRC is primarily focused on transportation. They do have a little bit of economic development, but they link that really closely with transportation. So they're very different from MAG in that their focus is on transportation. They don't have any of the social services.

Comment: Maybe you could tag up with WFRC and that would be more efficient because legislators are so busy and it's hard to get them.

Michelle Carroll: Yes, WFRC has had really great success. One of our goals that we're working on is building those relationships with the legislators and just being more involved in the legislative process. But we also want to add value to you all. Would you find value? I saw a lot of nods for the bill tracker.

Comment: Speaking for Summit County, it would be really helpful for us. As Kendall just mentioned, if we could approach it from a regional perspective, that would be beneficial. I mean, we are looking at several land use bills that affect both Summit and Wasatch county and I think it would be great if we could do some regional legislative work. Thank you.

Mayor Celeste Johnson: Yes. I would be very interested. I was frantically trying to find the email that I just sent today to my senator and representative. We've already reiterated the land use encroachment issues, but one that I thought I should address specifically with this group, because I think it has an impact on our seniors and folks that have a hard time getting out is House Bill 300 which is looking to change our vote by mail option? They're making it harder, and what's troubling to

me is that there is literally no solid evidence here in Utah of fraud. Utah, for the last several years, has been held as an excellent example of how well voting by mail works and to make changes to that seems so unfair to our seniors and folks who can't get out there. They've made a few adjustments where you can request the ballot be sent to you, but you still would have to take it in person and show ID. The last news story I heard reported on this was that there were four fraud cases that could be found in the last audit of our voting system. So I bring it up because I think it's especially problematic for our seniors and folks with disabilities, and I think it's wrong. So that's HB 300.

Michelle Carroll: Thank you, Mayor Johnson, I appreciate that. And as an Area Agency on Aging, we are concerned about our senior citizens and making sure that they have easy access to vote. In the interest of time, I'm going to wrap up unless there's any burning feedback before we move on. We will continue moving in that direction to be more involved in the legislative process, and part of that would be working closely with you all through the legislative session. Thank you.

12. [MAG Wins](#)

Information Item | Johnathon Knapton, Communications Manager- MAG

I'm Johnathon. I'm the Communications Manager here at MAG. I'll go super fast for the sake of time. One thing I do want to say, though, is back to the topic of Meals on Wheels and March for Meals, not only do we have pre-made flyers that we can push out that have the QR codes for donations, but it's always on our website. You can either get there from the MAG website or the Meals on Wheels Summit Utah Wasatch website can also do that for you. Also, there was a plug for it in the MAG newsletter that went out today, and then yesterday, we sent out a separate flyer newsletter to that same distribution list. Each of your cities should be on that distribution list. If, for some reason, either you or your city manager is not, please let me know, and we'll make sure and get that to you.

Okay, just a few mag wins. We had the Caregiver Conference back in November, which was a huge success for us. This was our 19th Annual Caregiver Conference, where we're able to host all the different caregivers that are out there taking care of their loved ones who need it. We had 200 people attend in person, and 141 virtual attendees. So that was a really big and successful event that got some good media coverage. And some of that media coverage was actually Meals on Wheels focused.

Next, we've already kind of talked a little about some of the March for Meals and Live PC, Give PC, so I'm just going to brush past that really quickly. March for Meals is coming up. Here's a few photos, just to remind us of our happy, elected officials who have come out with us in the past, and hopefully we can get more of that.

On to a few of the different grants that we've received. We have a small business revolving loan fund that we kind of mentioned when we came out to the road shows as one of the options and opportunities that MAG is able to offer. We got a pretty sizable grant for that program of \$10,000 from the Larry H and Gail Miller Family Foundation. So that was great news for us. And then also we got a nice Safe Streets Road grant. And so that grant goes towards supplemental planning efforts in Utah County to enhance the safety action plan that was adopted by the MPO back in August. So it's nice to get those fundings so that we can continue and move forward.

Two more things. One is so our TAG program was recognized. The TAG program, (the Technical Assistance to Governments program) at the recent Utah Transportation conference, was awarded a recognition award, which was great news for us. The TAG-funded projects provide the opportunity and means for local government staff and locally elected officials, our interagency partners, community stakeholders and residents to gather together and plan for the future. So that's definitely something that we want to continue to be a part of.

And then lastly, the MAG Roadshow has been a huge success for us so far. We've been out to 28 municipalities. We've got 11 more that are scheduled in the next coming months. And so those of you who have taken the time to sit down with us, we appreciate that. And those who are yet to be scheduled and visited, thanks for putting us on your calendars. We look forward to it. Any questions for me? Speed Round success. All right. Thank you.

13. Other Business

Next meeting May 22, 2025 - Summit County - TBD

Thanks. Jonathan, next item, item 13 -Other Business. Our next meeting is May 22 in Summit County, and that location is to be determined. We're working on that. Is there anything else anyone would like to bring up before I call for the last item?

Michelle Carroll: I just quickly want to say thank you so much for participating in the Executive Council. I know it's a lot of MAG business, but your participation is really fantastic, and the more that you show up, we feel more confident about the motions and the support and the direction that we're going. So thank you for spending an hour and a half with us this evening. Some of you two and a half hours.

Adjournment

Action Item | Chair Mayor Matt McCormick

A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Olson and seconded by Mayor Richins.
Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.