



Director's Report from Greg Pope

May 19, 2025

In addition to our normal day-to-day activities, some of our key activities include:

- Business Retention, Expansion and Relocation

- We continue to see increased interest from business looking to relocate and/or start up in Delta County and property owners interested in developing properties they presently own. One of the businesses has been approved for the Rural Jump Start Incentive program and is presently negotiating to purchase real estate.
- We hosted the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) feasibility study consultants in Delta County May 1-5. We held meetings with agriculture producers and processors, the Public Works Directors of the municipalities and county and several individual businesses. We were their first stop. After leaving Delta County they were holding similar meetings in Mesa County and Pitkin County. A lot of interest was generated.

If the project concept appears feasible in Western Colorado and is approved by all parties, the consulting firm will proceed to the next steps. If it does not, the study will be terminated. A preliminary report is expected in the next 60 days.

- Improve Communication with Municipalities

- We have initiated an effort to reach out to each of the municipalities to increase and improve communication and discuss where we can assist. We have held initial meetings with Town of Cedaredge and additional follow-up is planned. We will continue to reach out to additional municipalities.
- The High Country Spotlight ran an article on May 14 reporting on the City of Delta Town Council work session and meeting of May 6. During the Town Council meeting a statement was made by a Delta council person that they understand the Towns of Cedaredge and Paonia planned to withdraw their participation with One Delta County. The HCS reported what they heard correctly but the statement that was made during the meeting was incorrect.

One Delta County is happy to report that the Towns of Cedaredge, Orchard City, Hotchkiss, Crawford and Paonia and the City of Delta remain in support of One Delta County and their memberships have been paid for 2025.

- Industrial Park Expansion

- We received preliminary cost estimates for the project which have assisted us in determining the financing need.
- We are continuing to hold discussion with potential sources for construction funding. One of the sources we had understood may not be possible is reconsidering additional options.
- At this time, a construction start in 2025 is still anticipated.

- Workforce Housing Project

- The redesign of the 7.88-acre site was presented to the City of Delta Town Council during their May 6 Work Session. The next step is for the Town Council to provide direction on density and amenities required for the sketch plan process to proceed. The goal is to develop a process that can be repeated in the other municipalities within the county.

- Business Training

- Economic Development 101 training was held on March 21. 35 people attended primarily in-person with a few attending virtually. There was broad representation across the county. A recording is available if you are interested and weren't able to attend. The common understanding has already helped improve understanding and conversation.
- Delta Building Center is presenting Matt Blanchard, an inspirational speaker, free of charge to the Delta County business community and their employees. The presentation will be held on June 19 at 6:00 pm at Delta High School gymnasium. Information is included in the One Delta County Newsletter of May 15, or contact Mike Lahoe at 970-209-8458.
- Our Economic Update breakfast and presentation by Dr Perry, Colorado Mesa University, has been rescheduled to September 12.