



Board of County Commissioners

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April 12, 2022

Steve Johnson
General Manager
Yampa Valley Electric Association

Re: YVEA Decision to Decline USDA Reconnect Grant

Dear Mr. Johnson,

While we are sorry to hear that the Yampa Valley Electric Association (YVEA) has found it necessary to decline the USDA's Reconnect Grant, the Eagle County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) does appreciate the challenges YVEA has encountered regarding compliance with the grant's provisions. It is our hope that the recent broadband funding opportunities made available through the State will provide improved opportunities for YVEA to continue to move forward with their mission of providing broadband services to all of these hyper-remote locations.

Since the original announcement in 2020 of YVEA's Reconnect Grant award, the BoCC has maintained its initial understanding that YVEA intended to make broadband services available to all of its electricity customers within Eagle County. Recently, the BoCC became aware of the subsequent exclusion of the Bond and McCoy areas from the scope of YVEA's broadband project. It is our hope that the Reconnect Grant forfeiture may provide an opportunity to re-include these locations within any future broadband project plans.

The BoCC will continue to strongly support the future endeavors of YVEA to serve its electricity customers in Eagle County with broadband services. To this end, the BoCC is interested in exploring any partnership opportunities with YVEA in support of this objective. As it relates to the near term, we are very much interested in participating as co-applicants with YVEA towards sponsoring any future broadband related grants focused on serving locations within Eagle County with broadband services.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McQueeney
Chair

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Commissioner

Matt Scherr
Commissioner