

above, for these activities:

- Creation and retention of affordable housing

- Infrastructure improvements
- Community facilities and public services
- Job creation and retention
- Homeless facilities and services
- Facilities and services for those with special needs

LaTier noted that any proposed project must meet HUD criteria and address a local need identified in the county's consolidated CDBG plan, and must meet a national objective. The following are ineligible for a CDBG grant:

- Political activities
- Facilities and services for general government use
- Certain income payments (unspecified in this briefing)

Nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and institutions of higher education also can apply.

LaTier noted that by applying for CDBG through El Paso County, the town is now restricted from applying for CDBG grants through the state. The town received a CDBG in 2006 that was used for construction of stormwater infrastruc-

ture during the \$1.3 million Third Street improvement project. (www.ocn.me/v7n7.htm#botjune4)

Town Manager Pamela Smith discussed how the county had assisted her hometown of Ramah in securing CDBG funding, substantially reducing the amount of staff time required to apply and preferable to seeking CDBG funding through the state.

The board unanimously approved a motion to have Mayor Rafael Dominguez sign the previously prepared commitment letter to LaTier requesting that the Town of Monument be included in the county's Community Block Development Grant program for the next three federal fiscal years, 2015 through 2017. The deadline for applying was June 9.

LaTier will coordinate creation of an intergovernmental agreement that will be signed by all the numerous participants in the next three-year program. The town board will select a representative to attend and participate in six bi-monthly county CDBG board meetings per year for the next three years.

Drainage authority invitation gets cool reception

The board and staff discussed their concerns about a proposed intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for a proposed Pikes Peak Regional Drainage Authority.

Smith expressed several concerns about structure and funding.

The stormwater board would have six members from the Colorado Springs City Council and two county commissioners, while other local municipalities like



Above: During the June 2 Monument Board of Trustees meeting, Kate Watson, left, 2014 Girl of the West, and her aide Rachel Braaten briefed the board on this year's rodeo scheduled for July 9-12 at the Norris-Penrose Event Center. Corliss Palmer, director of Girls of the West, said Braaten is a top barrel racer who just graduated from Lewis-Palmer High School where she was MVP of the girls' lacrosse team the last two years. Rodeo information can be found at www.pikespeakorbust.org. Money raised assists local military and their families. Photo by Jim Kendrick.

Fountain, Green Mountain Falls, Manitou Springs, and Palmer Lake would split one board member. The requirement for super majority votes, executive committees, and several boards also raises concerns for the small towns with regard to transparency.

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