



**Executive Committee**

Colleen Whitlow Chair  
Richard Kondo Vice Chair  
Jeslin Shahrezaei Secretary  
Judi Kern Treasurer  
Jeff Baker Immediate Past Chair  
Douglas W. Rex Executive Director

**Agenda**  
**Performance and Engagement Committee**  
**Wednesday, May 20, 2026**  
**5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.**  
**1001 17<sup>th</sup> St. 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Red Rocks Conference Room**  
**Denver, CO**

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1. Call to order

**Consent agenda**

2. Move to approve Consent agenda
  - A. Summary of April 16, 2026 meeting (Attachment A)

**Action item**

3. Selection of John V. Christensen Memorial Award winner (Attachment B) Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director

**Administrative items**

4. Report of the Chair
5. Report of the Executive Director
6. **Next meeting – July 15, 2025**
7. Other matters by members
8. Adjourn

# ATTACH A

# **Performance and Engagement Committee Meeting Summary**

Wednesday April 15, 2026

## **Members Present**

Jeslin Shahrezaei, Chair	Lakewood
Jeff Baker	Arapahoe County
Austin Ward	Broomfield
Kevin Flynn	Denver
Deborah Mulvey	Castle Pines
Steve Conklin	Edgewater
Colleen Whitlow	Mead
Richard Kondo	Northglenn

Others Present: Doug Rex, Executive Director; Judi Kern, Louisville; and DRCOG staff.

Chair Shahrezaei called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

## **Peer Exchange Planning**

Executive Director Rex provided an update on the final steps in the planning process for the upcoming trip to Seattle, taking place May 6 – 8.

## **Report of the Chair**

There was no report.

## **Report of the Executive Director**

There was no report.

## **Other Matters by Members**

There were no other matters by members.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

**ATTACH B**

## **Performance and Engagement Committee**

Meeting date: May 20, 2026

Agenda Item #: 3

### **Selection of John V. Christensen Memorial Award winner**

Agenda item type: Action item

#### **Summary**

This action is related to the selection of a recipient of the John V. Christensen Memorial Award to be recognized at the Wednesday, August 26, awards celebration.

#### **Background**

The Denver Regional Council of Governments created the John V. Christensen Memorial Award in 1972 to be presented to an individual most exemplifying the tradition of John V. Christensen in promoting and working for good, strong, representative local government and regionalism in solving mutual problems.

DRCOG staff and members of the DRCOG Performance and Engagement Committee are not eligible to receive the award. Nominees whose names have been submitted for consideration the previous two years are eligible.

**In order to maintain the secrecy of nominations and selection, information on nominees eligible for this year's award will be sent to the committee in a separate email.**

#### **Action by others**

None.

#### **Previous discussion/action**

None.

#### **Recommendation**

Move to select a recipient to receive the John V. Christensen Memorial Award.

#### **Attachment(s)**

1. List of previous award recipients.
2. Criteria for selection.

#### **For more information**

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; or Steve Erickson, Director, Communications and Marketing 303-480-6716 or [serickson@drcog.org](mailto:serickson@drcog.org).



## **John V. Christensen Memorial Award recipients**

At the awards celebration, the recipient of DRCOG's highest accolade, the John V. Christensen Memorial Award, is announced and recognized. Previous recipients include the following regionalists.

2025: Jackie Millet

2024: Karen Stuart

2023: Herb Atchison

2021: Ron Rakowsky

2019: Cathy Noon

2018: Charles "Chuck" Sisk

2017: Tom Clark

2016: Jack Hilbert

2015: Will Toor

2014: Jim Taylor

2012: Kathy Novak

2010: Lorraine Anderson

2008: John Parr

2007: Federico Peña

2006: Norma Anderson

2005: Mary Blue

2004: Joe Rice

2003: Pat Pascoe

2002: Polly Page

2001: Thomas J. Burns



2000: Margaret Carpenter

1999: Leona Stoecker

1998: D.L. "Don" Parsons

1997: Peter Kenney

1996: Robert L. Tonsing

1995: Linda Morton

1994: Elsie A. Lacy

1993: Neva Windbigler

1992: John C. Buechner

1991: William H. "Bill" Miller

1990: Thomas R. Eggert

1989: T.J. "Ted" Hackworth

1988: Paul Powers

1987: George M. Wallace

1986: Jon Colt

1985: Vesta H. Miller

1984: William Thornton

1983: Milton E. Senti

1982: Robert F. Clement

1981: Norman A. Smith

1980: Jack L. Trezise

1979: James L. Ogilvie

1978: Don DeDecker

1977: Ben Bezoff



1976: John P. Murphy

1975: Irving S. Hook

1974: Guy R. Sanders

1973: Hilbert B. Meyer

**For more information**

If you have any questions concerning previous John V. Christensen Memorial Award winners, please contact Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, at 303-480-6701 or [mstevens@drcog.org](mailto:mstevens@drcog.org).

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## **John V. Christensen Memorial Award criteria for selection**

In October 1972, the Denver Regional Council of Governments created the John V. Christensen Memorial Award to be presented to the individual most exemplifying the tradition of John V. Christensen in promoting and working for good, strong, representative local government and regionalism in solving mutual problems.

### **Eligible are:**

- Any elected official or private individual, excluding DRCOG staff members and DRCOG Performance and Engagement Committee members.
- Residents of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Clear Creek, Douglas, Gilpin, Jefferson or Weld counties, the City and County of Broomfield and the City and County of Denver.
- Individuals making substantial contributions to the philosophy of regionalism, either during the past year or over a longer period.
- Nominees whose names have been submitted for consideration the previous two years.

### **The nominee(s) must have demonstrated dedication to regionalism by:**

- Promotion of coordination and cooperation among citizens and local elected officials in a continuing effort to solve regional problems.
- Recognizing that jurisdictional boundaries are not barriers to the solution of such problems.
- Providing leadership to, or support for, the concept that strong local government representation is the basis for regional accomplishment.

### **Nomination process:**

- Nominations must include a description of the achievement, accompanied by an explanation of the nominee's philosophy of regionalism. The narrative should be in sufficient detail to assist the Performance and Engagement Committee in its selection.
- If nominations are not submitted online, they must be mailed to the DRCOG Performance and Engagement Committee, at 1001 17th St., Suite 700, Denver, CO 80202 by April 15, 2026, for judging by the Committee at its May meeting.



- If the Performance and Engagement Committee determines that no nominee fully meets established criteria, no award will be made.
- Announcement of the winner and presentation of the award will be made at the DRCOG awards celebration on August 26, 2026.

### **For more information**

If you have any questions concerning the nomination process, or the criteria for selection, please contact Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, at 303-480-6701 or [mstevens@drcog.org](mailto:mstevens@drcog.org).

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