

**SAN LUIS VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

January 9, 2017

A business meeting of the Executive Board of the San Luis Valley Council of Governments was held at SLVDRG/SLVCOG conference room at 610 State Avenue, Alamosa, Colorado. The following were present:

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Darius Allen, Alamosa County Commissioner
Josef Lucero, Mayor of Alamosa
Karla Shriver, Rio Grande County Commissioner-Vice Chair
Lawrence Pacheco, Costilla County Commissioner

ABSENT

Dennis Koenig, Mayor, Town of La Jara
Jeff Larsen, Mayor, Town of Creede
John Sandoval, Conejos County Commissioner
Kairina Danforth, Town of Crestone-Secretary/Treasurer
Ken Anderson, Saguache County Commissioner
Larry Kawanabe, Town of Blanca
Marty Asplin, Co-Director, Upper Rio Grande Economic Development
Ramona Weber, Mineral County Commissioner – Chairman
Tom Acre, South Fork Town Manager

Guest(s)

Charlotte Bobicki, Regional Representative, Senator Michael Bennet
Brenda Felmlee, Area Representative, Congressman Scott Tipton
Mick Daniels, Director, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors
Patricia Reigel, Mayor, Town of Moffat

STAFF

Kevin Wilkins, Executive Director
Anne Jones, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Stoeber, Business Development Director

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Kevin Wilkins in the absence of Ramona Weber, Chairman at 3:30 pm. The roll call was completed by Sarah Stoeber and a quorum was declared by Kevin Wilkins.

Kevin asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda for January 9, 2017. There were none.

Karla Shriver made a Motion to approve the Agenda; Josef Lucero seconded, Motion carried.

Kevin asked if there were any changes to be made to the Minutes from October 17, 2016. There were none.

Lawrence Pacheco made a Motion to approve the Board Minutes for October 17, 2016; Karla Shriver seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REVIEW:

- Anne stated the financials the group is review are very preliminary; there is still ~\$14,000 expected in broadband reimbursements
- The COG invoiced out for \$95,000 and received \$78,000 last year leaving a \$17,000 shortage
- Conejos County did not pay dues in 2016; many of its towns didn't pay either; La Jara was the exception. They paid dues and were awarded a \$10,000 DOLA mini grant in 2016
- Anne is re-balancing the DRG books out of the reserve account; there was a \$130,000 to \$150,000 deficit for 2016 due to unexpected expenses

Lawrence Pacheco made a Motion to approve these preliminary Financials as of December 31, 2016; Karla Shriver seconded, Motion carried.

Sarah Stoeber:

Sarah reported that the COG applied for \$100,000 from DOLA for use on the mini grants. The COG was granted \$50,000 with a request from DOLA to lower the award amount back down to \$5,000. Since applications for use of 2017 funds have already been received, the COG asked if we could honor those requests at the \$10,000 level with an understanding that in 2018 the mini grants will be lowered to \$5,000. This was agreeable to DOLA. The contract securing these items is being signed.

Currently we have received four grant applications. Due to time limitations of this meeting those applications will be sent out to the COG executive board within the week for review/approval via email. Sarah is excited to be working with the mini grants and hopes to continue to grow that program.

Action Items:

Resolution 001-2017—Posting of Meeting Agenda

Josef Lucero made a Motion to pass this resolution; Karla Shriver seconded; Motion carried.

Resolution 002-2017—2016 Exemption from Audit

Josef Lucero made a Motion to pass this resolution with a correction of the date in line one; Darius Allen seconded; Motion carried.

2017 Memorandum of Agreement with SLVDRG and SLVCOG

Karla Shriver made a Motion to pass this Agreement with a correction on page 2, Section 5 updating the year referenced to 2016; Lawrence Pacheco seconded; Motion carried.

Kevin and Sarah both apologized for not catching these corrections prior to bringing them to the board for approval.

There was discussion regarding the MOU between the DRG and each municipality that was created several years ago. Kevin said we will look for it.

There was also discussion regarding participation (voting rights) of members who do not pay their dues.

The election of officers for 2017 was postponed until the April meeting.

Kevin mentioned that we applied for an extension for the USDA and DOLA grants in regards to broadband. We will be able to close out these grants on time. The consultant's report for broadband gave the group a basis for moving forward Kevin said.

He went on to discuss that the broadband steering committee will report to the SLVCOG board. The people who are on that committee have the needed technical experience. The plan is for this steering committee to form their own leadership under the direction of the SLVCOG. A list of the people willing to serve on this committee was presented. Several names were added to the list. Those being: Kenny Bertain, Jim Leist, Monroe Johnson, Ken Swinehart, and Alan Wehe.

Karla Shriver made a Motion to approve the steering committee names presented; Josef Lucero seconded. Motion carried.

Kevin reported on the status on the VIP marketing initiative. Eric Grossman is consensus building to move Valley brand forward. The group has completed the analysis of who 'we' are and created a 30-second elevator speech. We are a diverse, expansive group, but we are coming together. Next step is to create tag lines and logos with stakeholder buy-in.

Kevin and Hew met with a contractor to overhaul the DRG/COG web page. This will move forward in the next month or two. More to come on that.

Kevin will send out the pdf of the 2008 targeted industries study. It covers place-making, food processing and the standard challenges of economic development.

Josef Lucero made a Motion to allow the Executive Director to sign necessary applications (grant and otherwise) on behalf of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the COG should they not be available. Karla Shriver seconded. Motion carried.

Darius Allen made a Motion to update all signature cards to reflect the new Executive Director, Kevin Wilkins and remove Michael Wisdom as is reflected in the change of leadership. Lawrence Pacheco seconded. Motion carried.

Updates from around the region:

Brenda Felmlee offered letter of support when appropriate on behalf of Congressman Tipton.

Karla Shriver welcomed Mick Daniels as Director of SLVGO. Two new county commissioners will be sworn in tomorrow for Rio Grande County. Because of this the county will take some time to gather information from them in terms of their vision for the future. It is an exciting time for the county.

Josef Lucero said the City of Alamosa has done an excellent job in keeping up with snow removal during the recent storms. The City is also working to improve the appeal of Market and First Streets. Also, Senate Bill 152 is being taken to voters. This is a 2005 telecom bill which restricts how public money may be spent. It prevents Alamosa from forming a relationship with private entities for broadband. Recommendations were made to opt out of this bill.

Darius Allen reported that Colorado Malting is doing well. He met with Wayne Cody, owner and the company is now supporting six families. Ted Heersink has put in a pellet mill; he is working out details of production and exploring alfalfa pelletizing possibilities.

Lawrence Pacheco said Costilla county is suffering from the loss of Joe Gallegos, Commissioner and long-time member of the community. It is Joe's vision of preserving water, land, and heirloom crops that give encouragement to those who especially feel Joe's loss. Roy Esquibel is the new commissioner. They will spend time on visioning for the future of the county with Roy.

Patricia Reigel, Mayor of Moffat said their town has been working on creating a community center in an abandoned church. This is an ongoing project.

Charlotte Bobicki said Senator Bennett is working together as many things are being re-organized on the political front. Kevin asked Charlotte to please invite the Senator for a visit to the Valley; Charlotte replied that she regularly invites him to come here.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be on Monday, April 17, 2016, at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Depot.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah J. Stoeber, Director Business Development

Kairina Danforth, Secretary/Treasurer