

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

April 17, 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
Jeff Larsen, Town of Creede, Mayor
Josef Lucero, City of Alamosa, Mayor
Kairina Danforth, Town of Crestone-Secretary/Treasurer
Karla Shriver, Rio Grande County Commissioner-Vice Chair
Ken Anderson, Saguache County Commissioner
Larry Kawanabe, Town of Blanca, Trustee
Larry Zaragoza, Mayor, Town of La Jara
Lawrence Pacheco, Costilla County Commissioner
Ramona Weber, Mineral County Commissioner – Chairman
Tom Acre, Town of South Fork, Town Manager

ABSENT

John Sandoval, Conejos County Commissioner
Marty Asplin, Co-Director, Upper Rio Grande Economic Development

Guest(s)

Charlotte Bobicki, Regional Representative, Senator Michael Bennet
Jim Belknap, Director of IT, City of Alamosa

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 Ramona Weber, Chairman at 3:37 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 April 17, 2017. There were none.

Karla Shriver made a Motion to approve the Agenda; Tom Acre seconded, Motion carried.

Kevin asked if there were any changes to be made to the Minutes from January 9, 2017. There were none.

Lawrence Pacheco made a Motion to approve the Board Minutes for January 9, 2017; Karla Shriver seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REVIEW:

- Anne reviewed the financials.
- 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 helping WSB finish up with the audit.

Lawrence Pacheco made a Motion to approve the Financials as of March 31, 2017; Karla Shriver seconded, Motion carried.

Sarah Stoeber:

Sarah reported that the COG Board has approved projects totaling \$50,000 for use by SLV towns and counties. All projects are contracted and at various stages of activity. DOLA quarterly report for mini grants has been submitted. Unless a project comes in under budget, there are no remaining funds for use in 2017.

Kevin gave the following report from Hew Hallock: Website – Update on the SLVDRG’s new Website continues with the information about SLVDRG – “Organization” – now posted. It includes a description of SLVDRG and the other entities for which we are responsible: SLVCOG; SLV Community Action Agency; San Luis Valley Great Outdoors; San Luis Valley Transportation Planning Region; and San Luis Valley Regional Transit Council. The next section, “Programs”, is updated with program descriptions, links and documents about CEDS, enterprise zone, business loan fund. Next up is research and data, community profile, transportation planning, COG mini-grants, and events.

Transportation – The next meeting of the SLV TPR is May 4. At that meeting, members will sign the new Intergovernmental Agreement circulated at and after the last TPR meeting. The IGA establishes the TPR – a regional planning council – by the local governments in the San Luis Valley and Chaffee County. Counties and municipalities are reminded to sign and submit their signature sheets to Hew before May 1. Also, at the May meeting, the group is expected to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement that designates SLVDRG as the agency responsible for managing and administering the TPR.

Kevin reported on COG membership receivables. He said if we received all dues payments the organization would be in the ‘black’ and gave a list of all those who have not paid with their amounts. He reiterated how important dues payment is to the organization.

Tom Acre asked if those mentioned have paid their dues historically. Kevin answered that they have not. Josef Lucero asked what the Bylaws say about attendance. Kevin replied that we’d have to research that information. The question was asked if those who have not paid should be allowed to participate in the broadband study, etc. Kevin asked if those members of the COG board would reach out to the members who have not paid and encourage them to do so.

Ken Anderson will touch base with the Town of Saguache.
Larry Zaragoza will contact Tressesa Martinez with Conejos County.
Tom Acre will be in touch with Town of Center.
Karla Shriver will check with Monte Vista.

Karla Shriver asked about the COG logo on the board packet. Kevin answered that there are currently two COG logos. He hopes to update all the organizational logos, letterhead, branding etc. by creating a style manual.

Kevin raised the topic of discussion regarding a nominating committee and board elections.

Ken Anderson made a Motion to retain the current SLV COG officers for 2017 due to the many changes the organization has gone through in the last year. Lawrence Pacheco seconded; Motion carried.

Kevin then asked the board to consider whether they’d like to have a joint planning session of the COG (quasi-governmental) & the DRG (non-profit). It was decided that the group would like to meet jointly so that both organizations are on the same page. This will give staff a roadmap to what the board want from the group.

There was a lot of discussion regarding the water planning tool. Most of it surrounded the topics of where it should be housed and who shall maintain it. This was tabled until a later meeting.

Mick Daniel is the Director of San Luis Valley Great Outdoors and is currently an independent contractor. His primary goal is to enact the SLVGO’s Master Plan in all 6 counties of the San Luis Valley. Mick has continued the work of SLVGO’s roundtable in which he works with county/state/ federal land managers, stewardship and conservation nonprofits, user groups, and regional schools and universities. He currently has active projects in trails and outdoor recreation in all 6 counties that he is working on. Alamosa: Inspire, Trust for Public Land; Saguache: Eastern San Luis Valley Trails, Alpine Achievers; Costilla: Concept Paper with Ben Doone to GOCO Connect; Conejos: Conejos Clean Water Inspire grant; Mineral County: Disc Golf Course outside of Creede on forest service land; Rio Grande County: South Fork Ice Park idea, 12 Hours of Penitence?

MTB Race, and DiRT (Divide Forest Service Trails Roundtable). He is also tasked with forming a non-profit, working on Board development, and developing a long term funding plan for SLVGO as an entity.

Kairina asked for an update on broadband study and Kevin said there is a meeting later this week and he'll have more information for the board after that meeting. He did say the broadband grant is closed out and the group is having a difficult time coming up with tangible action towards a master plan. We have received the final invoice from the contractor.

Updates from around the region:

Kairina Danforth said Crestone is putting in a trail north of the town. They will have 45 volunteers coming to help build it. They have applied for a CDBG grant; it's in process. They are working on water augmentation. The two mini grants received from the COG have been wonderful. They received one last year and this year a master plan will be done for 8.52 acres of land. They will determine the best use for the land. The Creative Arts District will have a display from creative members of the community.

Karla Shriver said Rio Grande County is dealing with issues with employees and elected officials. There are hiring a new emergency manager and their coroner is new. She thanked the COG for the mini grant and said that because of the one awarded on 2016, they now have signage for Summitville and have built a park shelter with picnic tables. There will be an open house this Saturday at the Rio Grande County Museum from 2-4 p.m. Floyd Getz and Bill Ellithorpe will be on hand to share memories of days gone by. There is an increase in new home construction in the county.

Darius Allen reported that he was able to assist in the raising of \$30,000 at a fund-raiser for a new animal shelter in the region. He was contacted by Douglas and Arapaho counties who also want to be a part of the creation of the shelter. Phillips Petroleum is contributing \$100,000. Preliminary cost is expected to be in the \$300,000 cost range.

Ken Anderson thanked the board for the mini grant award. Saguache County hopes to remodel the airport. Their excise tax is coming in on marijuana. They have hired a code enforcement officer and that is working out well.

Tom Acre said the Town of South Fork is 25 years old. There will be celebrations surrounding this. They are going to enter a 'home rule' vote on the next ballot. He hopes to have ATV issues resolved before the busy summer months.

Larry Zaragoza reported that the Town of La Jara has four new businesses. The town is paving roads. He thanked the board for the mini grant. They hope to use the funds to improve their park. Housing permits for the town have doubled recently. They are focused on getting the town looking nice so that people want to come there. A 38-home subdivision is moving forward. He has been working on this project for several years.

Josef Lucero said the City of Alamosa is working on improving their water quality and upgrading the sewer plant. They have a new dog park on north River Road. Art will be displayed in the central business district over the summer. The feral cat issue is being addressed. People want recreational and medicinal marijuana passed. There is an ordinance for indoor growth of marijuana. They will opt out of SB 152. They have a project going on First Street.

Jim Belknap informed the group that the Ride the Rockies bike ride will be starting in Alamosa this June. The city will provide world-class Wi-Fi for attendees on a test basis.

Lawrence Pacheco said Costilla county is 99% private lands—no public lands. They are wanting to introduce public lands. They are reviewing what has worked and what has not with marijuana. They are re-evaluating their processes. Verizon and Blanca telephones have turned off the tower. Because of this most people are switching to AT&T.

Jeff Larsen thanked the board for the mini grant which will be used to update the town gazebo.

Larry Kawanabe said the Town of Blanca has hired a new town clerk.

Ramona was happy to report that the town was able to save the senior lunch program at a cost of only \$4,000. The remainder of the fees were picked up by grants.

Next Meeting:

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah J. Stoeber, Director Business Development

Kairina Danforth, Secretary/Treasurer