

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

July 10, 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**

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  
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  
Darius Allen, Alamosa County Commissioner  
Jeff Larsen, Town of Creede, Mayor  
Larry Kawanabe, Town Blanca, Trustee  
Larry Zaragoza, Town of La Jara, Mayor

**Guest(s)**

None

**STAFF**

Kevin Wilkins, Executive Director  
Hew Hallock, Director of Research

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ramona Weber at 3:38 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Hew Hallock called roll and a quorum was declared.

**ADDITION/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

The item "Nominating Committee/Membership" was deleted from the agenda.

**MOTION:** Kairina Danforth moved the agenda be approved as deleted.

**SECOND:** Karla Shriver

**ACTION:** Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Lawrence Pacheco moved the minutes of the April 17, 2017, meeting of the SLVCOG Executive Board be approved as submitted.

**SECOND:** Josef Lucero

**ACTION:** Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Kevin Wilkins reviewed the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss, both dated July 12, 2017.

**MOTION:** Kairina Danforth moved the financial statements dated July 12, 2017, be approved as submitted.

**SECOND:** Karla Shriver

**ACTION:** Motion passed.

**REPORT ON MINI GRANTS**

Kevin Wilkins reported all mini grants have been awarded. La Jara has the only project active at this time and receipts for that project are expected soon.

## **REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP RECEIVABLES:**

Kevin Wilkins reported the following:

- A new notice for dues was sent to Monte Vista;
- Outreach is scheduled to Hooper, Antonito, and Romeo.
- Unpaid: Hoopoe, Antonito, Manassa, Romeo, Sanford, Conejos County, Center, and Saguache.
- There are few ramifications for not paying dues. One is ineligibility to apply for a mini grant. The by-laws do have a provision for withdrawing from Colorado Planning Region \*.
- 2018 dues have been sent out and are up .05% from the previous year.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **Water Report Update:**

Hew Hallock reported a training session and tutorial is set for August 14 on how to use the modeling and activity tool created with the Economic Impact Analysis & Regional Activity Tool for Alternative Irrigated Cropping in the San Luis Valley.

Related to the impact analysis, SLVCOG received funding from DOLA to assist with applying the activity tool to tourism in the Valley. However, no funding partners had been found to proceed with the application. If DOLA will allow an in-kind contribution from CSU for professional services by a member of Extension, it might be possible to find a funding partner.

**MOTION:** Tom Acre moved to proceed with applying the activity tool to tourism and DOLA accepting CSU Extension work as an in-kind contribution.

**SECOND:** Kairina Danforth

**ACTION:** Passed

### **2018 Dues Assessment:**

Information covered previously in report on membership receivables.

### **Gateway Condo Association**

Kevin Wilkins reported condo association has approved changing the cost distribution for expenses to 60% from the marketing district and 40% from SLVDRG.

### **Broadband Update**

Kairina Danforth requested on update on broadband.

Kevin Wilkins reported:

- The broadband steering committee would like to have SLV BOCES initiate a fundable project to establish a fiber network with school districts and Adams State University.
- The steering committee has expanded to includes representation from public administrators.
- The challenge to moving forward with a broadband project is finding a project and a champion.
- Alamosa will pursue exemption from SB 52 with a question on the city ballot in November.

### **COG/DRG Retreat:**

Kevin Wilkins reported he would like to engage SLDVRG/COG staff in the boards' retreat in October by having each staff member submit three to five goals for each work area and have the boards prioritize from those goals.

## **BOARDMEMBER REPORTS:**

### **Rio Grande County:**

Karla Shriver reported the county's financial audit is underway.

The county purchased a paving machine.

R&G Associates had responded to an RFP to review the county's code book. The review should be done by October.

The county is working with Upper Rio Grande Economic Development on an RFP to have a feasibility study done on the viability of acquiring the rail line from South Fork to Creede.

### **Alamosa:**

Josef Lucero reported construction is underway on 1<sup>st</sup> Street near SLV Health. The improvement is part of a seven-year plan.

Ground was broken on the new multi-use pavilion.

A new art program was unveiled downtown with the installation of sculptures along Main Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The program has drawn public attention. City elections will be held in November. Four seats on City Council are up for election.

**Crestone:**

Kairina Danforth reported Crestone is considering the future use of 8.52 acres next to Crestone Charter School.

Volunteer work crews from Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and Colorado Mountain Club are building 2.3 miles of trail to North Crestone Campground, part of the Eastern San Luis Valley Trails program.

Following last year's installation of an irrigation system, the town accepted donations for trees to be planted downtown. The trees have been planted along with \$5,000 worth of flowers. All done by volunteers.

**Saguache County:**

Ken Anderson reported the county's code enforcement program is working.

The five percent excise tax on marijuana sales is making a financial difference for the county.

Paving is underway in Crestone and on other county roads.

**Costilla County:**

Lawrence Pacheco reported the Santa Ana y Santiago Festival is this weekend in San Luis.

The county commissioners will hold a hearing July 11 on unpaid property taxes by San Luis Rio Grande Railroad. The county is also concerned about the contents of tanker cars stored on tracks in the county. Another concern is an Xcel Energy agreement with the railroad to build a electric transmission line from Alamosa to Fort Garland.

**South Fork:**

Tom Acre reported the town is now ATV-friendly. A temporary route from the Allington Inn has been negotiated with CDOT. A second route is under development and a third may be in the future.

Sales tax receipts are up 50% from a year ago and up 14% year-to-date.

"Heart and Soul," a community engagement program is underway.

Tom has resigned as town administrator and will be going to Dillon. A search for a new town administrator is underway.

**Mineral County:**

Ramona Weber reported the Mineral County Courthouse will be remodeled following the acquisition of neighboring land.

The County is working with CDOT on covering railroad crossings.

Creede is "busier than ever" with an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 attending the Fourth of July celebration.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Hew Hallock, Director of Research

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Kairina Danforth, Secretary/Treasurer