



MINUTES

**Regular Meeting
February 24, 2022
10:30 am**

Members Present

Christie Ann Harvey
Mayor Esequiel Salas
Tisha Green
Tim Zamora
Priscilla Shoup
Kristy Ortiz
Mayor Jacob Bigler
Joni Taylor
Bridget Payne
Mayor Richard Bauch
Alex Brown
Charles Turner
Jessica Etcheverry
Linda Farnsworth
Tom Lovett
Nanette Day

Others Present

Priscilla Lucero
Emily Gojkovich
Kitty Clemens
Jessie St. Clair
Cerisse Grijalva
Jaqueline Waite

Members Not Present

Aaron Sera
Carlos Romero
Misty Pugmire
Shelia Hudman
Vicki Chavez
Eric McSpadden
Hilda Keller
Kathleen Cahill
Dusty Hunt
Dora Gonzales
Joyce Barela
Joseph Shepard
Gilbert Cruz
Ron Belanger

Luna County
Village of Columbus
Hidalgo County
Grant County
Grant County
City of Bayard
Village of Virden
Village of Virden
Village of Virden
Village of Santa Clara
Town of Silver City
Deming Public Schools
Deming Public Schools
City of Lordsburg
NM New Ditch Association
Town of Hurley

SWNMCOG
SWNMCOG
SWNMCOG
SWNMCOG
SWNMCOG
EMNRD

City of Deming
Playas Training Center
El Grito Head Start
Village of Santa Clara
Deming Schools
Hidalgo SWCD
Village of Reserve
GRMC
Grant County SWCD
SW Solid Waste Authority
Cobre Schools
WNMU
Hanover MDWCA
Arenas Valley MDWCA

Deming, NM
Columbus, NM
Lordsburg, NM
Silver City, NM
Silver City, NM
Bayard, NM
Virden, NM
Virden, NM
Virden, NM
Santa Clara, NM
Silver City, NM
Deming, NM
Deming, NM
Lordsburg, NM
Virden, NM
Hurley, NM

Silver City, NM
Silver City, NM
Silver City, NM
Silver City, NM
Silver City, NM
Silver City, NM
Santa Fe, NM

Deming, NM
Socorro, NM
Silver City, NM
Santa Clara, NM
Deming, NM
Lordsburg, NM
Reserve, NM
Silver City, NM
Silver City, NM
Silver City, NM
Bayard, NM
Silver City, NM
Hanover, NM
Arenas Valley, NM



Johnny Coburn
Elmo Gomez
Wayne Ashby
Diana Jiron
Anna Flores

Casas Adobes MDWCA
Rosedale MDWCA
Rancho Grande MDWCA
Lake Roberts MDWCA
Tyrone TPOA

Mimbres, NM
Silver City, NM
Reserve, NM
Lake Roberts, NM
Tyrone, NM

- I. Vice Chair Alex Brown called the regular board meeting of the Southwest Council of Governments to order on Thursday, February 24 at 10:30am
- II. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Jessie St. Clair roll called members; quorum was present
- IV. Vice Chair Brown asked for the approval of the agenda, Mayor Bauch made the motion to approve the agenda, Priscilla Shoup seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.
- V. Members each introduced themselves. Presenter Jaqueline Waite from EMNRD was introduced to the board by Priscilla Lucero.
- VI. Vice Chair Brown asked for approval of consent agenda items, Mayor Bauch made the motion to approve the consent agenda items, Christy Anne Harvey seconded; all in favor, motion carried.
- VII. New Business
 - A. Jaqueline Waite from EMNRD gave a presentation about the grid modernization grant program that would support implementation of a modern grid. She gave the board examples of eligible applicants which include municipalities, counties, state agencies, state universities, public schools, and Indian Nations. Alex Brown asked about project types and if more charging stations would be able to be funded, which Jaqueline said it most likely would. Jaqueline left the board her contact information and encourage members to reach out to her.
 - B. Priscilla Lucero reported that the NMDOT increase for the 2023-24 fiscal year would be \$5,000 with a 25% match.
- VIII. Old Business:
- IX. Receive Economic Recovery Report- Kitty reported to the board that the CoStarters program in Luna County had 19 starters enrolled. Lordsburg will have 3 starters graduating. 4 new trained facilitators have been added. She further reported that approximately 92 people have gone through the program with 47 successful businesses started. There is a 50% startup rate and she explained that this is a strong metric with entrepreneur programs. Kitty reported on the NM broadband collect. She explained that 10 destinations in New Mexico applied and received technical assistance grant, including Silver City and Deming.



- X. Receive Economic Development Report – Emily reported that she is wrapping up the Luna County Comp. Plan for March 10th. She asked for everyone’s help with the Synchronist regional data base program so input can be added. If communities can add who they have contacted, she will be able to run reports on the data provided. She further reported that the Imagination Library is now serving 30 counties. Only 3 more counties need to be added before all of New Mexico will be included in the program. Emily explained that the revolving loan fund application that she had asked the board to approve from the EDA had no more money to apply for, so that is no longer an option. She reported that she is now a part of a rural partner network with USDA and other federal departments to help find issues with grant money. She is the liaison for Luna and Hidalgo counties. Emily thanked Priscilla for nominating her for the Dallon Sanders award for economic development, in which she received at the recent NMIDEA conference.
- XI. Receive Transportation Report – Cerisse reported to the board that the RTPO meeting will be held March 10th at 10am. This meeting will be virtual. She added that the RTPO will have a public meeting the last week in March. She reported that transportation project fund applications are due on May 31st and that RTPO will be hosting a few presentations with various presenters. Cerisse explained that the statistical abstract will be completed soon. Cerisse reported that there will be a \$45 million DOT bridge replacement fund, 15% goes to local.
- XII. Receive Executive Director’s Report – Priscilla encouraged members to participate in the RTPO process to benefit their community with infrastructure plan money. She reported that the audit will be late due to COVID related issues and staffing with the auditor but it should be ready in March. She explained that many communities are having issues with their auditors and that she has reached out to DFA to not punish communities because of this. Priscilla reminded the board that the NM unit Fund has \$91 million so to please start public input meetings to explain public comments. She also explains that there shouldn’t be a rush to spend this money but to use all of the infrastructure plan money first and use for future needs. Priscilla explains that CDBG will run in the same cycle with applications due in June. The ICIP process is on normal schedule with trainings in April. Colonias funds are at 38 million but may be more. Priscilla explained to the board that she wanted to acknowledge the hard work of Kitty and Emily with CoStarters and that it is being recognized at the state level. Priscilla reported that a crisis management fund in next year’s legislation would provide emergency funds for water, equipment, solid waste and other assistance. Housing legislation was passed for funding opportunities for homelessness, and home rehab and weatherization.
- XIII. Receive Reports from Members. There were no reports from members.
- XIV. Next Regular Board Meeting to be held June 30th 2022
- XV. Major Salas made the motion to adjourn, Christie Anne Harvey seconded; all in favor, motion carried.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Sera".

Aaron Sera, Chairman

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Priscilla C. Lucero".

Priscilla Lucero, Secretary