



MINUTES

Board Meeting
Silver City Town Annex
1203 N. Hudson, Silver City, NM 88061
February 29, 2024
10:30 am

Members Present

Aaron Sera
Randy Hernandez
Chris Brice
Pablo Montoya
Larry Ojinaga
Gabriel Ramos
Robert Livingston
Darlene McBride
Alan Berg
Jessica Etcheverry
William Hawkins
Frank Christensen
Robert Whitaker
Erica Valdez
George Peru
Aimee Samuel
Michael Koury

City of Deming
Grant County
Luna County
Luna County
City of Bayard
City of Bayard
Casas Adobes MDWCA
Town of Hurley
Tyrone WWA
Deming Schools
Silver Schools
San Francisco SWCD
GRMC
NM Tech/Playas Training Center
El Grito Head Start
Hidalgo SWCD
Cobre Schools

Deming, NM
Silver City, NM
Deming, NM
Deming, NM
Bayard, NM
Bayard, NM
Mimbres, NM
Hurley, NM
Tyrone, NM
Deming, NM
Silver City, NM
Glenwood, NM
Silver City, NM
Playas, NM
Silver City, NM
Lordsburg, NM
Bayard, NM

Others Present

Priscilla Lucero
Gabriel Ortega
Cerisse Grijalva
Kristy Ortiz
Jeff Payne
Trisha Korbas

SWNMCOG
SWNMCOG
SWNMCOG
USDA-RPN
MFA
USDOC/EDA

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

Members Not Present

Alex Brown
Agatha King
Hilda Keller
Phillip Skinner
Joseph Shepard
Gilbert Cruz
Ron Belanger
Lynn Jones

Town of Silver City
Quemado Lake Assoc.
Village of Reserve
Village of Columbus
WNMU
Hanover MDWCA
Arenas Valley MDWCA
Rosedale MDWCA

Silver City, NM
Quemado, NM
Reserve, NM
Columbus, NM
Silver City, NM
Hanover, NM
Arenas Valley, NM
Silver City, NM

Southwest
New Mexico
Council of Governments

Strengthening Those We Serve
Hidalgo • Catron • Luna • Grant



Diana Jiron
Sheila Hudman
Armando Aguilera
Linda Farnsworth
Jacob Bigler
Tisha Green

Lake Roberts MDWCA
Village of Santa Clara
Grant County SWCD
City of Lordsburg
Village of Virden
Hidalgo County

Lake Roberts, NM
Santa Clara, NM
Silver City, NM
Lordsburg, NM
Virden, NM
Lordsburg, NM

- I. Chairman Aaron Sera called the Annual Board Meeting of the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments to order on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 10:31 A.M.
- II. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Gabriel Ortega roll called members; quorum was present.
- IV. Chairman Sera asked for the approval of the agenda, Chris Brice made the motion to approve the agenda, Gabriel Ramos seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.
- V. All present introduced themselves.
- VI. Chairman Sera asked for the approval of Consent Agenda items, Alan Berg made the motion to approve the consent agenda items, Frank Christensen seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.
- VII. New Business
 - A. Jeff Payne, NM Mortgage Finance Authority – Jeff handed out a presentation of the housing programs through NMFA and spoke on the various programs.
 - B. Trisha Korbas, EDA – Trisha presented on EDA programs and a handout was given to members.
 - C. Approval/Disapproval of Resolution #COG 23-24-5 Approving Per Diem Rates Act. Priscilla explained there was a slight increase in the new per diem act and the COG is requesting to adopt the new 2024 rates. William Hawkins made the motion to approve Resolution #COG 23-24-5 Approving New Per Diem Rates Act, Chris Brice seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.
 - D. Approval/Disapproval of Amendment of Gila Regional Medical Center Agreement on Extension of Time. Priscilla explained this is the for the EDA award for admin we are currently doing for the CARES award, and requesting an extension to get all the documents in in a timely manner. William Hawkins made the motion to approve the amendment of Gila Regional Medical Center Agreement on extension of time, Gabriel Ramos seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.



- E. Approval/Disapproval of Resolution #COG 23-24-6 of Amendment of Budget. Priscilla explained the state association has currently given the COG the first \$250,000 to hire staff for State New Mexico Association of Regional Councils to develop the process in assisting with the program and act as a fiscal agent. Gabriel Ramos made the motion to approve Resolution #COG 23-24-6 of Amendment of Budget, Frank Christensen seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.
- F. Approval/Disapproval of Payments In Excess of \$5,000 for Imagination Library. Priscilla explained as per policy we have to get an approval of any expense over \$5,000 and with this we have an expense over this amount for Imagination Library's Bernalillo County, and Grant County. We administer and serve 33 counties in the state. Frank Christensen made the motion to approve Payments in Excess of \$5,000 for Imagination Library, Robert Livingston seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.
- G. Approval/Disapproval of SWREDA Conference in Oklahoma City. Priscilla explained this is to approve her travel to attend the annual SWREDA (Southwest Region Economic Development Association) conference in Oklahoma City. Gabriel Ramos made the motion to approve Priscilla attending the SWREDA Conference in Oklahoma City, Chris Brice seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.

VIII. Old Business:

- IX. Receive Transportation Report- Cerisse announced the Town of Silver City was currently awarded the Bronze Award for Bicycle Friendly Community through the League of American Bicyclists. This award goes until year 2027 and then will have to reapply for the designation. She also explained the call for projects for the Transportation Project Fund is currently out and any new projects need to be put into a new Project Feasibility Form and turned into her by April 5, 2024. A meeting with NMDOT D1 will then take place the morning of April 10, 2024, and complete applications for TPF are due May 31, 2024. So complete applications are due to her by May 24th so she can review before the submittal date. A ranking meeting will take place in May and she will keep members informed on when that will be and is also going to be revising the ranking sheet, and will send that out when it is completed. She lastly announced there is a transportation engineering conference coming up April 17-19th in Las Cruces, and will send out the information on that.
- X. Receive Executive Director's Report- Priscilla announced there is some state funding in the amount of \$15 million for EV charging stations and the application process will be similar to the TPF. She also mentioned there are no recreation facility funds this year. There will be a Tourism Commission Meeting held March 18th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Grant County Conference Center, and a NM True Tour held March 19th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the City of Deming where available funding will be discussed. Also, the congressional direct spending requests are available. There will be a rural voices forum by RPN (rural partners network) on March 12, 2024 at Las Cruces Farm and Ranch. A new item out of the legislative session is the house bill 2 jr money. It is now funneling through the COGs for COGs to administer the dollars for projects



within their areas in which the legislators have designated in what areas they want to see the money go to. The COGs will have this for 2 years and will receive a 10% administration fee. The Southwest COG will receive about \$1.4 million and Mid-Region COG will receive about \$11.5 million. Also, during legislative session there was a request for more money to COGs and for the match requirement to be waived, that was not approved therefore, COGs still receive \$99,000/yr. There will be more money for capacity building to aide in grant writing. She also explained the COG audit was due December 1, 2023 and we have still not received the report and are now 3 months overdue. The auditors said we should have the report in the 3rd week of March and will do the exit interview at that time as well.

- XI. Receive Reports from Members – No reports were given.
- XII. Next Regular Board Meeting to be held April 25, 2024.
- XIII. Chris Brice made the motion to adjourn; Gabriel Ramos seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.

Aaron Sera, Chairman

Attest:

Priscilla Lucero, Secretary