

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, November 13, 2018 | 7:00 a.m.

Windsor Hotel & Restaurant | Del Norte

Attendees: Marty Asplin, Larry Crowder, Donald Valdez, Jim Clare, Roni Wisdom, Tom Slade, Linda Robinson, Dan Hicks, Suzanne Bothell, Suzanne Benton, Shon Davis, Bernadette Martinez, Gary Johnson, Pam Bricker, Tom Monaco, Gene Glover, Traci Holmes, Andrea Oaks-Jaramillo, Bonnie Asplin, Karla Shriver, John Noffske, Kairina Danforth

- I. **Call to Order** 7:13 by President, Tom Slade.
- II. **Present Agenda:** M/S by Bonnie Asplin/; Pam Bricker; approved
- III. **Minutes of the October 9, 2018 meeting:** M/S for approval as presented by Roni Wisdom/Karla Shriver; approved
- IV. **Director's Report:**
 - a. Press releases to Valley Publishing and Valley Courier for September general meeting.
 - b. Two familiarization tours for prospective Rio Grande Hospital and Clinics' physicians.
 - c. Letter of support for Colorado Rides.
 - d. Attended Economic Development Council of Colorado annual conference, Estes Park.
 - e. Created CEDS 5-year strategic plan draft for URGED/RGC in collaboration with Roni Wisdom
- V. **Business:**
 - a. Election process for 2019 Board Members. The four board members whose terms are expiring have all agreed to run for another term. Tom asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, Tom invited motion to close nominations - M/S for approval Pam Bricker/Gene Glover.
 - b. Jim Claire explained about the noxious weed law and the problems noxious weeds cause. The grant program is working with counties on the grant process. Can get the grant as an individual, town etc. There will be a meeting November 26th on the grant process.
- VI. **Program:** URGED – A 2018 Economic Update presented by Marty Asplin. Marty went over how in 2018 Key Industries in Rio Grande County have grown, adding jobs to our region. Ag Conference February 7, 2018 brought attention to SLV Hemp Co. and hemp growing, plus value added ag processing of hemp parts. SLV Hemp has a processing plant and retail outlet – The Trading Post - in Del Norte. They are now working with a large national food chain, which could result in an uptick in processing. Construction at Rio Grande Hospital is complete, with an additional 13,835 sq. ft. There has been a 4% increase in staff. They have added wound care services with a hyperbaric chamber; enlarged their physical therapy; and added a new emergency department with security and a new conference area. They will soon add specialties such as cardiac rehabilitation, women's health and orthopedic surgery. They have a payroll of over 7.5 million a year. Proximity Malt is doing multi-micro brews. They have a 5% increase in workforce - now with 21 employees. Their customer base continues to grow. They have added new barley strains to the valley specific to micro-breweries. River Valley Inn is flourishing. Community Open House for Flight Week: Unmanned Aircraft Atmospheric Research at Leach Airport. SLV has potential to test UAVs in 25 of the 26 points. At the Frontier Drive-In site, the new screen is up and the project

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booth is completed. They are getting ready for new power and water and sewer. 2018 Marketing highlights: Branding – SLV Genuine Colorado. The SLV is projected to see the fastest growth of the six regions over the next five years. A key finding just released in manufacturing study analyzing Colorado manufacturing skills and supply chain opportunities. We would like to see the raw farm product be processed here and exported, thus increasing the Valley's manufacturing potential.

VII. **Regular Reports:**

- a) *Rio Grande County* – Budget is winding down. Breana is a big part of the SLV training. Were able to get the state weed board to have their meeting here. The county applied for historical designation but did not get it. The Budget hearing is November 26th. Road and Bridge is gearing up for snow. Public Health did their round of flu shots. Our assessor, JJ, is going through a software change.
- b) *Monte Vista* – Heavily concentrated on economic development with the support of its citizens. It has been an interesting struggle. Been working with Kevin regarding Opportunity Zones. This has been under-utilized. A lot of it has to do with promotion. Working with business to come into town. Have been talking to folks on the Front Range. URGED website has a link to an extremely well-made video about Monte Vista as an Opportunity Zone, including a section where Kevin Wilkins explains clearly how the Opportunity Zone program works.
- c) *Del Norte* – Is finally going into pre-construction on a new and upgraded sewer system. Of the 3 bidders, RMS got the bid. Parade of Lights is December 7th. Applied for a DOLA Grant to put in a water line.
- d) *South Fork* – Yule Tide extravaganza. Large group of folks donating their time and money. Kicking it off the day after Thanksgiving with music etc. Visitor center has begun their remodel. There is a new sheriff in town for the county. This has created an opening for S.F. police chief.
- e) *Mineral County, Creede/ReWACT* – Mineral County held a public meeting on train tracks and have moved forward with that conversation. Creede is looking for a new city manager.
- f) *Saguache County/Center/Crestone* – Crestone is working on their sidewalks. Should be completed new spring. They will be colored.
- g) *SLVSBDC* – Has a new employee, Erin Keck. She is the chamber growth coordinator and program coordinator with SMBC. Doing an Entrepreneurship Workshop on December 6th, which is limited to 40 people, where they will unveil their programs for 2019. They will be doing an agriculture business focus. If we can make the valley receptive to new technology, we can attract other companies here. There will be a series of Professional Development Opportunity training sessions with ASU on Customer Service/Care.

VIII. **Next Meeting:** December 11, 2018, Mountain View Restaurant, Monte Vista, with program by Josh Cody of the Colorado Malting Company

IX. **Adjourn:** Approved after motion and second at 8:26.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson