

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, September 11, 2018 | 7:00 a.m.

The Windsor Hotel | Del Norte

**Attendees:** Marty Asplin, Shon Davis, Larry Crowder, Tom Slade, Bernadette Martinez, Dan Hicks, Gene Glover, Linda Robinson, Forrest Neuerburg, Gene Farish, Joelle Boos-Medina, Tom Monaco, Nick Sablan, Traci Holmes, Pam Bricker, Roni Wisdom, Andrea Oaks-Jaramillo, Erin Minks, Kathy Rogers, Kevin Wilkins, Mike Hurst, and Bonnie Asplin

- I. **Call to Order** 7:15 by President, Tom Slade. A moment of silence in memory of 9-11.
- II. **Present Agenda:** M/S by Roni Wisdom/Kathy Rogers; approved
- III. **Minutes of the July 10, 2018 meeting:** M/S for approval as presented by Pam Bricker/Roni Wisdom; approved
- IV. **Director's Report:**
  - a. Working with SLV Hemp on demographic data and statistics for venture capital outreach.
  - b. Signed up for the Rural Local Initiative Support Corporations (LISC) Rural eNews. Bonnie handed out a copy of the newsletter and will be forwarding the newsletter each month when it comes out. It is excellent source of funding and finance opportunities.
  - c. Pre-application meeting in South Fork. Gathered statistical information and composed narrative to make the case that South Fork is a disadvantaged community for purpose of CDPHE Loan Program.
  - d. Submitted application to join USDA Rural Development, Rural Workforce Innovation Network (RWIN). They are now looking to put federal money to re-train workers.
- V. **Business:**
  - a. We are starting the election process for the 2019 Board Members. Tom asked if anyone is interested in being a Board Member. Shon Davis, Bernadette Martinez, Forrest Neuerburg and Roni Wisdom have agreed to run another year. Let the membership know if you are interested at the next, October 9, meeting.
  - b. Example of Economic Development: Marty showed an Adventure Pro video about mountain biking at Bishop Rock in SLV. Adventure Pro Magazine services all of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona. Marketing outreach on things like this is stunning. It is great to have other people bragging about us. A copy of a recent Adventure Pro Magazine article was handed out.
- VI. **Programs:**
  - a. Nick Sablan of Rio Grande County Workforce Training gave a presentation on how they are working with employers to train workers. It is a way to help people gain skills, learn self-sufficiency, keep them off social services, and break generational cycles. They ask the potential employee what they would like to do and try and match them with an employer in that field. They use various training sources, including TSJC, the internet, and local work force center. The training is paid for through the program and the employer has the opportunity to hire the employee once training has been completed. The program marries the needs of the employer and the employee through internship as well as on-the-job training programs. Nick handed out a flyer explaining the process. The program was offered to 54 counties and Rio Grande County,

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joined with Mineral and Conejos Counties, was the only one to take this on. The program has been in place for one year and has been very successful with the best retention rate in the state. Questions and answers followed

- b. Kevin Wilkins – SLV Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. It is time to do their 5-year update. Still need to do the gathering of data, but when it comes to actual strategies itself they are looking to the economic groups to supply the goals and specific actions: who does what, when and what are the benchmarks. Talk to Marty and Bonnie to discuss those goals. This will go into Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). A flyer was passed out explaining the goals. All current CEDS can be seen at [slvdrg.org](http://slvdrg.org).

VII. **Regular Reports:**

- a) *Rio Grande County* – They are just starting their budget. They did get approval to move on the restroom vault in Summitville. Still have a few roads to pave. Cindy Hill thanks you for your patience and understanding on the new motor vehicle system recently put in place.
- b) *Monte Vista* – Had a great National Night Out celebration. It was a fun event and served 326 hamburgers. Potato Festival was well attended. A lot of people and vendors were there. They received a planning Grant from DOLA to work on the Ski Hi Park. Sewer Project is in Phase 4. Received a mini grant from DRG COG. They are starting their budget and considering an increase in sales tax.
- c) *Del Norte* – The sewer project has gone out to bid. Hoping to start work by the end of October. Working with the school regarding the buildings. There will be a question on the November ballot regarding a 2% sales tax increase. Oktoberfest is September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- d) *South Fork* – Started with a quiet summer due to the fires. It has since picked up with a lot of people still spending the night. Rhythms on the Rio was a huge success. It was the biggest turnout to date with over 1200 tickets sold. Had between 700-800 people camping in RV's. The town is focusing on becoming ATV friendly. They are opening all roads except 2 to ATVs. They have hired Element Engineering to do the roads connecting to the ATV trails. This includes putting a bridge over the Rio Grande for ATV travel. Their other focus is the water system. They are in step 3 of 10. Hope to complete all 10 steps by this time next year.
- e) *Saguache* – They are moving forward with their school and sewer projects.
- f) *Alamosa* – Early Iron was very successful. The public art has been changed and is looking quite nice. Courthouse project is behind schedule. Their Chamber is having their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Oktoberfest in a couple weeks.
- g) *SLVSBDC* – Still doing outreach. Tom Monaco will be in Monte Vista next Friday. Send people his way if they need help.
- h) *Other* – October 12<sup>th</sup> the Action 22 Annual Summit in Pueblo

VIII. **Next Meeting:** October 9, place to be determined in Monte Vista.

IX. **Program:** Sara Blackhurst, President of Action 22

X. **Adjourn:** Approved upon a motion by Forrest Neuerburg second by Gene Glover; approved at 8:21.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson