

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, February 12, 2019 | 7:00 a.m.

Mountain View Restaurant | Monte Vista

Attendees: Forrest Neuerburg, Jim Clare, Shanan Wright, Dion Oakes, Marty Asplin, Corbett Hefner, Linda Robinson, Earl Robinson, Gene Farish, Tom Slade, Andrea Oaks-Jaramillo, Bonnie Asplin, Pam Bricker, Kathy Rogers, Traci Holmes, Kevin Wilkins, Randy Wright, Gigi Dennis, Gene Glover, Monte Robertson, Kat Olanice, Hanh Nguyen, James Lerner, Charlotte Hefner, Larry Gardner, Brendon Maston, Patrick Shea, Cheryl Santi, and John Hoffsker.

Call to Order 7:10 by President, Andrea Oaks-Jaramillo.

- I. **Present Agenda:** M/S for approval by Bonnie Asplin/Gene Glover; approved.
- II. **Minutes of the January 8, 2018 meeting:** M/S for approval as presented by Jim Clare/Pam Bricker; approved
- III. **Director's Report:**
 - a. Presented Power Point and participated in SLV Conservation & Connection Initiative Workshop, A Community Re-granting Program.
 - b. Attended the SLV Power Luncheon Series, "Cloud Technology," at the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce.
 - c. Worked with Monte Vista Chamber on "MountainFilm On Tour" Film Fest.
 - d. Attended the Rio Grande and Conejos County Social Service Employer Round-up, through the "Colorado Works: Subsidized Training and Employment Program (CW STEP)" – recipient of the state funded department of labor and human services grant, of which Rio Grande, Mineral and Conejos Counties are the only rural participants.
- IV. **Business:**

One Example of E.D. – Marty spoke about the San Luis Valley Opportunity Zone Training.
- V. **Program:** Corbett Hefner, Vice President Research and Development/Business Development of Power Zone Equipment Inc./Formation Ag, gave a power point presentation showing some products that can be derived from hemp and some of the equipment they design and produce. Formation Ag was set up to manufacture equipment for harvest, fiber extraction, processing equipment and grain cleaning. They do not grow hemp. There are three primary hemp markets: Cannabidiol oil, grain products and stalks. CBD oil is used for health and wellness. It is the external part of the crop. You can get 104 different kinds of oil. The body is a natural receptor for this oil. From the grain you can get seed oil, salad dressing, lotions, protein powder, flour and animal supplements. hemp hearts, produce protein powder, flour and animal supplements. The stalk produces cordage, rope, textile, erosion control and batteries. The stalk fiber is one of the most absorbent materials to absorb oil spills. Hemp is hard on equipment. It is tough and somewhat rot resistant. Farmers frequently have to check equipment to make sure the fiber isn't wrapping around the blades which then could cause a fire. Power Zone employs 42 people. 6 in assembly and fabrication. They do all the R & D in house. They plan on adding another 10-20 people as the hemp market develops. The equipment is built according to the customer's needs. They can add parts to farmer's existing equipment. They try to build to be adaptable as they want the farmers to be able to make money. They can't make the equipment fast enough.

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VI. **Regular Reports:**

- a) *Rio Grande County* – Gene Glover reported that they are without Roni Wisdom now. She has taken a job in Alamosa. Going to Denver to DA funding.
- b) *Monte Vista* – Forrest Neuerburg reported just finished up their sewer project. The main water pumps quit and had to spend \$100,000 fixing it. Hope to have it repaired by April 2nd. Working on Ski Hi renovation projects. They are also finishing up year end and getting ready for the auditors. He is glad Power Zone picked Monte Vista for their new location.
- c) *Del Norte* – Gene Farish, town attorney reported the they are moving ahead with their water project. There is a new tap house going in.
- d) *South Fork* –Town attorney, Gene Farish report that the town has acquired three water systems to date.
- e) *Mineral County, Creede/ReWACT* – ReWACT had money to be spent by end of the year. They are transferring those funds to the radar project going in Alamosa. We will soon have accurate weather.
- f) *Saguache County/Center/Saguache/Crestone* – Kevin Wilkins reported that Saguache has hired a new Economic Development person. Working on their sewer project and new school.
- g) *Alamosa* - Kathy Rogers reported they just finished their Ice Fest. The Art Gala is this Friday. The ASU annual meeting is in a couple of days. They will be making a decision on the new president. Dr. Lovel is the interim president and they might make her permanent.
- h) *SLVSBDC* – N/A
- i) *SLVDRG/COG* – Kevin Wilkins reported Opportunity Zone Training at 11:00. It will be a great training session.
- j) *Other* – Kat Olance reported that our new Colorado Tourism Office region is the Mystic San Luis Valley and that the SLV Tourism Conference is coming up at ASU on February 21, 2019. Pam Bricker gave a quick review of the biggest takeaways (Gallagher and TABOR solutions, rural education and workforce development, and current water challenges) from the Action 22, annual Voices of Rural Colorado held in Denver on Jan 24 and 25. Jim Clare gave a brief report on the success of the Ag Conference and the upcoming Crane Fest and Home and Garden Club Show.

VII. **Next Meeting:** March 12, 2019, at Mountain View Restaurant, with program by Cleave Simpson – GM Rio Grande Water Conservation District

VIII. **Adjourn:** at 8:04

Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson