

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, May 14, 2019 | 7:00 a.m.

Windsor Hotel | Del Norte

**Attendees:** Cleave Simpson, Jim Clare, Larry Crowder, Marty Asplin, Linda Robinson, Bonnie Asplin, Tom Slade, Andrea Oaks-Jaramillo, Tom Monaco, Pam Bricker, Kathy Woods, Traci Holmes, Gene Glover, Lyndsie Ferrell, Brent Logan, Mike Hurst, Suzanne Benton, Dan Hicks, Erin Minks, Tricia Slater, and Suzanne Bothell.

**Call to Order** 7:12 by President, Andrea Oaks-Jaramillo.

- I. **Present Agenda:** M/S for approval by Bonnie/Kathy; approved.
- II. **Minutes of the January 8, 2018 meeting:** M/S for approval as presented by Tom/Jim; approved
- III. **Director's Report:**
  - a. Attended Grand Opening of the newly renovated Community Center and Town Call in Moffat.
  - b. Lots of research of CDOT, DOLA & CDPHE report document, Colorado Downtown Streets, for the Town of Del Norte and Monte Vista Chamber. Addresses highways running through towns. Information on what can be done, etc.
  - c. Maintenance and updates to URGED Address Book, focusing on the Investor Member list.
  - d. SLV SBDC, Tom Monaco and Corey Finney, Fund Manager, Greater Colorado Venture Fund.
  - e. Consulted with KMS about making decision on closing their store.
  - f. Met with Monte Vista Airport Advisory Committee
  - g. Attended Rio Grande County Land Use Development Code Review and Update Open House – discussion of commercial and industrial codes and zoning; and land development code procedures, application and review.
  - h. Attended SLV Wetland and Wildlife Conservation Assessment.
  - i. Met with man with snakebite, hospital and reporter to help keep the incident under control.
- IV. **Business:**

One Example of Economic Development – At the Annual Meeting Joe DeLuca discussed that a healthy economy requires diversity and what is required to be proactive.
- V. **Program:** Cleave Simpson, General Manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, gave a power point presentation, broadening the discussion of the State of the Basin, 2019. The first water right took place in the Valley in 1852 which set the stage for the current appropriation system that is used today. He explained how the system gives senior water rights to be delivered to recipients in a tiered structure, giving the oldest water right owners water first. By the early 1900's there was not enough water supply to raise crops. With the surface water limited they started drilling wells to obtain water. In the 1960's the State of Colorado passed legislature required water right applicants to get permits before digging wells. The wells were having an impact on the river system. This caused tension between surface water rights and ground water rights. He explained that in the past two years we have been in extreme drought. In a PowerPoint slide, he showed the changes in water levels from the 1850's through today. In 2002 the acres per feet dropped to the lowest they had ever been. He then went on to report record highs for the year now at 183 percent as of May 14. The conservation district monitors 300,000 acres of the underground aquifer. They continue to monitor companies who try to buy and move water up to the front range. So far, they have won but it will continue to be a battle. He reported

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that the water community was instrumental in having a doppler radar in Alamosa by the end of the month.

VI. **Regular Reports:**

- a) *Rio Grande County* – Suzanne Bothel announced that they have a new administrator, Trish Slater, who is replacing Roni Wisdom. They are working on the Land Use Code Book and are hoping to get it done this summer. The Airport is building a new lounge for pilots and new hangers are being built.
- b) *Monte Vista* – Marty Asplin reported that the Dirt Drags will be in June by the Movie Manor. They are older cars running on dirt runways. The Mountain Film festival sold out last year. This year they have it lined up on September 12<sup>th</sup> at the drive-in.
- c) *Del Norte* – Marty Asplin reported that 3 track hoes are coming down the alleys putting in the new sewer pipes and liners which will make the existing clay pipes good for another 40 years. The town will have concerts in the park. The boutique motel, Mellow Moon, is open and ready for business.
- d) *South Fork* – Dan Hicks discussed their water issues. They have obtained 5 systems and will split them in two. They are hoping to break ground this year. They are working on putting together standards for water usage. They are working to put a marketing plan in place. Hired a new finance manager, Grace Garcia, who is also their water manager. She obtained her water certificate for the town.
- e) *Mineral County, Creede/ReWACT* – Mineral County courthouse is nearing completion. Creede Memorial Day donkey dash is June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- f) *Saguache County/Center/Saguache/Crestone* – no report.
- g) *Alamosa* – Kathy Woods is now the new economic development manager.
- h) *SLV SBDC* – Now under the DRG. Working on all their programming.
- i) *SLVDRG/COG* – No report ....
- j) *Other* – None

VII. **Next Meeting:** June 11, 2019, at Mountain View Restaurant, with program by Dr. Cheryl D. Lovell, President, Adams State University – New Programming and the SLV

VIII. **Adjourn:** at 8:28

Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson