

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, July 9, 2019 | 7:00 a.m.

The Windsor Hotel | Del Norte

Attendees: Lyndsie Ferrell, Jim Clare, Tom Monaco, Marty Asplin, Linda Robinson, Forrest Neuerburg, Bonnie Asplin, Dr. Liz Hensley, Shon Davis, Larry Crowder, Tom Slade, Brent Logan, Gene Farish, Traci Holmes, Gene Glover, Deanne Elliott, Tricia Slater, Kathy Woods, Dixie Diltz, Suzanne Bothell, and Pam Bricker.

Call to Order 7:11 by Vice President, Forrest Neuerburg after everyone had filled their plates at a delicious breakfast buffet.

- I. **Present Agenda:** M/S for approval by Bonnie Asplin/Kathy Woods; approved.
- II. **Minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting:** M/S for approval as presented by Shon Davis/Gene Glover; approved
- III. **Director's Report:**
 - a. Attended the Rio Grande Hospital Expansion Dedication ceremony and dinner.
 - b. IEDC webinar – Feeding the Masses and Your Economy; food -centric economic development strategies to stay ahead of the competition.
 - c. SLV Hemp film, “Bringing it Home; Industrial Hemp Houses and a Greener Future for America. Makes us realize how important hemp products are. ASU is working to revitalizing that industry.
 - d. Working on additions to itinerary tours and field guides on Colorado.com; 101 Things to Do in the SLV; seasonal Rio Grande Visitor Guides.
 - e. Economic Development Council of Colorado, South Central Regional day-long forum – regionalism, readiness, adaptive reuse, workforce development, and Opportunity Zone.
 - f. Completed second annual report for investors. It is pretty much a bullet list of what we've done.
 - g. Working on the SLV Economic Summit – August 5th (Save the Date, Invitation, program agenda, food, logistics, etc.
- IV. **Business:** One Example of Economic Development – Formation Ag found a building that would meet their needs for expansion. They worked with the County Commissioners regarding the building codes. Six months later they have 20 full time employees. They are receiving a volume of orders that exceed their current production capability and briefly stopped taking new orders. They continue to grow and are shipping internationally.
- V. **Program:** Dr. Liz Hensley, Professor of Marketing/MBA Director at Adams State University. Dr. Hensley presented the 2017 ASU and TSJC Higher Education Impact Analysis and Report for the SLV and Colorado that was conducted by three ASU students and herself. In her presentation she pointed out the economic impacts that ASU and Trinidad State College bring to the Valley through students and employees. ASU and TSJC benefit four major areas of the SLV Community. 1) Advocate Economic Development – Through joint efforts, SLV has seen improvements in quality of life and economic well-being. 2) Faculty members provide expertise to local businesses and community members including arts, businesses, non-profits, and sciences. 3) Both institutions incorporate successful programs that provide a consistent flow of individuals ready for the SLV workforce. 4) Both have functioning facilities that are available for use to local organizations and community members. VITA (Volunteer Income Tax

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Association) has helped 2,727 residents of the SLV to bring over \$4.5 million back to the SLV in the form of tax returns. CLETA (Criminal Law Enforcement Training Academy) has graduated 240 of the SLV officers, deputies, and wardens in the last 20 years. ASU Theatre has a fundraising event for La Puente Home that has raised over \$550,000 through the “Share the Magic” productions. 72.8% of the Alamosa Scholl District teachers and administrators hold a degree from ASU. 65-75% of the SLV nurses and other medical professionals are graduates from TSJC and 40% of the ASU nursing graduates remain in the SLV. In the last 5 years 10,335 hours of Sociology and HPPE internship hours have been logged in many organizations throughout the SLV. The Music Department provides over 70 performances a year that reaches an average of 4,000 SLV community members annually. School of Business provides many services each year to community members such as partnership with 26 SLV organizations to develop/enhance social media campaigns. TSJC has many programs that directly prepare students for the workforce in the SLV. Some of these are: Aquaculture and Agriculture Programs, Automotive and Diesel Programs, Welding and Machining Programs, Cosmetology and Holistic Health Programs, Business and Education, and Criminal Law Enforcement Education. Dr. Hensley stated that the total economic impact of higher education in the SLV is \$102,179,917. Questions and answers followed.

VI. **Regular Reports:**

- a) *Rio Grande County* – The high water incident is under control at the moment. Road crew did a great job on Jasper road.
- b) *Monte Vista* – Forrest Neuerburg reported two new businesses have opened, Rain Brews in the newly renovated Fassett Building, and Taqueria y Antojitos Los Lopez at the corner of Park Avenue and Hwy 160. They are getting ready for Stampede. DQ has a new remodel. The Ski Hi project continues to move forward.
- c) *Del Norte* – Gene Farish reported that the school is going up. They are working through annexation issues right now. Still working on their sewer project.
- d) *South Fork, Crestone, and Saguache* – Gene Farish reported that South Fork is working hard on their water project. Everyone seems to understand the issues. Crestone has the project going on. Saguache is working on their school and sewer project.
- e) *Mineral County, Creede/RWEACT* – Larry Crowder invited everyone to visit the newly renovated Mineral County Court House.
- f) *Alamosa* – JC Penney is closing. They already have a possible buyer. The water at the Sand Dunes helped increased activity there so tourism should be up.
- g) *SLV SBDC* – Tom Monaco reported that they are cutting back on their education programs due to lack of attendance. They are looking for suggestions on how to engage the communities to get “buts in seats”. What education needs do the communities need?
- h) *SLVDRG/COG* – No report
- i) *Action 22* – Tour group is coming Tuesday. Meeting at the landfill. They are looking at asbestos and air quality to name a few.
- j) *Other* – A reminder and invitation to attend the SLV Economic Summit at Adams State University on August 5th, 8:30 to 3:00; with a \$20 registration you get continental breakfast and lunch, and hear great speakers and sessions all day long.



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- VII. **Next Meeting:** August 13, 2019, at Mountain View Restaurant, with program by Emma Reesor, Executive Director, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project and the Del Norte River Front Project
 - VIII. **Adjourn:** at 8:15 on a motion by Pam Bricker and second by Kathy Woods
- Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson

