

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, October 8, 2019 | 7:00 a.m.

Rain Brews | Monte Vista

Attendees: Pat McDermott, Senator Larry Crowder, John Noffske, Gene Glover, Jennifer Alonzo, Bernadette Martinez, Jim Clare, Dan Hicks, Marcus Shawcroft, Tom Monaco, Tom Slade, Linda Robinson, Earl Robinson, Suzanne Benton, Pam Bricker, Suzanne Bothell, Forrest Neuerburg, Dixie Diltz, Kathryn DeSouchet, Gary Johnson, Traci Holmes, Brent Logan, Shon Davis, Gene Farish, Laura Conchelos, Mary Grace Garcia, Denise Temple, Mike Hurst, Kathy Woods, Delzia Worley, Marty Asplin, and Bonnie Asplin.

Call to Order 7:36 by President, Forrest Neuerburg.

- I. **Present Agenda:** Approved
- II. **Minutes of the September 10, 2019 meeting:** M/S for approval as presented by Gene Glover/ Jim Clare. approved.
- III. **Director's Report:**
 - a. Updated URGED profile sheets & packets.
 - b. Began custom packets for Rio Grande Club & Resort journalists' regional promotional event with expanded "*Attractions in the Upper Rio Grande*"
 - c. Assisted with 12 Hours of Penitence endurance mountain bike race
 - d. Bus Tour Guide for the 2019 Rural Philanthropy Days
 - e. Attended events: TSJC Vice President candidates' presentations, SLV Behavioral Health Grand Opening at new Del Norte facility, Monte Vista Potato Festival, MountainFilm on Tour.
- IV. **Business:**
 - a. One Example of Economic Development – Rain Brews in the historic Fassett building. The building was vacant for a long time and now have new owners. Provides coffee, lunch and local beer. Great example of reuse of a building.
 - b. Board Nominations – Four seats available. Nominations for Tom Slade, Traci Holmes, Kathy Woods, Jennifer Alonzo. No nominations from the floor. Election will be at the next meeting.
- V. **Program:** Pat McDermott – Engineer, The Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR). San Luis Valley Water, Past, Present, and Future. McDermott has worked there for 26 years. He showed a map of the 8300 square miles that Water Division #3 encompasses. It operates on the prior appropriation doctrine, which is that those who put water to beneficial use first are entitled to get the water first during periods of water shortage. He gave a power point presentation of the water and water rights. The Rio Grande Compact was formed in 1928 between Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. The Rio Grande Compact was one of the best deals for Colorado. He went on to explain how this impacts those who have water rights in the San Luis Valley. McDermott went over the ground water use rules and how the subdistricts have seen their price per acre foot to pump water go from \$40 to \$150 over the past 8 years. He stated that this creates a direct financial impact on the farmers who do not have senior surface water rights. The subdistricts' costs hit the high-water-use crops the hardest. Questions and Answers followed.
- VI. **Reports:**
 - a) *Rio Grande County* – Working on the budget.

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- b) Monte Vista – Forrest reported Monte Vista, Rio Grande Savings and Loan, and the URA have partnered on a pending sale of the building at 117 Adams Street to 3 Guys Farms – to be gutted and completely renovated for a new food and pub in downtown Monte Vista.
- c) *Del Norte* –Bernadette Martinez reported the town is looking forward to a mild autumn and winter to accommodate the completion of their sewer project.
- d) *South Fork* – Dan Hicks reported the upcoming Chili Cookoff on October 17th
- e) *Mineral County, Creede, RWEACT* – Documentary on PBS showing Creede as the last boom town - set up as tourism video; other counties might want to take a look at that.
- f) *Saguache County / Center / Saguache / Crestone* – Gene Farish reported Crestone is finishing up their street project and Saguache is finishing up their street and sewer project.
- g) *Alamosa* – Kathy Woods reported that Alamosa is working on revitalizing downtown buildings.
- h) *SLV SBDC* – Tom Monaco reported business as usual. Working with the town of Center.
- i) *SLVDRG/COG* – No report
- j) *Other* – Pam Bricker reported the Annual Action 22 meeting is on the 18th in Pueblo.

VII. **Next Meeting:** November 12, 2019, at the Windsor Hotel, with program by Kevin Wilkins, SLVDRG/COG

VIII. **Adjourn:** at 8:20

Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson