

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, September 10, 2019 | 7:00 a.m.

Windsor Hotel | Del Norte

Attendees: Jim Clare, Dan Hicks, Marcus Shawcroft, Tom Monaco, Marty Asplin, Bonnie Asplin, Linda Robinson, Earl Robinson, Suzanne Benton, Shon Davis, John Noffske, Bernadette Martinez, Tom Slade, Dixie Diltz, Gary Johnson, Ken Hamko, Forrest Neuerburg, Kathy Woods, Gene Glover, Gene Farish, Traci Holmes, Pam Bricker, Sam Bricker, Mike Hurst, Kairina Danforth, and Suzanne Gosar.

Call to Order 7:13 by President, Forrest Neuerburg.

- I. **Present Agenda:** Accepted
- II. **Minutes of the August 13, 2019 meeting:** M/S for approval as presented by Gene Glover/ Kathy Woods; approved.
- III. **Director's Report:**
 - a. SLV Economic Summit was August 5. There were about 100 attendees.
 - b. Familiarization Tour for Rio Grande Hospital for prospective doctor and his family.
 - c. Letter to OEDIT regarding Remote Rural Work Program (formerly COMP) application with RG County and municipalities COE attachment.
 - d. Bonnie updated "Key Industries" brochure.
 - e. Mass mailings and communications for upcoming events – SLV Economic Summit, Monte Vista MountainFilm on Tour, 12 Hours of Penitence..
 - f. Meeting with Continuum Partners LLC team with designs, plans, and operations updates about Frontier Drive-In facilities, uses and schedule.
 - g. Design of the Upper Rio Grande "We Need People Like You" rack card. Bonnie handed them out.
 - h. Meeting with Regional Transit Council in Alamosa.
- IV. **Business:** One Example of Economic Development – At the Potato Festival in Monte Vista there were 3 booths set up with early designs of new Ski Hi facility. The designs show a multi-faceted complex which will allow for large conferences to be held.
- V. **Program:** Thomas Monaco, Director of the San Luis Valley Small Business Development Center, spoke. The SLVSBC is located in the Colorado Welcome Center in Alamosa. The space is shared with the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce. Tom recognizes that Alamosa is not central to the Valley and that 99 percent of the businesses in the Valley are small. Because of this he goes to different towns during the week to make himself most accessible. The SLVSBC offers the following: One on one small business consulting; Community office hours across the Valley; Workshops and educational programming; Business to business network – connecting businesses together; Informal networking opportunities; Co-working desks and resource materials. Tom does primarily small business consulting. You can go to him with an idea for a business and he will help you with it. They will go over your business plan and give you suggestions, help with licensing, registration and reorganization structure as well as financial planning, marketing and social media outreach. Tom discussed some of the things that they could do to help businesses. They did some programs this year but didn't get many attendees. Tom would like to get new ideas from the group. What we would like to see offered and get help with. Some of the topics they can cover are: Business planning, accounting, taxes and record keeping; customer

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service, community development; strategic planning, cash flow and projections; Marketing, social media and cyber security to name a few. They can do lunch or evening workshops as well as weekend and multi-week programs. You provide the venue, the topics you want covered, the format that best fits your audience and the butts in the seats. They will provide the speakers, marketing materials, program materials and refreshments. The SBA has to get the metrics; they have to get bodies in the seats. They need you to get the people who need the help. They particularly would like to work with the Chamber of Commerce. They are putting together their book of services which is publishing in November. The book will be available online. It will be like your silent partner. Q&A followed.

- a) *Rio Grande County* – Started the budget. The big thing is the Census. They are starting to hire for census takers. It is very important that we get an accurate census as it affects money we receive. They are working on the land use code book.
- b) *Monte Vista* – Forrest reported that they are working on their budget. There will be a question on the ballot regarding increasing the sales tax by 1%. This will go towards paving the streets, additional law enforcement and create recreational program at the new Ski Hi. This includes long-term maintenance of the building.
- c) *Del Norte* –Bernadette Martinez reported they are still working on their sewer project. Next week is Rural Philanthropy Days and October 29th in Oktoberfest. Finished up the process on annexation and will be expanding the borders of the town.
- d) *South Fork* – Dan Hicks reported that they are still working on their water. They selected 4 of the 12 wells. Bought a pump that you can get over 100 gallons a minute. Next week they will be surveying the town. Davis Engineers will fly a drone over it and will put into the computer to produce a 3D map. The cost is \$20,000. They are ending a very good summer.
- e) *Mineral County, Creede, RWEACT* – No report.
- f) *Saguache County / Center / Saguache / Crestone* – Gene Farish reported the Saguache is finishing up their new school. Kairina Danforth, mayor of Crestone, reported that their Dark Sky community is currently most important. The Dark Sky Reserve is taking on a life of its own. Three Forest Services are involved along with Custer, Saguache and the Great Sand Dunes. This would start at Poncha Pass and go to the New Mexico border. There is only one other reserve in the United States. This is another way for our Valley to stand out if we have the darkest sky.
- g) *Alamosa* – Kathy Woods reported that the Art Festival was last week but the Potato Festival outdid it.
- h) *SLV SBDC* – Tom Monaco gave today's program
- i) *SLVDRG/COG* – No report
- j) *Other* – ASU is ramping up for "Adams 100"; Action 22 meets in Pueblo on October 17th.

VI. **Next Meeting:** October 8, 2019, at Rain Brews in Monte Vista, with program by Pat McDermott — Engineer, The Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR)

VII. **Adjourn:** at 8:07 a.m. on a motion by Gene Glover and second by Mike Hurst.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson