

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

Windsor Hotel | Del Norte

Attendees: Tom Slade, Tom Monaco, Kevin Wilkins, Linda Robinson, Marty Asplin, Bernadette Martinez, Gary Sabrowski, Jim Clare, Jim Kynor, Suzanne Benton, Forrest Neuerburg, Pam Bricker, Gene Glover, Jennifer Alonzo, Lyndsie Ferrell, Gene Farish, Traci Holmes, John Noffske, Kathy Woods, Delzia Worley, and Bonnie Asplin.

Call to Order 7:06 by President, Forrest Neuerburg.

- I. **Present Agenda:** Approved
- II. **Minutes of the October 8, 2019 meeting:** M/S for approval as presented by Jim Clare/Kathy Woods; approved.
- III. **Director's Report:**
 - a. Small Town Economic Summit in Lake City – Resiliency, Marketing and Partnerships; The Power of Scenic Byways; Reducing Risk through Collaboration. There was a large turnout with. Some presentations were on what we can do to make our region better and how to get a scenic byway declared.
 - b. “Lights on Center” Community Activation, Downtown Colorado Inc., all-day workshop – mixed use, incubator, co-ops, demographics, attraction elements, etc.
 - c. Study of requirements for Colorado’s OEDIT Location Neutral Employment Program (LONE) – Code of Ethics & Principles of Engagement, Grants Portal – Terms of Use, Process and Community Marketing Grants.
 - d. Interview with Seth Boster, Colorado Springs Gazette.
- IV. **Business:**
 - a. One Example of Economic Development – All the meetings and workshops that went on last month help us to work with the towns and town government to enable facilitate economic development. We gain knowledge on what towns are doing to better themselves and what things can be changed to make doing business easier.
 - b. Board Elections – As there were no further nominations from the floor for board of director’s seats, a motion was made by Bonnie Asplin and seconded by Pam Bricker to accept the slate of four candidates – Jennifer Alonzo, Traci Holmes, Tom Slade, and Kathy Woods; motion passed.
- V. **Program:** Kevin Wilkins, Executive Director of the SLV Development Resources Group and the SLV Council of Governments, provided an update on the Opportunity Zone federal program and covered the 2020 goals that came out of DRG’s recent retreat. Wilkins began his presentation with a background of the Opportunity Zone and Enterprise Zone. They interviewed over 40 potential projects; none either qualified, were ready or willing for private equity investment. Worked with about a dozen to try to get them ready. The most known Opportunity Zone investment in the San Luis Valley is in hemp. He went on to discuss some of 2020 goals. The first goal is to build an 18-community transit network in the six-county region of the Valley. This would connect with neighboring municipalities such as Durango, Salida and Pueblo. The second goal is to establish a Valley wide lending network. They would like to partner with the banks. This would help to develop small business infrastructure to improve and enhance the engagement of new entrepreneurs with a focus on people under the age of 40, a group of our future leaders. They are looking for client engagement and are not finding it. Working directly with more communities so when the programs become available, they are ready for them. The third set of goals include technical support for communities who are looking at programs to aid in the housing issues in

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the Valley. They seek opportunities for public/private partnerships. Several communities are struggling with lack of housing. The fourth set of goals is focused on leadership engagement in order to steer the future vision of the Valley away from poverty and cultivate a "Valley Vision" (quality of life intent). Questions and answers followed.

VI. **Reports:**

- a) *Rio Grande County* – They are finishing up the budget. Met with CDOT. SLV Railroad is in receivership. Would like to keep an operating railroad in the valley.
- b) *Monte Vista* – Forrest reported 2A passed. That is a one cent sales tax increase which will go towards the police department, pave additional streets and for maintenance for Ski Hi Park.
- c) *Del Norte* –Trustee, Gary Sabrowski reported three quarters of the sewer project has been completed. Land has been added to the town and the new school has been annexed into the town. The Parade of Lights is December 6th.
- d) *South Fork* – They are moving ahead with water. The hearing is next month. They have 5 systems so far. Working with the state engineer's office and lending agencies. Things are looking good.
- e) *Mineral County, Creede, RWEACT* – No report
- f) *Saguache County / Center / Saguache / Crestone* – Crestone downtown project is progressing. Streets are getting paved. Kids are in the new school in Saguache.
- g) *Alamosa* – Kathy Woods reported that the downtown hotel project is back on the front burner, only on a smaller scale. Kathy introduced Jim Kynor, Vice President of Trinidad State Junior College. He told the group a little about himself. He is from Colorado Springs and was the Dean of Community College of Denver. He is looking forward to being a part of the community.
- h) *SLV SBDC* – Tom Monaco reported that he is no longer working for SLV SBDC. He has taken a job with OEDIT as Rural Opportunity Director. 60% of his job is completely undefined. There are three directors; eastern, western and southern. Tom is the southern director.
- i) *SLVDRG/COG* –
- j) *Other* – Pam Bricker reported the Annual Action 22 meeting was held on October 18th

VII. **Next Meeting:** January 14, 2020, at the Windsor Hotel, with program by Andrew Atchley, Housing Development Specialist, DOLA Division of Housing: Roll-out of the new DOLA program for rural housing.

VIII. **Adjourn:** at 8:09

Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson