

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, August 11, 2020 | 7:00 a.m.

ZOOM Meeting

Attendees: Dr. Cheryl Lovell, Martha Williamson, Kevin Daniel, Forrest Neuerburg, Jennifer Alonzo, Shon Davis, Bernadette Martinez, Jim Clare, Marty Asplin, Donald Valdez, Tom Monaco, Traci Holmes, Kathy Woods, Linda Robinson, Gene Glover, Marcus Shawcroft, Ken Hamko, Andrew Atchley, Lyndsie Ferrell, John Noffske, Jason Medina, Gary Johnson, Gene Farish, William's iPad, Jeff Owsley, and Bonnie Asplin.

- I. **Call to Order** 7:00_a.m. by President, Forrest Neuerburg
- II. **Minutes of the July 14, 2020 meeting:** M/S for approval Bonnie Asplin/Jim Clare; approved.
- III. **Programs:**

Martha Williamson, District Ranger, Divide Ranger District, Rio Grande National Forest, gave a presentation on the *Colorado the Beautiful* grant that was awarded in June. The grant is in the amount of \$68,900 and will be used to facilitate a strategic plan to increase recreational use of the Rio Grande Forest. The Rio Grande National Forest is just shy of a million acres. Williamson stated that the Rio Grande Forest is in the unique location because of the diversity in the terrain. The Rio Grande Forest has 13,000 foot peaks, desert floors and everything in between. We have the opportunity to learn from other areas that are heavily used. We can use their experiences as a platform for ours. We will be able to welcome more recreational use in the forest. The Ranger District will look at areas that can handle the increase of recreational use and continue to protect areas that can't. They will put in place plans that will include improvements to infrastructure to facilitate the increase in use. Hearing the need and the desire for economic growth and economic development in the San Luis Valley, we need to work together to ensure that the Forest is ready to accommodate this usage. Williamson went on to explain how they can do that. Questions and answers followed.
- IV. **Reports from Communities:**
 - a. Rio Grande County – Gene Glover reported all is well at Rio Grande County. They are looking for new personal.
 - b. Monte Vista – Forrest Neuerburg reported that the buildings have been demoed at Ski Hi. They are ready to prepare the pad for the buildings opening for the Ag Conference.
 - c. Del Norte - Bernadette Martinez reported that they were wrapping up the sewer project in the next 2-4 weeks. The Playground is up and running. They are almost finished on the north side of the river. Should be done the end of next week.

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, August 11, 2020 | 7:00 a.m.

ZOOM Meeting

- d. Alamosa – Kathy Woods reported that they were working on business recovery. They have had several inquiries of people wanting to start new businesses. They are expanding outdoor eating space. They received a one million dollar DOLA grant. Ski Hi continues to get donations.
 - e. SBDC -Jason Medina reported that Rio Grande County businesses received 209 PPP loans upwards to 5 million dollars in forgivable loans. There are still IDLE loans available.
- V. **Next Meeting:** September 8th 2020, 7 a.m.
- a. Location – tentatively a ZOOM meeting
 - b. Program – by Monroe Johnson, Chief Technology Officer at Cielo/SLVREC, will give a presentation about Cielo’s recent expansion and services
- VI. **Adjourn:** at 8:05 a.m.
- Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson