

Regular Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, March 10, 2020 | 7:00 a.m.

Windsor Hotel | Del Norte

Attendees: Traci Holmes, Tom Monaco, Andrew Atchley, Marty Asplin, Jason Medina, Forrest Neuerburg, Linda Robinson, Bernadette Martinez, Lyndsie Ferrell, Tom Slade, Suzanne Bothell, Gene Farish, Pam Bricker, Marcus Shawcroft, Kathy Woods, Gene Glover, Jennifer Alonzo, Julie Wynder, Larry Foster, Martha Williamson, and Bonnie Asplin.

Call to Order 7:07 a.m. by President, Forrest Neuerburg

- I. **Present Agenda:** M/S for approval by Gene Glover/Kathy Woods; approved
- II. **Minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting:** M/S for approval Gene Glover/Kathy Woods; approved.
- III. **Director's Report:**
 - a. Marty reported that the Saguache Sales Tax Grant for Ski Hi Regional Events and Conference Center had been complete and submitted.
 - b. Contract with Rio Grande Club for URGED Annual Dinner/ Function Sheet; speaker; save the date.
 - c. LONE program promotional flyer narrative materials & photos compiled; ready for graphic design.
 - d. Letter for BLM & SHPO in defense of value of Pronghorn Trails System to the Valley.
 - e. Coordination with GOCO Executive Director for March Board Meeting in Del Norte and creation of information/promotion pieces for their event.
 - f. Participated in Rio Grande Hospital 2-day workshop on Wellness Village.
 - g. MVEDC/Charles Spielman Rio Grande County Business Development Luncheon.
- IV. **Business:**
 - a. One example of Economic Development – Getting GOCO board meeting in the Valley again (only second time they have held board meeting here) to see what has been happening here. The Del Norte River Front Project is a three-quarter of a million-dollar project, partially funded with a GOCO Grant. It will help with promoting for the Valley; things like this usually show up in magazine print or online.
- V. **Program:**

Andrew Atchley, Housing Development Specialist with Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Division of Housing, give the group a roll-out of the new DOLA Program for Rural Housing. The mission statement of DOLA is “the Division of Housing partners with local communities to create housing opportunities for Coloradans who face the greatest challenges to accessing affordable, safe and secure homes.” Atchley explained that their work includes increasing and preserving Colorado’s inventory of affordable housing, managing rental assistance vouchers, creating and supporting collaborative approaches to end homelessness and regulating Mobile Home Parks, and the construction and installation of factory-built structures. Rural areas are seeing a lot more construction regulations. In 2019 they served 58,000 households and created 3,562 housing opportunities. Atchley said that there are grants and loans available for affordable housing. They can act as a gap funder. The Front Range is able to use low income tax credits more easily than rural areas. In rural areas they are willing to be a bigger part of that. If we need 10 units, they are coming in for 50% of that funding. As development specialists they want to be involved as early as possible. They have competitive, monthly applications. Atchley recommends that you contact your housing development specialist before applying. They are looking for local support, market viability, cost per unit, and overall feasibility. HB19-1322 and HB19-1245 added \$77 million per year for housing development grants and loans by July 2021. This triples

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DOLA's funds available for acquisition, rehab and new construction of affordable units. This will support the creation of 3500 to 6500 new affordable units in addition to 3200 per year created with existing funds. New funds can also be used for rental assistance (vouchers). In 2022 increasing to \$22 million. HB19-1322 added new uses to address rural housing needs, including down payment assistance for households, home rehabilitation programs, repair, replacement and disposal of mobile homes; land acquisition and infrastructure costs for housing. This was followed by a question and answer period.

VI. **Reports:**

- a) *Rio Grande County* – Suzanne reported they were working on policy updates and still waiting for Summitville land transfer.
- b) *Monte Vista* – Forrest reported on the city's URA demolition and rehabilitation program. Monte Vista is the first city in the state to use this program. Ski Hi Park still needs more donations. They still need another \$80,000.
- c) *Del Norte* – Bernadette reported that the sewer project back in full swing. Upcoming April election includes three candidates for Mayor and eight candidates for Board of Trustees. Del Norte Chamber is sponsoring a Meet the Candidates April 1st.
- d) *South Fork* – Reported they are meeting tonight on the water situation. So far, it's moving ahead. They are also working on a street beautification project.
- e) *Mineral County, Creede* – No report
- f) *Saguache County / Center / Saguache / Crestone* – Gene Farish reported Saguache is working on a highway beautification and a sewer project, and Crestone is working on a senior housing project and community center.
- g) *Alamosa* – Kathy Woods reported Ski Hi Project meeting will be held in Alamosa. They have a goal of \$85,000. They need community support and funding. They passed their street tax of ½ percent. Will be starting on 1st Street.
- h) *SLV SBDC* – Jason Medina reported on the FDIC upcoming Tour on April 1st; he will be attending Chamber meetings across the Valley; his office will be ramping up programming, including Basic Business Literacy, Emergency Operations Preparedness, and doing an 8-hour version of SBDC's Leading Edge Program (normally a 10 – 12 week program).
- i) *SLVDRG/COG* – No report
- j) *Other* – Tom Monaco with OEDIT reported on the Rural Technical Assistance Program to 1) bolster up-skill sets and training and 2) augment SBDC's programs targeting the underserved.

VII. **Next Meeting:** Annual Dinner, Monday, April 6, 2020 at the Rio Grande Club and Resort – Guest Speaker is Clark Anderson, Executive Director of Community Builders, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

VIII. **Adjourn:** at 7:56 am on a motion by Gene Glover and second by Pam Bricker

Respectfully submitted, Linda Robinson