

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE SEAGO EXECUTIVE BOARD
OLD TRAIN STATION DEPOT
100 SOUTH CORONADO BLVD.
CLIFTON, AZ 85533
AUGUST 28, 2015**

OFFICERS PRESENT: Rivera, Bob – Mayor, Town of Thatcher (*Chair*)
Lindsey, Gerald – Council Member, City of Willcox (*First Vice Chair*)
Gomez, David – Supervisor, Greenlee County (*Treasurer*)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barlow, Bill – Councilman, City of Tombstone
Doyle, John – Mayor, City of Nogales (*arrived at 10:47*)
English, Ann – Supervisor, Cochise County (*by phone*)
King, Toney – Mayor, City of Benson
Montoya, Luis – Vice-Mayor, Town of Clifton
Mueller, Rick – Mayor, City of Sierra Vista
Oertle, Ron – Mayor, City of Bisbee
Ortega, Richard – Councilman, City of Safford
Robinette, Dustie - Greenlee County Private Rep. (*arrived at 10:45*)
Smith, Danny – Supervisor, Graham County

STAFF PRESENT: Catten, Larry – Economic Development Program Manager
Heiss, Randy – Executive Director
Martin, Shira – Ombudsman Program Coordinator
Merideth, John – Office Assistant
Vertrees, Chris – Transportation Planner
Villa, Laura – AAA Program Manager

GUESTS: Adam, Kevin – RTAC
Boyle, Kathy – ADOT (*by phone*)
Ian McGaughey, Town of Clifton
Palmer, Kurt – Graham County Chamber of Commerce
Parada, Cesar – City of Nogales
Reinbold, Mike – El Dorado Holdings
Saucedo, Shay – Sen. John McCain’s Office
Showers, Ken – Eastern Arizona Courier
Skeete, Horatio – City of Safford
Smerekanich, Ilona
Stephens, William – City of Benson

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGEIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Bob Rivera thanked all for attending, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and introduced Clifton Vice Mayor Louis Montoya who welcomed all and also introduced the new Clifton Town Manager,

Ian McGaughey. Chair Rivera asked Ms. Laura Villa to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made and it was determined that there was a quorum present.

II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION

Chair Rivera made a call for items to discuss and no one spoke.

III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chair Rivera made a Call to the Public and no one spoke.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of the May 21, 2015 Minutes
 - b. Consideration of the Proposed Changes to the ACOA Bylaws
 - c. Nominations to the Advisory Council on Aging
 - d. Provisional Fiscal Year 2016-2020 TIP Amendment #1

MOTION: Mayor Rick Mueller moved to approve items 1a – 1d of the Consent Agenda.
SECOND: Supervisor Gomez
ACTION: **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Discussion and Possible Approval of the Proposed Amendments to Section 10 of the SEAGO Policy Manual

Mr. Randy Heiss informed the Board about the recent State of Arizona travel policy changes and responded to questions. He reported that SEAGO's travel policy has been updated as a result of the changes which became effective May 1, 2015. Supervisor Smith asked why there was a need for SEAGO to have a policy separate from the State's. Mr. Heiss replied that it was easier for employees to go directly to SEAGO's policy if they had questions rather than the State policy. Chair Rivera asked whether other Arizona Councils of Governments (COG) used the State's travel policy and Mr. Heiss stated that it varied among the other COGs. Mayor Mueller asked what, if any, impact there would be on the budget and Mr. Heiss reported there should be none. Mayor Mueller asked whether the changes would make SEAGO fully in compliance with the State policy and Mr. Heiss responded that it would.

MOTION: Councilman Lindsey moved to approve the proposed amendments to Section 10 of the SEAGO Policy Manual.
SECOND: Mayor King
ACTION: **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. Discussion and Possible Approval to Fill the Vacant Cochise County Private Sector Position on the Executive Board

Mr. Randy Heiss reported on the nomination of Ms. Ilona Smerekanich to fill the vacant Cochise County private sector representative position.

MOTION: Mayor Ron Oertle moved to approve the appointment of Ms. Ilona Smerekanich as the Cochise County Private Sector Representative to the SEAGO Executive Board.

SECOND: Mayor Mueller
ACTION: **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution No. 2015-04

Mr. Chris Vertrees reported that there is a federal requirement that SEAGO's Title V Plan be approved by its governing board. He stated that since SEAGO's August 28, 2015 Executive Board minutes would not be approved until November, Resolution No. 2015-04 is being presented for approval in order to provide ADOT with immediate evidence of the Executive Board's approval of SEAGO's Title VI Implementation and Public Participation Plan dated August 1, 2015.

MOTION: Supervisor Gomez moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-04.
SECOND: Mayor King
ACTION: **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. Discussion and Possible Approval to issue a Request for Proposals for Consulting Services to Complete a Regional Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Mr. Vertrees reported on the SEAGO/SVMPO Joint Regional Strategic Highway Safety Plan stating that the study framework and scope of work had been approved by ADOT. He reported that due to the complexity of the project it would be best to utilize a consultant that has experience in the development of regional strategic highway safety plans, stating the awarded contract will not exceed \$315,000.

MOTION: Mayor King moved to approve the request for proposals for consulting services to complete a Regional Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
SECOND: Mayor Mueller
ACTION: **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution No. 2015-05

Mr. Larry Catten discussed the Villages at Vigneto project, a 28,000 home master planned community which will be located in Benson, stating that the proposed resolution seeks SEAGO support for the City of Benson relative to the development as a strong economic driver for the community. Mayor Oertle asked how much exploration had been done on the transportation side of the project, given the increase in population that the project would bring to the area. Mr. Mike Reinbold of El Dorado Benson, LLC reported that traffic studies had been done and further stated that the community is being developed to encourage the use of golf carts and other means of transportation which are low impact. He further stated that most of the expected inhabitants would work in the area as well which would reduce commuting and that the development would have no impact on US Hwy 90. Mayor Oertle also questioned the water usage and environmental impacts and Mr. Reinbold stated the City of Benson had 13,500 thousand acre feet designated by the Arizona Dept. of Water and approximately 12,000 were allocated for the project. He stated from a consumption perspective the project would make use of recycled and recharged water where possible, using a projected 6,500 – 7,000 acre feet of water consumption. Mr. Reinbold reported that the environmental studies were done and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. Mayor Oertle stated that he felt the project would attract even more and larger developments to the area and diminish the treasure which is southeastern Arizona.

Mayor Mueller voiced his support of the project and Mayor King reported that the Benson City Council was heavily involved and very diligent with every step of the project. Vice Mayor Montoya commented that he felt part of the vision of SEAGO was to support economic development in the region.

Councilman Lindsay asked why the Administrative Committee did not support the resolution. Supervisor English stated that the SEAGO entities should support each other and absent a compelling reason not to, she felt SEAGO should support the project. Mayor Mueller suggested modifying the Resolution to remove the second and sixth paragraphs. Chair Rivera commented that it was not SEAGO's role to support each and every project that came along and Mr. Mueller stated that these types of support requests should be looked at on a case by case basis and that this project was an exception.

There was further discussion regarding SEAGO's role and historical support for such projects. Mr. Heiss commented that SEAGO's role in such projects would be a good discussion item in future strategic planning sessions.

MOTION: Councilman Lindsey moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-05, Supporting the City of Benson Regarding The Villages at Vigneto Master-Planned Community Development Project Proposed by El Dorado Benson, LLC.

SECOND: Supervisor Gomez

ACTION: 10 AYE, 3 OPPOSED

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Future Meeting Dates

Mr. Heiss reported on the next scheduled Executive Board meeting which is scheduled for November 20 in Santa Cruz County. He also said there was a Joint Executive/ Administrative Committee meeting (conference call) which is scheduled for October 1 to seek approval of the Request for Proposals for Regional Grant Writing Services.

B. Strategic Plan Implementation Progress Report

Mr. Heiss provided an update on the implementation of goals from the strategic planning process.

C. Preliminary End of Year Finance Report

Mr. Heiss provided preliminary end of year finance report and responded to questions.

D. SEAGO Economic Development District Report

Mr. Larry Catten reported on regional economic development activities and responded to questions. Councilman Ortega voiced support for a unified regional economic development strategy. Ms. Shay Saucedo shared concerns from Senator John McCain on the effort to designate the Chiricahuas as a national park, stating congressional support is currently lacking for any new national parks.

E. Update on Regional Traffic Counting Program

Mr. Vertrees provided the traffic count report and responded to questions.

F. Housing Program Statistics

Mr. Heiss provided the Housing report, stating that SEAGO had been awarded \$18,165.32 for comprehensive counseling.

VI. RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT (RTAC)

Mr. Kevin Adam provided the RTAC report, discussing transportation reauthorization priorities and impacts of the Drive Act on current funding levels.

VII. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS

No announcements were made.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were requested.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.