

**MINUTES OF THE SEAGO
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
SCHIEFFELIN HALL
402 E. FREMONT ST.
TOMBSTONE, AZ 85638
FEBRUARY 24, 2017**

OFFICERS PRESENT: Lindsey, Sam (*Chair*)
Rivera, Bob (*Treasurer*)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barlow, Bill – City of Tombstone
David, Paul – Graham County
Judd, Peggy – Cochise County (*phone*)
Montoya, Louis – Town of Clifton (*phone*)
Mueller, Rick – City of Sierra Vista
O'Donnell, Patrick – Graham County Private Sector Rep.
Ortega, Richard – City of Safford
Schmidt, Mark – Cochise County Private Sector Rep.
Sedwick, Antony – Santa Cruz County Private Sector Rep.
Smerekanich, Ilona – Cochise County Private Sector Rep.

STAFF PRESENT: Catten, Larry - Economic Development Planner
Heiss, Randy - Executive Director
Merideth, John – Grant/Title VI Coordinator
Vertrees, Chris - Transportation Planner
Villa, Laura – AAA Program Manager
Williams, Bonnie - CDBG Program Manager

GUESTS: Adam, Kevin – RTAC
Vos, Susan – Reiger, Carr & Monroe

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Lindsay called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. Introductions were made and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tombstone Mayor Dusty Escapule welcomed the group and expressed his appreciation for SEAGO's assistance over the years with various CDBG projects.

II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION

Councilman Ortega mentioned recent protests in Safford and Mayor Rivera mentioned a recent visit from Congressman Tom O'Halleran with the Thatcher Town Council.

III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public was present.

C. Quarterly Finance Report; FY2016 Audit (Note: This Information Item was taken out of the order on the agenda at the request of Auditors).

Ms. Susan Vos of Reiger, Carr & Monroe provided the FY2016 Audit report, stating that it was a clean audit with no findings, audit adjustments, or disagreements with management. Ms. Vos responded to questions. Mayor Mueller asked whether SEAGO membership is liable for payment of SEAGO employee retirement benefits and Ms. Vos stated that it would just be SEAGO that is responsible and not it's member entities.

Mr. Heiss provided the quarterly finance report, reporting that SEAGO's Accounts Manager had moved on and that a replacement had been hired but not yet ready to produce an accurate financial report.

Mr. David asked what the current financial outlook for SEAGO was and Mr. Heiss responded that it was very difficult to tell at this point due to the current political climate.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of the November 16, 2016 Minutes

Mayor Rivera mad a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting as presented.

MOTION: Mayor Rivera
SECOND: Ms. Smerekanich
ACTION: 11 AYES; 1 ABSTENTION (Sierra Vista)

2. Election of Officers

Mr. Heiss reported that since there was a new representative from Santa Cruz County, and that individual had not yet served one year on the Executive Board, that person was ineligible to become the Chair pursuant to the current rotation of officers. He reported the Bylaws provide for the following options when this situation arises:

Option 1 – The Board could elect to have the current Chair hold office for no more than one additional annual term;
Option 2 – The next lower officer in the rotation having at least one year of service on the Executive Board would be elevated to Chair;
Option 3 – The Board could elect a Chair from among its membership provided they have served at least one year on the Board.

Councilman Barlow made a motion to select Option 1, leaving the current slate of Officers as-is.

MOTION: Councilman Barlow
SECOND: Councilman Ortega
ACTION: **UNANIMOUS**

3. Consideration of Resolution No. 2017-01

Mr. Heiss presented Resolution No. 2017-01 urging the Arizona Legislature and Governor to direct dedicated transportation funding to its intended uses, and to modernize our transportation infrastructure funding mechanisms. Supervisor David asked how effective resolutions have been in the past. Mr. Heiss responded that the resolution is basically an expression of SEAGO's position on the issue and will be distributed to members of the Legislature and Governor's Office, as well as to RTAC.

MOTION: Mayor Mueller
SECOND: Mayor Rivera
ACTION: **UNANIMOUS**

4. Consideration of the 2017-2018 Transportation Issues Position Statement

Mr. Heiss presented the 2017-2018 Transportation Issues Position Statement as recommended by the SEAGO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), stating that Position No. 1, **End the Diversion of Dedicated Transportation Funding**, had already been discussed in Resolution 2017-01.

Position No. 2, **Reject Efforts To Lower The Title 34 Limitation On Use of Local Forces**, Mr. Heiss reported that the Administrative Council, at their February 9 meeting, requested that our position on Issue #2 relating to the Title 34 Limitation on use of Local Forces, be revised to eliminate reference to the now-defunct HB 2143 and raise the statutory limit to \$500,000. Mr. Adam noted the importance of the population threshold.

Mr. Heiss next outlined Position No. 3, **Restore The HURF Exchange Program**, stating SEAGO's position was to support ADOT's efforts to restore and implement the HURF Exchange Program and encourage ADOT to ensure that program processes and procedures are as close as possible to those in place when the program was suspended in 2008.

Mr. Heiss discussed Position No. 4, **Construct The Ultimate Condition For The SR 189 Project In FY19**, stating that SEAGO's position was to encourage ADOT to explore all possible funding options to construct the ultimate condition for SR 189 in FY19 while minimizing any additional impact to industry stakeholders in order to reduce traffic conflicts and congestion, facilitate cross border trade, enhance economic growth, and foster job creation in Arizona.

Mr. Heiss discussed Position No. 5, **Expand Transportation Infrastructure Funding Mechanisms**, stating that SEAGO's position is to urge the Governor, and Legislature to carefully consider and implement the recommendations of the Transportation Revenue Task Force, whether through legislation or referral of a ballot measures to the voters, and urge Congress to implement a long term solution to bring the Highway Trust Fund into balance. Supervisor David commented that it may be good to include language against requiring Counties to raise taxes in order to fund road improvements.

Mr. Heiss discussed Position No. 6, **Support Efforts To Create A United Transportation Plan** that can be integrated into the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan update.

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to approve the position statements on transportation issues presented by staff, as recommended by the Administrative Council.

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell
SECOND: Mayor Mueller
ACTION: **UNANIMOUS**

5. Consideration of the re-appointment of Dustie Robinette as Greenlee County Private Sector Representative

Vice-Mayor Luis Montoya made a motion to re-appoint Ms. Dustie Robinette to a second term as the Greenlee County Private Sector Representative on the Executive Board as recommended by the Administrative Council.

MOTION: Vice-Mayor Luis Montoya
SECOND: Councilman Barlow
ACTION: **UNANIMOUS**

6. Consideration of the appointment of Antony Sedgwick, Jr. as Santa Cruz County Private Sector Representative

Mayor Rivera made a motion to appoint Mr. Antony Sedgwick, Jr. as the Santa Cruz County Private Sector Representative.

MOTION: Mayor Rivera
SECOND: Ms. Smerekanich
ACTION: **UNANIMOUS**

7. Consideration of SEAGO 2017-2021 TIP Amendment #3

Mr. Chris Vertrees outlined the amendments to the 2017-2021 TIP that was approved by the TAC at its January 26 meeting.

Mayor Rivera made a motion to approve SEAGO's 2017-2021 TIP Amendment #3 as recommended by the Administrative Council.

MOTION: Mayor Rivera
SECOND: Mr. O'Donnell
ACTION: **UNANIMOUS**

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Future Meeting Dates

Mr. Heiss reminded everyone of the March 30th Administrative/Executive Committees conference call and asked the Officers to mark their calendars.

B. Proposed revisions to Section 5.6 of the SEAGO Policy Manual

Mr. Heiss discussed proposed revisions to Section 5.6 of the SEAGO Policy Manual pertaining to employee Educational Assistance as a tool for building and retaining capacity within the organization while guaranteeing SEAGO a return on the investment. He reported that there were further changes to be made and the Administrative Council had tabled the issue to the May meeting for action.

C. Quarterly Finance Report and FY16 Audit (moved to first agenda item)

D. SEAGO Economic Development District Report

Mr. Larry Catten provided the Economic Development report and discussed the formation of the Economic Development Council as outlined in the 2016-2020 CEDS.

E. Transit Report

Mr. Chris Vertrees provided an update on Regional Mobility Management efforts as well as the Cochise County Intercity Route Study. Supervisor David asked for an update on the loss of SEACAP transportation services and Mr. Vertrees responded that Easter Seals Blake Foundation is interested in providing the transportation services for the area and that SEAGO is assisting Easter Seals with the transition.

F. Strategic Regional Highway Safety Plan Update

Mr. Vertrees provided an update on the SEAGO/SVMPO Joint Regional Strategic Highway Safety Plan, stating that an additional \$35,000 in HSIP funding was secured to fund law enforcement site visits.

G. AAA Updates

Ms. Laura Villa provided the AAA updates, stating they were currently in the process of DES Contract Compliance Review Monitoring. She reported the SHIP/SMP program would be training about 8 individuals in Cochise County which will enable AAA to assist more clients.

Ms. Villa provided an update on the Matter of Balance training program and introduced the Aging Mastery Program and responded to questions.

H. State Special Projects NOFA

Mr. Heiss stated that applications from the City of Benson, City of Tombstone, Town of Clifton, Graham County and Santa Cruz County for FY17 regional CDBG funds are due to SEAGO by July 5, 2017. He also reported that ADOH had released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the annual competitive State Special Projects (SSP) funds and that applications will be due to ADOH by May 9, 2017.

VI. RTAC REPORT

Mr. Kevin Adam provided the RTAC legislative update and responded to questions.

VII. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS

Ms. Villa introduced Debbie Hankerd from the Tombstone Senior Center, who provided the lunch for the meeting.

Mr. Heiss thanked everyone who had participated in the recent Strategic Planning Retreat.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Heiss reported that Strategic Plan Update, annual budget, educational assistance policy, and the Area Plan on Aging would be included on the next meeting agenda.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Lindsay adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m.