

**MINUTES OF THE  
SEAGO EXECUTIVE BOARD  
COCHISE COLLEGE CENTER BENSON  
1025 AZ 90  
BENSON, ARIZONA  
MARCH 14, 2019**

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Gomez, David – Supervisor, Greenlee County (*1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair*)  
Ortega, Richard – Vice Mayor, City of Safford (*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair*)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barlow, Bill – Councilmember, City of Tombstone  
David, Paul – Supervisor, Graham County  
Fletcher, C.B. – Mayor, Town of Pima  
Garino, Arturo – Mayor, City of Nogales  
Judd, Peggy – Supervisor, Cochise County (Phone)  
Laws, Mike – Mayor, City of Willcox  
Montoya, Luis – Councilmember, Town of Clifton  
Mueller, Rick – Mayor, City of Sierra Vista (Phone)  
Richardson, Barbara – Cochise County Private Sector Rep.  
Sedgwick, Anthony – Representative, Santa Cruz County Private Sector  
Thurman, Anne – Mayor, Town of Duncan (Phone)  
Wallace, Johann – Town of Huachuca City (Phone)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Catten, Larry – Economic Development Planner  
Dennis, Keith – Community Development Program Manager  
Glenn, Heather – Administrative Assistant  
Heiss, Randy – Executive Director  
Pashley, Diane – Accounting Manager  
Vertrees, Chris – Transportation Program Administrator

**GUESTS:** Gomez, Patsy  
Montoya, Lisa  
Garino, Cathy

**I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS**

First Vice Chair Gomez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. SEAGO Executive Director, Randy Heiss, provided welcoming remarks and introductions were made.

**II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION (Common Critical Issues)**

**Richard Ortega**, Safford, shared that Mayor Rivera's wife, Mercy is awaiting a liver transplant. She's in good spirits and doing well, but still looking for a donor. **Luis Montoya**, Clifton, will be leaving early to attend another meeting. They have hired new City Manager, Rudy Bennett, a former ADOT planner. He stated they have been without a sewer plant for 8 months and they have to import all their sewage to Morenci Mine. They have been disallowed to build a new plant in their town. **Peggy Judd** shared that the Cochise County Board of Supervisors had appointed Pat Collins to JP 5 but it was challenged with a lawsuit. The Board's decision was ratified in an open meeting this morning after the Court allowed them to make the appointment. **Arturo Garino** stated they had a couple of council members still dealing with IOI. The biggest issue is cost of repair for IOI and who is responsible for repairs. They share the costs with Sonora. They are dealing with the concertina wire issue in Nogales; have gotten support from Tucson and Bisbee, Congressmen and Senators. This sparked a lively and thoughtful discussion about Border Security. **Paul David** stated Graham County is working on their Complete Count Committee for the Census. They are looking to hire a couple of staff members. He shared that

they continue to struggle with water and have not been able to reach settlement with the San Carlos tribe. He explained that ground water rights used to be surface rights, but they haven't been able to complete an agreement with SCAT. There is the potential to lose up to 60% of their well abilities. Mr. David requested that a motion be put forth regarding SEAGO funding and one regarding a stance on the wire. **Randy Heiss** stated that budget cuts are on the horizon if the President's agenda passes; SEAGO may lose discretionary programs. He is willing to draft a resolution to present regarding the wire for the Board to discuss. **Bill Barlow** indicated that it affects everyone. **Luis Montoya** stated that we have all taken an oath to protect the safety and welfare of our constituents and what is happening with the wire is against everything the group stands for. **Mike Laws** stated he has a ranch in Animas. And his experience has been that they are not coming to the US to work; they are stealing and vandalizing his property and creating a problem. **Arturo Garino** suggested that the concertina wire be moved to areas where there is no wall and there is need to get CBP involved. **Richard Ortega** stated that the water issue is something that should be addressed. **Paul David** asked if he could make a motion that is not on the agenda. **Randy Heiss** advised that he can be directed. **Paul Gomez** directed Mr. Heiss to research and come back to the Board.

### III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public was present.

### VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### E. AAA Updates

This agenda item was moved so Laura Villa could leave early for another meeting. Ms. Villa highlighted the newsletter which provides an overview of the past 3 months. She advised that AAA made some personnel changes promoting Carrie Gibbons to Management Analyst; Heather Glenn was hired as part-time Office Specialist. This change was done to relieve Laura of some duties. She shared that the End of Life Legacy Fund touched 281 lives and AAA has received a grant from Lovell Foundation of more than \$140,000 to continue and expand the program to Santa Cruz, Graham and Greenlee counties for end of life workshops. AAA participated in Older Arizonans Day at the State Capitol to raise awareness and better advocate for issues affecting the elderly. All 7 regions attended and it was very successful. She advised that Region VI has a waitlist in rural areas and AAA is working with case managers to reallocate funds where services are needed. She directed members to the Legislative Statement in the packet and explained that AZ AAAs received 3.7 million SSBG funds and those monies will be used to assist people on the waitlist. The Family Caregiver Support Program lost their Care Coordinator and recruitment is in process for a replacement. She thanked Willcox and Sierra Vista for their invitations to make a presentation on AAA programs and services. She announced that National AAA CEO Sandy Markwood will be traveling from Washington DC to be the keynote speaker for SEAGO's Conference on Aging and she invited the Board members to register and attend. Paul David stated that AAA addresses long term care issues and that counties need to be supportive of programs that allow residents to age in place.

### IV. PRESENTATION - Independent Auditor's report

Randy Heiss stated the Independent Auditor's report was not yet ready.

### IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of the November 16, 2018 Minutes

b. Nomination to the Advisory Council on Aging

Richard Ortega made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented; Luis Montoya seconded.

**MOTION: Richard Ortega**  
**SECOND: Luis Montoya**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

2. Election of Officers

Randy Heiss explained that elections are held every year. Mayor Doyle did not get reelected, so the Chair seat is vacant. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice chair David Gomez and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Richard Ortega both wish to continue; however, Patagonia has not selected anyone to serve on SEAGO Board. Bruce Bracker is not interested which makes the only eligible person Arturo Garino.

Luis Montoya made a motion to continue with the officers currently serving with Mr. Gomez becoming Chair; Mr. Ortega moving to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Mr. Laws becoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair and elect Mayor Garino as Treasurer. Paul David seconded the motion.

**MOTION: Luis Montoya**  
**SECOND: Paul David**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

3. Discussion and possible action to appoint Mr. Antony Sedgwick to serve a second term of office as the Santa Cruz County Private Sector Representative on the Executive Board.

Mr. Heiss stated that Anthony is amenable to continue serving. Anthony affirmed that he would like to continue representing SC County private sector. Luis Montoya, elected officials appreciate people who would like to serve without HAVING to.

Luis Montoya made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Antony Sedgwick to a second term as the Santa Cruz County Private Sector Representative on the Executive Board. Mike Laws seconded.

**MOTION: Montoya**  
**SECOND: Laws**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

4. Discussion and possible action to authorize the utilization of Contingency Funds in the FY 2019 budget to support program operations due to the government shutdown.

Mr. Heiss stated that the urgency of this item has decreased since the end of the government shutdown. He stated if the contingency is approved, this money would be used to support SEAGO programs consistent with its austerity procedure. Montoya was concerned that the shutdown might affect senior programs and suggested that a plan be developed. Shutdown may become more frequent. Purpose of a contingency fund is to continue running and it behooves the organization to be prepared for the next shutdown.

Mr. Heiss said the next debate is over the debt ceiling; will use 'extraordinary measures' in September, so there is a possibility. Budget talks in October. Paul David asked for clarification if funds are

reimbursed. Mr. Heiss deferred to Diane, who advised reimbursements are all caught up. Montoya stated he doesn't think action is needed at this time. Mr. Heiss stated he will budget a contingency fund in next year's budget for the same reason for next FY

No action was taken.

**5. Discussion and possible action to establish the SEAGO Regional Technical Services Center**  
Mr. Heiss gave an overview of implementing and operating the Regional Technical Services Center.

Paul David asked if there is any feedback or opposition from local/regional circumventing procurement process rather than going to the city of Sierra Vista. Mr. Heiss responded that requests will most likely be fulfilled by vendors already on the resource list for Sierra Vista who will provide it a very reasonable amount of time

Richard Ortega made a motion to establish the SEAGO Regional Technical Services Center and to authorize the Executive Director to update and supplement the RTSC Implementation Procedures as necessary to meet operating requirements, the needs of member agencies or the specifications of state and federal agencies. Luis Montoya seconded.

**MOTION: Ortega**  
**SECOND: Montoya**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

**6. Discussion and possible action regarding SEAGO 2019 - 2023 TIP Amendment #2**

Chris Vertrees provided an overview of the Zorilla Street Bridge Rehabilitation, explaining that the project was bid in FY2018. There was one bidder for the project and was \$548,000 over the budget developed by ADOT. A project status meeting was conducted on in December which determined that refining the scope of work and rebidding the project was the best option. A strategy was developed to combine the remaining Off-System Bridge funds (OSB funds are capped at \$1million), SEAGO STP funds, additional Town match, and the anticipated economy of multiple bids to address the funding gap. With TAC approval, SEAGO is in a position to provide \$188,600 in STP funding to support the project. This will bring the total amount available for the project to \$1,133,081 including OSB, STP and local match. He explained that, if approved, the project would be added to the TIP in Year 2019, as Construction Phase, showing the following amounts:

Federal Share (additional): \$188,600  
Local Match (additional): \$11,400  
Total Project Cost (additional): \$200,000

Mr. Vertrees also explained that the Administrative Council unanimously recommended approval of the TIP amendment at their February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Richard Ortega made a motion to approve the SEAGO 2019-2023 TIP Amendment #2. Arturo Garino seconded the motion.

**MOTION: Richard Ortega**  
**SECOND: Arturo Garino**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

## **7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Future Meeting Dates**

Mr. Heiss outlined the proposed future meeting dates for the following twelve months.

### **B. Strategic Plan Implementation Progress Report**

Mr. Heiss provided an update on the implementation of Strategic Plan goals.

### **C. Quarterly Finance Report**

Diane Pashley provided the quarterly Finance report and responded to questions.

### **D. SEAGO Economic Development District Report**

Larry Catten provided the Economic Development report and answered questions.

### **E. AAA Updates**

Agenda item moved before item #IV

### **F. Transit Update**

Mr. Vertrees provided the Transit Report and responded to questions.

## **VII. RTAC REPORT**

Mr. Kevin Adam was not present.

## **VIII. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS**

Randy Heiss shared that he hosted a German newspaper reporter from Di Zeip (The Times) who was intrigued by the border balloon story in December and she wanted an idea of what life was like on both sides of the US/Mexico border; especially coming from a country that lived with a wall for so many years. He also pondered why there is never talk about people crossing the Northern border of the US. Mr. Heiss also encouraged members to register for the upcoming Rural Transportation Summit hosted by SEAGO and download the Summit app.

## **IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Randy Heiss advised that future agenda items include normal budget items; approval of allocations from AAA; audit presentation; Mr. Heiss' performance evaluation; audit findings and a concertina wire resolution. Luis Montoya asked to include a discussion on water rights. Mr. Heiss suggested that it be handled as an economic development issue, as Larry Catten suggested. More discussion ensued on this topic. Paul David stated that SEAGO could take a valuable role to move the issue forward to develop a win-win resolution for everyone. He also noted that a lawsuit on the issue is scheduled to be heard in 2020, so time is of the essence to try and resolve before then.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gomez adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

DRAFT