

**MINUTES OF THE
SEAGO EXECUTIVE BOARD
CADY HALL
346 DUQUESNE AVENUE
PATAGONIA, ARIZONA
NOVEMBER 16, 2018**

OFFICERS PRESENT: Doyle, John – Mayor, City of Nogales (*Chair*)
Gomez, David – Supervisor, Greenlee County (*1nd Vice Chair*)
Ortega, Richard – Vice Mayor, City of Safford (*2nd Vice Chair*)
Lindsey, Sam – Councilman, City of Willcox (*Treasurer*)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bracker, Bruce – Supervisor, Santa Cruz County
David, Paul – Supervisor, Graham County
Doyle, John – Mayor, City of Nogales
Isakson, Ike – Mayor, Town of Patagonia
Judd, Peggy – Supervisor, Cochise County
Mueller, Rick – Councilman, City of Sierra Vista
Richardson, Barbara – Cochise County Private Sector Rep.
Tony Sedgwick – Santa Cruz County Private Sector Rep
Soto, Cesar – Councilman, City of Douglas

STAFF PRESENT: Catten, Larry – Economic Development Planner
Dennis, Keith – Senior Planning Specialist
Glenn, Heather – Administrative Assistant
Heiss, Randy – Executive Director
Merideth, John – GIS Coordinator
Vertrees, Chris – Transportation Program Administrator
Villa, Laura – AAA Program Director
Williams, Bonnie – CDBG Program Manager

GUESTS: Adam, Kevin – RTAC
Klein, Ray - Citizens of Patagonia

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. Patagonia Mayor Ike Isakson provided welcoming remarks and introductions were made.

II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION (Common Critical Issues)

Mr. Paul David expressed thanks to SEAGO staff for their assistance in getting funding to continue the Dial a Ride program when ESBF, who provides transportation in his area, thought they weren't going to get refunded. The funding also included an additional \$20,000. **Ms. Peggy Judd** said that she heard that money is running out for AAA services in her area and requested a meeting with SEAGO to discuss. She stated that there is an unused van that was purchased for transporting seniors that may be able to be put into service. **Mr. David Gomez** announced that Greenlee County is experiencing an escalating lack of housing and requested members to send developers their way. **Chair Doyle** lamented that Nogales is also experiencing housing issues. He announced that this will be his last meeting and that he won't be able to make the February meeting. He thanked the Board for their confidence in selecting him as the Chair. He advised that Vice Mayor

Rojas and Supervisor Bracker will represent the City in the future. Ms. Judd and Mr. Bracker expressed appreciation to Mayor Doyle for his time serving as Executive Board Chair. **Mr. Bruce Bracker** explained that CBP is implementing an avatar face recognition system to cross the border and that training is in progress. The goal of the system is to speed up border crossing time. Constituents report that the officers patrolling the border are greatly impacting their business. He stated that two passenger lanes were closed in Nogales and the impact is significant. CBP will be rolling the system out to other areas. **Mr. Sam Lindsey** advised this will be his last SEAGO meeting, also. He has enjoyed his participation with the City of Willcox and with SEAGO. He introduced Mayor Mike Laws who will be representing the City of Willcox on the Executive Board.

III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Ray Klein introduced himself as one of five serving on the Board of Directors for the Patagonia Senior Citizens, Inc. He welcomed and thanked the group for using their facilities. He stated that he has been on the Senior Citizens of Patagonia Board since 1992 and expressed his gratitude to SEAGO on behalf of his organization and the Town for their assistance and expertise.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of the August 17, 2018 Minutes
 - b. Nomination to the Advisory Council on Aging

Mr. Sam Lindsey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

MOTION: Sam Lindsey
SECOND: David Gomez
ACTION: **Unanimous**

2. Discussion and possible action to nominate a member of the Executive Board to fill the Treasurer position on the SEAGO Executive Committee

Mr. Randy Heiss explained that Mr. Sam Lindsey is the Executive Board Treasurer and that his duties will stop December 1st. Mr. Heiss stated he wanted to give the Executive Board the option to fill the position in case an issue arises where a meeting needs to be called and a quorum is needed before the position would normally be filled in February.

Mr. Rick Mueller made a motion to nominate Mayor Mike Laws of the Executive Board from Cochise County to fill the vacancy in the Treasurer position on the Executive Committee effective December 1, 2018.

MOTION: Rick Mueller
SECOND: Peggy Judd
ACTION: **Unanimous**

3. Discussion and possible action relating to Resolution No. 2018-04 urging the elimination of transfers of dedicated transportation revenues to the State General Fund (HURF)

Mr. Randy Heiss stated that this Resolution has been updated every year for the past nine years. The numbers in the Resolution have been updated throughout the document. The last recital on page 11 is new and states: **WHEREAS**, the implementation of the Highway Safety Fee established by HB 2166 will fully fund the Department of Public Safety operations in Fiscal Year 2020 and therefore eliminates the need to divert HURF, Vehicle License Tax, or other revenue sources dedicated for transportation purposes to the State General Fund.

Mr. Heiss stated there is need to be vigilant or legislature may find programs that can benefit from HURF funds. Mr. Paul David asked what the most effective way of presenting a resolution. Mr. Heiss responded that he presents it at the State Board of Transportation meeting. He also contacts as many legislators as he can in our area and distributes to the entire legislature via email. Mr. Mueller suggested that a copy be sent to the heads of the House Transportation Committees.

Mr. Rick Mueller made a motion that the Executive Board pass and adopt Resolution No. 2018-04 urging the Arizona legislature and governor to direct dedicated transportation funding to its intended uses, and to modernize our transportation infrastructure funding mechanisms.

MOTION: Rick Mueller
SECOND: Richard Ortega
ACTION: **Unanimous**

4. Discussion and possible action relating to the 2019 Transportation Issues Position Statement

Mr. Randy Heiss stated he likes to start from the bottom up when developing transportation issues position statement. He advised that this year he approached it a bit differently by not first providing a copy of the resolution from the previous year and inquired of the members what was on their minds; what issues have they been encountering in their efforts to implement their transportation contracts; difficulties with ADOT, funding sources, etc., since they understand the issues they have within their communities. Page 13 of the packet contains the final position statement and the results of what came out of that discussion. He advised that the HURF exchange program now available for local governments to utilize. SEAGO's issue is that the projects in our 5-year plan are federalized to the point where we can't back out of them now and can't access the HURF exchange program. It's only available to the surface transportation block grant program; it doesn't cover the SHIP and other projects and doesn't cover any of the other funding sources that the federal government funds like congestion mitigation and air quality so we end up with just a small pot of funding that is all federalized. SEAGO's TIP projects are programmed out until 2023 and it's all federalized so they can't take advantage of other funding. He provided some things that can be worked on in the meantime at the State level: historic preservation seems to be a tripping-up point for a lot of SEAGO projects; how to coordinate better with the historic preservation office and implement more efficient and sensible project review. He believes federal agencies have the ability to craft alternative methods to meet their section 106 obligation. FHWA and SHPO should coordinate and refine the criteria that triggers mitigation actions and identify criteria for items that qualify as historic resources in view of standards that are established by the national historic preservation act. He described some of the issues that could be simplified. He noted that consulting costs are eating up available funds; some projects run 44 to 50%. ADOT is trying to determine what's driving that and mitigate it and SEAGO wants to support that to try to reduce those costs. Another big factor is staff turnover at ADOT which results in a poor paper trail left behind; steps having to be repeated and entities having to pay more money for additional review

which could be reduced by creating better succession planning to reduce these kinds of issues. He then addressed questions and comments from the group. Chair Doyle called for a motion to approve the position statements on transportation issues presented by staff.

Mr. Rick Mueller made a motion to approve the 2019 Transportation Issues Position Statement presented by staff as recommended by the Administrative Council.

MOTION: Rick Mueller
SECOND: David Gomez
ACTION: Unanimous

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the FY 2019-FY 2021 Method of Distribution

Ms. Bonnie Williams advised that the method of distribution used to be done every year but then the State changed it to update every 3 years instead of every 5 years. If any changes need to be made, SEAGO can let the State know to revise it. It is a document that provides background and explains what CDBG is but more importantly, the rotation schedule. There is also a calendar for progress, suggested preparation and planning steps when it's your turn. She announced that no changes have been made since the last revision which takes Cochise County to a 6 year rotation. This coming year, Duncan, Santa Cruz County, Tombstone & Pima are up for their applications and it will soon be time to start the public hearing process. She stated that SEAGO staff are here to help and will be contacting those communities directly to start working with them on their planning process. She then addressed any questions. Ms. Williams explained that the rotation schedule set by the entities in each county; funding is determined by population and poverty stats. She pointed out that SEAGO is the least funded of all the COGs in the state because of the population numbers. SEAGO takes uses these formulas to determine the split for counties. Many years ago, was decided to give Clifton and Duncan \$100k; where they would normally qualify for only \$50k. Last year's funding amounts are in the guide. Chair Doyle called for a motion to approve the proposed Method of Distribution for Fiscal Years 2019-2021 as recommended by staff.

Mr. David Gomez made a motion to approve the proposed Method of Distribution for Fiscal Years 2019 - 2021 as recommended by the Administrative Council.

MOTION: David Gomez
SECOND: Richard Ortega
ACTION: Unanimous

6. Discussion and possible action regarding SEAGO 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #7

Mr. Chris Vertrees directed the members to the TIP Amendment which was approved at their September TAC meeting. They are SHIP projects which were submitted through their safety plan project. He stated that they invested \$400k in the safety plan and have already made \$5.5M in projects back, so it's been a good return on investment. He briefly reviewed the list and then asked for questions. Chair Doyle called for a motion to approve SEAGO 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #7.

Mr. Bruce Bracker made a motion to approve the SEAGO 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #7 as recommended by the Administrative Council.

MOTION: Bruce Bracker
SECOND: David Gomez
ACTION: **Unanimous**

V. 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

Ms. Diane Pashley provided the quarterly finance report and responded to questions.

D. SEAGO Economic Development District Report

Mr. Larry Catten provided the Economic Development report and responded to questions.

E. AAA Updates

Ms. Laura Villa provided the Area Agency on Aging Region VI updates and responded to questions.

F. Transit Update

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

VI. RTAC REPORT

Mr. Kevin Adam was not present; however, his report was distributed at the meeting.

VII. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. Chris Vertrees announced that he is working on an access and mobility grant FTA grant food issues medical access working with several agencies to develop a hub-type concept that goes into the communities partners with a meals program and the Chiricahua mobile clinics to provide highly competitive; only 2.5 million nationwide.

Laura Villa explained the SEAGO READI-Meals program which provides freeze-dried meals for emergency situations. The meals are created from leftover meals from our congregate and home-delivered meal sites. A proposal was submitted to DES to provide funding for the equipment to begin testing and developing the program around the SEAGO AAA four-county region and we are awaiting their final decision. It is a cutting-edge idea to reduce waste and make it available in emergency situations. Ms. Villa distributed some samples of freeze-dried fruit for the members to try.

Mr. Heiss noted that there are changes in elected officials: Patagonia, Nogales, HC, and Tombstone will need to appoint new representatives to the Executive Board. It appears Willcox and Nogales are figured out for the time being.

He stated that John Merideth has completed the Census page on the SEAGO website and asked members to please pay attention to that as Census approaches.

He updated the members on the funding for the 208 Water Quality Management Program, stating that ADEQ had decided they were going to stop funding designated planning agencies (SEAGO is one) and send the \$100K that they received from EPA out for competitive proposals. We advised them that according to the federal statute, designated planning agencies get priority for that money. We submitted a proposal and it was accepted by ADEQ to give every DPA a base level of funding and then rotate amongst the DPAS the remaining funds over a five year cycle. It will result in DPAs receiving a meaningful amount of planning money to develop water quality management plans, mostly for watershed activities. SEAGO's turn will be in 2021.

He announced that SEAGO is hosting the 2019 Rural Transportation Summit at the Casino del Sol in Tucson since there is no facility in our region large enough to host the number of participants. Focus on international trade and industry.

Mr. Heiss shared the promotion of John Meredith to GIS Coordinator and noted that Heather Glenn is taking his place to organize meetings.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Heiss reminded members that election of officers for 2019 is forthcoming.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Doyle thanked Mayor Isakson for hosting the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Richard Ortega made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

MOTION: Richard Ortega
SECOND: Bruce Bracker
ACTION: **Unanimous**