

**MINUTES OF THE
SEAGO EXECUTIVE BOARD
CITY OF WILLCOX PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX
300 WEST REX ALLEN DRIVE
WILLCOX, ARIZONA
FEBRUARY 21, 2020**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barlow, Bill – Councilmember, City of Tombstone
David, Paul – Supervisor, Graham County
Garino, Arturo – Mayor, City of Nogales
Laws, Mike – Mayor, City of Willcox
Montoya, Luis – Councilmember, Town of Clifton
Richards, Shaylee - Representative, Greenlee County Private Sector
Richardson, Barbara – Cochise County Private Sector Rep.
Sedgwick, Anthony – Representative, Santa Cruz County Private Sector
Smith, David – Mayor, City of Bisbee
Gray, Rachel – Council member, City of Sierra Vista

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

GUESTS: Adam, Kevin – RTAC
Garino, Kathy
Kovach, Akos – Greenlee County Economic Development Coord.
Robinette, Dustie

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Gomez called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Mayor Mike Laws made welcoming remarks to the group.

II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION

Supervisor Paul David stated water issues with the tribe and 2 traffic fatalities this week are continuing emergency problems in Graham County. Bisbee Mayor David Smith wanted to bring up the public safety retirement issue with the cities. He stated that the Legislature is refusing to do anything about it. Bisbee had to re-amortize their schedule from 20 to 30 yrs. Councilmember Luis Montoya, Clifton, reminded everyone of the importance of the census. Clifton will be hosting a kick-off meeting in Greenlee County. He shared that a bill is being supported by the League of Cities and Towns loosening regulations to make it easier for cities and towns to address issues of blight. Bisbee Mayor Smith stated that many people are missing the 'doom' created by short-term (Air B&B) rentals with regard to the census. Short-term rentals owned by absentee landlords will not be counted in the census. Mayor Mike Laws stated the legislators are aware of the issues concerning Bill 2705 prisoner pre-trial expenses imposed upon the arresting city or town. Supervisor David asked who imposes the pretrial fees. Mayor Laws stated it comes from

the Sheriff's Office and is mandated by the AZ Court of Laws. Mayor Laws stated \$400 million will be provided for roads throughout AZ; Willcox was not on ADOT's plan. Willcox received a beautification grant to address blight and are using volunteers to get it done. Mayor Pro Tem Bill Barlow asked Randy to have SEAGO look at how they might be able to help with the issues raised through advocacy.

III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Akos Kovach announced that he has been in contact with a developer from California who will be building the first vineyard in Greenlee County.

IV. PRESENTATION: Independent Auditor's Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2019.

Auditor's report was not completed, so there was no presentation.

V. ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of the November 22, 2019 Minutes
 - b. Nominations to the Advisory Council on Aging

Mayor Ortega made a motion to approve the November 22, 2019 Executive Board meeting minutes; to appoint Mr. Jaime Aguilar to fill the vacant position for Greenlee County unincorporated, and appoint Mr. David Morse to fill the vacant position for the City of Safford on the Advisory Council on Aging as presented on the Consent Agenda; Mayor Barlow seconded.

MOTION: Richard Ortega
SECOND: Bill Barlow
ACTION: Unanimous

- 2. Election of Officers

Randy Heiss explained the election cycle and process. He announced that Supervisor Gomez, Mayor Garino, Mayor Laws, and Mayor Ortega are all interested in continuing to serve on the Board. Supervisor David stated a vote of confidence and appreciation to the current Board. Mayor Barlow made a motion to elect the following slate of Executive Board officers for calendar year 2020:

Chair: Graham County Officer (Safford Vice-Mayor Richard Ortega)
First Vice-Chair: Cochise County Officer (Willcox Mayor Mike Laws)
Second Vice-Chair: Santa Cruz County Officer (Nogales Mayor Arturo Garino)
Treasurer: Greenlee County Officer (Supervisor David Gomez)

Mayor Smith seconded the motion.

MOTION: Bill Barlow
SECOND: David Smith
ACTION: Unanimous

3. Discussion and possible action to nominate Daniel Valle to serve as a Cochise County Private Sector Representative on the Executive Board

Mr. Heiss provided a brief overview of Mr. Valle's history, qualifications and interest in serving on the Executive Board.

David Smith made a motion to appoint Mr. Daniel Valle to a two-year term as a Cochise County Private Sector Representative on the Executive Board. Seconded by Mayor Barlow, who commented that he knows Daniel personally and believes he will be an excellent addition to the Board.

Randy Heiss explained that Barbara Richardson's position is coming up for election and that she is interested in continuing.

MOTION: David Smith
SECOND: Bill Barlow
ACTION: Unanimous

4. Discussion and possible action to approve the proposed SEAGO Policy Principles for Calendar Year 2020

Randy Heiss directed the members to page 10, which lists the principles developed by SEAGO staff and reviewed and amended by the Administrative Council. He explained that he usually submits policy principles for the Transportation Program; however, he felt strongly that the other SEAGO programs should be included and approached staff to develop the current document. The policy principles will empower staff to support or oppose legislation, policies or other initiatives at the state and local levels. He explained that they were initially presented at the Administrative Council meeting and the members reworked and omitted some of the principles that could be worked on as tactics addressing goals from the Strategic Plan. Shaylee Richards asked how many members from the AC were present at the Strategic Plan and requested that this information be available at future meetings. Mayor Ortega made a motion to approve/amend/reject the SEAGO Policy Principles for Calendar Year 2020. Mayor Barlow seconded.

MOTION: Richard Ortega
SECOND: Bill Barlow
ACTION: Unanimous

Mr. Heiss distributed a brochure he had prepared for members to use as a tool with the talking points on the Policy Principles when speaking with legislators and others.

5. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2020-01, authorizing an FTA Access and Mobility Partnership Grant

Chris Vertrees provided an overview of the grant and explained that SEAGO needs to be a direct recipient of FTA to receive and manage the funds. This needs to be done by resolution. Supervisor David commended Chris' initiative to seek and apply for the grant. Mayor David Smith made a motion to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2020-01. Seconded by Councilmember Luis Montoya.

MOTION: David Smith
SECOND: Luis Montoya
ACTION: Unanimous

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Future Meeting Dates

Mr. Heiss outlined the proposed future meeting dates for the following twelve months. The April 2nd Joint Committees telephonic meeting will need a quorum for ADOT budget and TIP and he asked the officers to mark their calendars to participate.

B. Strategic Plan Implementation Progress Report

Mr. Heiss provided an update on the implementation of Strategic Plan goals and thanked those who attended. Gave an update on the Strategic Plan Retreat earlier in the month. Had about the same level of participation as in the past; 15 members and 7 staff. February is a busy time for the legislature which may impact attendance and SEAGO is looking at ways to increase participation in the future. Goals decreased from 3 to 2 goals, which Mr. Heiss reviewed. He projected that the draft plan would be ready mid-March; staff will review and adjust and then it will be sent out about the first week in April. It will be published on the SEAGO website. Supervisor David asked what the process is for the ideas presented at the retreat to be adopted. Mr. Heiss responded that Tactics will be developed for each issue raised at the retreat. There will be a matrix at the back of the plan showing timelines and priorities. The vote for the Strategic Plan will happen in May.

C. Quarterly Finance Report

Dina Curtiss provided the quarterly Finance report and responded to questions. Supervisor David commented on the 'burn rate' and revenue for the last 2 items and environmental quality saying that it looked like the organization was behind at this time in the fiscal year. Randy Heiss explained that they shouldn't be worried that it showed only 8% being spent under environmental quality. It is a low demand account and the State only provides \$8,000. He can burn through that by attending just a few meetings in Phoenix. Chris Vertrees addressed the Cochise Co Public Transit Consolidation and Santa Cruz Co RTA Feasibility Study. He explained that the Cochise public hearings will be kicking off soon and that the Santa Cruz County RTA is in the 'clean-up' stage from a list of projects that was developed earlier. Mr. Heiss explained that due to the change in personnel in Transportation, projects were not moved forward until Chris returned. Councilmember Montoya voiced a concern about Agency Response revenue vs expenses. He asked if the auditors have ever raised the issue. Mr. Heiss explained that the auditors use the actual receipts generated by SEAGO when the audits are done and have never voiced a concern about this issue.

D. AAA Program Updates

Laura Villa provided an update on AAA program activities and addressed questions.

E. SEAGO Economic Development District Report

Larry Catten provided the Economic Development report and answered questions. Mr. Catten closed his presentation by announcing that this would be his last EB meeting, as he was retiring in April. He expressed his pleasure at working with everyone and thanked them. Mayor Barlow thanked Larry for all his help and wished him all the best. Councilmember Montoya concurred. Mr. Heiss expressed his appreciation to Larry for his good work and stated he will be sorely missed. Mr. Heiss shared that the job announcement is publishing today and SEAGO hopes to land someone with comparable skills.

F. Transportation Program Updates

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

VII. RTAC REPORT

Mr. Kevin Adam gave an update and answered questions. Supervisor David expressed appreciation to Kevin for his work. Supervisor Gomez stated that the take-away message today is advocacy and getting the word out, contacting legislature and making your voice heard.

Chair Gomez called for a recess at 11:51 a.m. so that members could eat lunch while it was hot. The meeting reconvened at 12:12 p.m.

VIII. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS

Keith Dennis stated that there have been some changes to the CDBG handbook in the past month worthy of mention: Economic Development activities no longer eligible for CDBG; State Special project grants have been raised from \$300,000 to \$500,000; great for housing rehabilitation and remains very competitive. Cities and towns can request a waiver from ADOH to do more than one project as long as the second project is, or performs, a public service or planning. This will help cities and towns obtain funding for smaller projects in the future.

Heather Glenn distributed business cards that contain the information for calling into the quarterly meetings on the conference line in that hopes the information would be more easily accessible for the members.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Shaylee Richards requested that the number of attendees from each county who were present when at the Administrative Council meetings be added when actions are being recommended to the Executive Board. Mr. Heiss stated that staff would add the information as a regular task. Mr. Heiss stated that the May meeting is expected to be a long meeting that will be starting at 9 a.m. to work on the Executive Director's annual review; reappointment of Barbara Richardson; Strategic Plan report; Greenlee County Road Study presentation, the Auditor's presentation and the grant match budget resolution.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gomez adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.