

**Board of Director's Meeting  
October 9, 2020  
Virtual Meeting  
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District/COG was called to order virtually by Board President James Williams at 10:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

The following Member Governments were represented by Directors or Alternates:

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS-PRESENT

Chaves County—Dara Dana, Commissioner  
Eddy County—Larry Wood, Commissioner  
Alamogordo—Nadia Sikes, Commissioner  
Artesia—Sandy Countryman  
Carrizozo—Cynthia Johnson, Trustee  
Cloudcroft—William Denney, Mayor  
Dexter—Ruby Parks, Clerk/Treasurer  
Eunice—Jordan Yutzy, City Manager  
Hobbs—Todd Randall, City Engineer  
Hope—Rudy Sales, Public Works Director  
Jal—Matt White, City Manager  
Lake Arthur—Debra Sallee, Clerk/Treasurer  
Lovington—James Williams, City Manager  
Roswell—Judy Stubbs, Councilor  
Ruidoso—Lynn Crawford, Mayor  
Ruidoso Downs—Dean Holman, Mayor  
Tatum—Marilyn Burns, Mayor

NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBERS-PRESENT

Chaves County—Jon Hitchcock  
Eddy County—John Waters  
Lea County—Robbie Roberts  
Lincoln County—Coda Omness

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS-NOT PRESENT

Lea County—Mike Gallagher, County Manager  
Lincoln County—Dallas Draper, Commissioner  
Otero County—Pamela Heltner  
Capitan—Ron Lowrance, Mayor  
Carlsbad—Lisa Anaya-Flores, Councilor  
Corona—Sam Seely, Mayor  
Hagerman—Tony Garcia, Mayor  
Loving—Pete Estrada, Mayor  
Tularosa—Robert Sainz, Trustee

NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBERS-NOT PRESENT

Bill Mershon—Otero County

A quorum was present with 17 of the 26 Member Governments represented. Four of the five Non-Government Members were also present.

GUESTS AND VISITORS PRESENT

Debi Lee, EDA CARES ACT Coordinator

Representative Greg Nibert

Evelyn Holguin

Carolyn Arias, SBDC

Mara Salcido

Leslie (no last name on the screen)

Tony Major

Monica Steeby

Lisa Dunlap, Roswell Daily Record

SNMEDD/COG STAFF PRESENT

Dora Batista, Executive Director

Mary Ann Burr, SERPTO Program Manager

Pansy Moffitt, Office/Finance Administrator

Hubert Quintana, Consultant

4. Approve Virtual Meeting Agenda for October 9, 2020:

John Waters made a motion to approve the agenda and Jon Hitchcock seconded. Motion carried.

5. Legislators Update—Representative Greg Nibert

Representative Nibert stated that most of the things that were discussed at the last session, revolved around the budget. The legislators did end up passing a pretty healthy budget. But, because at the time that we were in session, we did not realize what was fixing to happen to the state.

And although some of the legislators from south-east New Mexico had given some warning signs of what we're seeing in our communities, with respect to the oil and gas industry, we still passed a billion dollar budget statewide.

Representative Nibert thought that was a bit on the high side in his opinion. All the Republicans in the house voted against that budget believing that it was a little too extravagant, we passed the budget shortly after we got home.

The Corona Virus hit, and, shut down the state and, and so, it became very apparent to the Legislators that we had to revise the budgeting. The Governor called us in the special session in June, for purposes of tackling the budget issues. She did not put anything else on the call, she only dealt with the emergencies that she had declared.

We, again, passed a fairly significant budget. We took all the federal COVID 19 money.

We voted to dip into the reserves and to shore up a \$6 billion budget.

Representative Nibert stated that they really didn't cut much out of the budget, just rearranged the figures. Representative Nibert's call encountered technical difficulties we were not able to reconnect.

6. Approve Minutes of Meeting on July 24, 2020 Meeting:

Matt White made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 24, 2020 and Larry Wood seconded. Motion carried.

7. Review and Accept Financial Report and Budget Adjustments:

Dora presented the financial report. As we stated at our last board meeting, the legislature gave us funds for a new agency car, we need to show that adjustment. This is the first line, Item in the amount of \$39,998. This budget adjustment, is an in and out income and expense, as soon as we received the money, we wrote a check to CES.

We are where we need to be at the end of this first quarter. Our income is that 38% of the line items. We are at 100% of our dues.

Our communications line item is at 34% due to us having to wire in a new office.

John Waters made a motion to approve the Financial Report and Ruby Parks seconded. Motion carried.

8. Discussion of Disposal of 2011 Dodge Nitro:

With the purchase of the new agency car, we now have a 2011 Dodge Nitro to dispose of. We did check with our auditor and they told us we could sell the vehicle. The body is in good shape. It has 162,000 miles on it, and it is a 6 cylinder. There are a few items that need to be fixed. The driver's window doesn't roll up and down; the air conditioner needs some work.

We thought it would be fair to offer it up to bid to our Board Member/municipalities by way of sealed bids. If the board is in agreement, we would accept sealed bids until the end of October 23, 2020. This will give two weeks to mail the bid to us. Unless anyone has any better ideas. In the case the bids are too low, there is a disclaimer that we reserve the right to sell it for a higher amount. Matt White made a motion to approve the disposal of the 2011 Dodge Nitro with a minimum bid of \$4,000.00 and Judy Stubbs seconded. Motion carried.

9. Appoint Nominating Committee to develop 2021 Slate of Officers:

Our Executive Committee consists of a representative from each county-- the President, the Vice President, Treasurer and a representative of the counties that do not hold an office. The Executive Committee will serve as the nominating committee. The Executive Director will remain the Secretary as stated in the By-Laws. Other members are welcome to make nominations or to volunteer to be on the nominating committee. The committee will meet telephonically by mid-December and present to the Board for ratification in January.

10. Program and Activity Reports:

- Dora Batista—District Activity Report
- Mary Ann Burr—SERTPO
- Hubert Quintana—Consultant Report
- Debi Lee—EDA CARES ACT Update

Dora Batista— District Activity:

Dora's report and the format that she turns into the state is included in the board packet.

CDBG allocations were awarded on September 17th. This is the first time it was in this virtual format.

The presentations were presented two weeks earlier over the internet and there were some challenges

due to difficulties with the internet Evelyn Holguin is our district representative. She represents our region on the CDC Council. Thank you, Evelyn for your work.

The available funding was \$12,242,860. After the allocations to planning and Economic development, \$10,583,849 was available for infrastructure projects, a total of 23 projects were eligible, and only 14 were funded. Our region had five applications from the south-east Region of the State, three were funded Otero County, Town of Dexter, and Village of Ruidoso. Congratulations to all three, the Village of Ruidoso did have the number one ranked project. Congratulations, Mayor Crawford. The three allocations totaled \$2,182,176 and averaged about 21% of the available funding.

The 2021 application process should be announced soon. Last year they held an application workshop in December, Dora will notify everyone when the workshop is scheduled.

Out of the 2020 Colonia's Awards, we had three funded—Village of Hope, City of Ruidoso Downs, and Malaga Mutual Domestic.

Dora's WIA report was in the board packet. She contacted the operations manager for the Eastern Area Workforce, or Tiffany Roth for an update.. She sent Dora the minutes, which are included in the board packet and had nothing new to report.

We continue to work as outlined in our Cares Act funding. Our region submitted four applications, two more are in the works.

Our goal is to have our conference room set up for virtual meetings for our next board meeting. We've ordered the furniture and we're looking into the monitoring screen of the computer right now. That upgrade is also part of our Cares Act funding.

The first part that we're required to do was to assist with applications and to get the word out. We had a quota of about 3 to 4, which we have fulfilled.

Hubert, Debi, and Dora attend virtual meetings every Monday with the EDA representative for New Mexico and other regional COG Directors. We think we are way ahead of the game based on the other COG reports. We are fortunate to have Debi Lee to help work on the EDA CARES ACT. She is familiar with local government and terminology. The other part of our requirement besides the applications and the technology upgrade is the Regional Economic Recovery Plan which Debi handles.

We also e-mailed you an economic impact evaluation which was included in the board packet items that Debi did on the covert impact today. We know that this impact will have longer ramifications, and we will be updating the evaluation as we go along.

For those of you who attended a capital outlay webinar Wednesday by the state, the electronic capital outlay form is not ready. They are still looking at another 2 or 3 weeks.

Their plan is to use the I CIP project identifier number, and your capital outlay request should transfer all your information to your capital outlay form

We would still like to have the Capital Outlay hearings as in the past. Normally, we hold these presentations in October, November, and the later we get, the less available our legislators are so we'll

keep you posted on how that's going. Once they release the electronic form, the State plans to have a training.

One of the analysts was saying that if you have stagnant or unused capital outlay funds that aren't moving, you might want to think about reauthorization, especially if you could use them for another project.

Mary Ann Burr—SERTPO:

The Comprehensive Planning Grants are well under way.

Each one has pay requests coming in and is roughly 25% in overall completion.

A SERTPO subcommittee meeting was held in September and they reviewed a survey for use with the Regional Transportation Plan. For the first time, an online survey is available on the SNMEDD website. The purpose of the survey is to get input from our stakeholders and the public. The survey is running through the end of October 2020. At this time, there are 128 responses to the survey. The information will be shared once the survey is complete. There will be another virtual subcommittee meeting the first week of November and a public transit prioritization virtual meeting on November 12, 2020

Hubert Quintana—Consultant Update:

Hubert has been working on the EDA Cares Act program. Each community would be eligible for something between 100,000 to 3,000,000 million dollars in our region. The limits nationally are much higher.

Hubert wanted to be sure that the EDA Austin office could help as many communities as possible. They put a \$3 million limit on the top end and nationally, we are not looking at something that runs under \$100,000 a quarter of a million dollars is the floor. We put together applications based on these figures.

The city of Lovington is doing a water project. That will serve not only the city, but Nor-Lea hospital should another pandemic come along.

Eddy County is doing an industrial park and increasing their water and gas supply to the industrial park and taking some traffic and some other issues away from downtown that would help with the with the pandemic situation.

The City of Jal is doing a broadband expansion and development project that would bring greater, broadband accessibility to the schools and to the clinic and be able to tie into hospitals in Midland/Odessa, Lubbock and Carlsbad.

The City of Roswell is doing an expansion to hangar 84 out of the air center and doing some work on the tarmac out front.

The City of Carlsbad contacted us about applying for a project on the south end of town, the National Parks Highway sewer line.

City of Artesia contacted us about doing a new recreations facility in the park that's adjacent to the hospitals so that they would be able to handle large groups.

The Town of Carrizozo contacted us about trying to do a broadband program in their community that would create hotspots so that more people in the community and schools would be able to have broadband accessibility. Also, for the students, especially right now during this pandemic, when the schools cannot do it and would have accessibility for those students we lost.

Debi Lee—EDA CARES ACT Update:

Ms. Lee reviewed the gross receipt taxes that are submitted to DFA every year, or every month, and looked at all the different industries and how COVID has affected them.

This report will be updated because the COVID 19 is going to continue to have impact for some time.

Ms. Lee stated that COVID 19 has truly impacted south-east New Mexico's oil and gas industry. She also stated that this economic impact evaluation is clearly visible for Eddy County and Lea County. It has seriously impacted mining also.

And then retail was the second area industry that has the greatest impact, which really touches every single county and city in the south-east New Mexico region.

Among other industries impacted are quarries, construction, retail, and food and accommodation. Not only has this impacted counties, but it has also impacted cities and municipalities.

Ms. Lee provided the SNMEDD Board with detailed graphs demonstrating the impact COVID 19 has had economically.

Ms. Lee compared the months of March, April, May and June 2019 to the same months in 2020. There was a significant loss in several of the communities and especially the smaller communities.

Some of the statistics of the impact show that Lea County and agriculture is showing a negative 33%, mining is a negative 64%, and manufacturing is a negative 125%.

Ms. Lee took what she thought was the majority of the ones that would have had the most impact such as the lodger's tax, tourism, aviation, and unemployment (which changes day to day)

Southeastern New Mexico has been hit harder than others. This is why Ms. Lee thinks it is imperative to build a recovery plan. An outline was sent out to the Board Members for a recovery plan.

There will be a meeting on October 21st at 10:30 am in Hobbs. She asked that if anyone had any names they would like to submit to add to the list, please let her know so that she can contact them.

This is going to be a working group that has expertise in the various areas of utilities, finance, banking, tourism, housing, oil, industry, retail, aviation, community development, main street, agriculture, education and construction.

16. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am

APPROVED:

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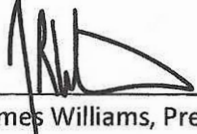
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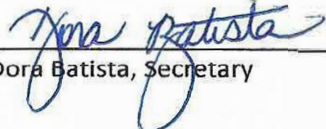
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16. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_ 01/08/2021  
James Williams, President Date

ATTESTED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1-8-21  
Dora Batista, Secretary Date