

Board of Director's Meeting
July 9, 2021
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 Raye Miller 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
Lincoln County—Tom Stewart, Commissioner
Alamogordo—Nadia Sikes, Commissioner
Artesia—Raye Miller, Mayor
Carrizozo—Ray Dean, Mayor
Cloudcroft—William Denny, Mayor
Dexter—Ruby Parks, Clerk/Treasurer
Hope—Rudy Sales, Public Works Director
Jal—Matt White, City Manager
Lake Arthur—Debra Saltee, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Lovington—David Rodriguez, City Manager
Roswell—Jeanine Corn-Best, Councilor
Ruidoso—Lynn Crawford, 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
Otero County—Sid Gordon

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS-NOT PRESENT

Eddy County—Fred Beard, Commissioner
Lea County—Mike Gallagher, County Manager
Lincoln County--Lynn Willard, Commissioner
Otero County—Pamela Heltner
Capitan—Stephanie Bason, Clerk/Treasurer
Carlsbad—Lisa Anaya-Flores, Councilor
Corona—Sam Seely, Mayor
Eunice—Jordan Yutzy, City Manager
Hagerman—Tony Garcia, Mayor
Hobbs—Todd Randall, City Engineer
Loving—Pete Estrada, Mayor
Mescalero Apache Tribe—Gabe Aguilar, President
Ruidoso Downs—Dean Holman, Mayor
Tularosa—Margie Trujillo, Mayor

NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBERS-NOT PRESENT

A quorum was present with 14 of the 26 Member Governments represented. All five Non-Government Members were also present.

GUESTS AND VISITORS PRESENT

Leland Gould, Chairman NMOGA

Dr. Michael Patrick
Terry Haley
Meredith Hildreth
Judy Stubbs, Councilor
Tiffany Roth
Lisa Dunlap, Roswell Daily Record
Jon Cronk, Lincoln County

SNMEDD/COG STAFF PRESENT

Dora Batista, Executive Director
Mary Ann Burr, SERPTO Program Manager
Pansy Moffitt, Office/Finance Administrator
Paul Pappas, Project Coordinator
Kristina Casaus, Administrative Assistant
Hubert Quintana, Consultant
Debi Lee, EDA CARES ACT Consultant

4. Approve Virtual Meeting Agenda for July 9, 2021:

Matt White made a motion to approve the agenda and Sidney Gordon seconded. Motion carried.

5. Approve Minutes of July 9, 2021:

Mayor Miller pointed out two typing errors on page 10. These items have been corrected.
Marilyn Burns made a motion to approve minutes seconded by Nadia Sikes. Motion carried.

6. Program:

- 1) New Mexico Oil and Gas Association—Leland Gould, Chairman of the NM Oil and Gas Association
- 2) Dr. Michael Patrick, NMSU—Community Resource & Economic Development Specialist

Ms. Batista introduced Mr. Leland Gould, Chairman of the Board of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association and stated that Mr. Gould was previously the Director of Governmental and Public Affairs at Marathon Petroleum, Tesoro, Andeavor, and Western Refining. He was responsible for overseeing governmental and public affairs in New Mexico, Texas, Minnesota, Arizona, and Virginia. Prior to the acquisition of Giant Industries by Western Refining, Incorporated, he was the Executive Vice President, overseeing Giant's Retail Group, along with corporate and governmental affairs, including Giants Real Estate Division.

Mr. Gould has served as the president of the Heart Gallery of the New Mexico Foundation, President of New Mexico Amigos, New Mexico's Official Goodwill Ambassadors, Vice Chairman of the President's Children's Ear Institute, and on the boards of the West Petroleum Marketers Association Board, and New Mexico Petroleum Marketers Association.

In 2009, He was appointed by the Governor of New Mexico to serve on the Environmental Improvement Board.

He is a native of New Mexico, he resides in Albuquerque, with his wife former State Senator Candace Gould.

Mr. Gould stated that the good news is that the oil and gas industry is starting to produce \$2.8 billion revenues for the New Mexico state budget. This includes \$1.4 billion for education (this does not include the royalties that are paid to the permanent fund) and \$1.5 billion from federal lands. Between New Mexico and Wyoming, we probably have more federal land than most other states and it is responsible for 134,000

jobs, direct and indirect. The total education funding provided by the oil and natural gas industry was \$163.94 billion; \$143,139,654 million was for K-12 funding and \$20,800,068 million was for higher education funding.

The revenue last year for New Mexico, ending on June the 30th, was \$2.8 billion dollars for our state budget. This is directly from the oil and gas industry. This is approximately 35% of our total budget.

Mr. Gould pointed out that before the pandemic New Mexico had 117 rigs; currently, there are 76 rigs producing record numbers for our state. The industry has done an extremely good job this last year of narrowing its focus and producing these kinds of dollars from its existing assets.

Over \$ 41.375 million is going to Chaves County education; (\$36,320,830 K-12 funding; \$5,053,944 higher education funding; Eddy County education \$38.601 million (\$37,055,422 K-12 funding, \$1,545,355 higher education funding) and Lea County education \$ 48.414 million; (\$46,141,525 k-12 funding; 2,272,372 higher education).

This pandemic has forced us to learn different methods for businesses in order to continue. We have had to learn how to do zoom and team meetings. We've done remote working, virtual meetings, and homeschooling. All the above with social distancing. The oil and gas industry has had to do some of the same things.

Businesses have had to trim a lot of their capital investments and a lot of the spending. Most all companies went through job reductions and many businesses closed their doors for good.

The Wall Street Journal says New Mexico will be a focus of recovery securing its place at the center of U.S. oil production while companies concentrate on their richest targets. One of the reasons that we have seen a rebound in our state quicker than some other states is because of the natural assets that we have in our part of the country.

Production is back to pre-pandemic levels. Oil production has bounced back in a big way from a March 2020 price crash with state oil and natural gas production hitting record high levels in recent months.

Federal lands are critical to our state and our state budget and to our companies that are operating in our state. New Mexico's revenue comes from 54% of oil and gas from federal lands; 53% from federal oil production; and 59% from federal gas production. The federal government owns 27 million acres in New Mexico equal to 34.7% of New Mexico. This includes conservation, national parks, outdoor recreation, economic development, energy, agriculture, and wildlife management. The latest federal actions to affect New Mexico were that the Interior halted new leases and are reviewing the federal oil and gas program; a White House issued Executive Order to address climate crisis. New Mexico was the hardest hit by the leasing freeze. A long-lasting freeze on new leasing would curb royalties and revenue that New Mexico uses to pay for schools, Medicaid and public safety which could move lawmakers to consider drastic options to address lost funding.

A Federal Judge in Louisiana has been asked to overturn President Biden's ban on energies. Energy has its place and a right to utilize some of these federal lands.

When the leases were halted, they were reviewing the Federal oil and gas Program. And you also can see the White House issued Executive Orders to address climate crisis.

The Biden Administrations Ban put a larger percentage of pressure on New Mexico, than any other state, because of the revenue it receives.

The federal judge in Louisiana agreed that our industry does have the right, to utilize federal lands. It is anticipated that there will be some issues from Administration including permitting delays and other areas that will slow down and almost bring to a complete stop, drilling on federal land.

There's one point five billion at stake for the end, the revenue is at risk. There are 36,000 jobs that will be lost by 2024, over \$12 billion in lost capital projects, and \$207 billion loss in GDP over 20 years. That's just for New Mexico. It would be next to impossible to make up that kind of revenue.

The oil and gas industry is challenged quite strongly regarding new regulations that are coming out of Santa Fe, including new regulations out of Washington.

NMGOA is working on negotiating with the New Mexico Environmental Department on methane, on venting and flaring, and on ozone issues. There is a federal lawsuit regarding some leases that were acquired down in the southeast in 2017 and 2018 that Wild Earth Guardians have tried to stop. It has gone to two Courts and both Courts have agreed with BLM that those leases are valid. But for some reason, BLM is negotiating with Wild Earth Guardians and no one's at the table. If for some reason those leases are found void, the state potentially will have to pay back \$600 million to companies that acquired those leases and the feds would have to pay about \$450 to \$500 million, back to those companies. Anything that would just put in our rainy-day fund for the state, or any budget surpluses that we have will immediately be gone. Neither is industry nor the state at the table during these negotiations. There is some concern about that other are things coming back at us such as the prairie chicken, the jumping mouse, and certain plants.

The prairie chicken was a concern many, many years ago, but now, the issue is not the prairie chicken it's the habitat of the prairie chicken so we will work with the agencies to make sure that we completely comply with all regulations.

Mr. Gould encourages everyone to talk to your State Legislators. He stated that we have positive legislators in the south-east part of the state that are very supportive of the oil and gas industry.

What they identified was that no matter where you stood on climate change, facts at that time showed that every barrel that MCF produced in the United States resulted in less emissions a barrel or MCF produced in any other country around the world.

That's why for some of us domestic producers, it's so discouraging because of the fact that we see the impacts on our industry here in the United States to actually shut us down. Whereas, oil is being produced rampantly in other countries that results in far higher emissions as long as the nation continues to need at least some oil and gas for our own energy supply.

Dr. Michael Patrick, NMSU—Community Resource & Economic Development Specialist:

Dora introduced Dr. Michael Patrick a community resource and economic development specialist with the New Mexico co-operative Extension Service in the College of Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences at MSU University. Doctor Patrick has extensive experience guiding local leaders, economic development professionals, businessmen/women and community residents along with the planning and implementation of community business and economic development programs.

Dr. Patrick coordinated the SET Plan about four years ago. He was hired by USDA to facilitate the focus groups and provide technical assistance.

Ms. Batista expressed how fortunate SNMEDD was to have him assisting us with our Economic Recovery Plan, because of his experience and technical expertise. He is really helping us tie loose ends together on

this plan as we move forward. He was asked to come today and talk to the Board about some of the things that the District is doing on the economic recovery plan. Dr. Patrick was involved in the previous work in the State and was fortunate to be involved in organizing Set Regions in every county in the state of New Mexico. New Mexico is the only state in the union to have done that.

Dr. Patrick presented a report representing industries here in Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District/Council Government region. This is symptomatic of much of what has been done in the past.

Dr. Patrick followed up on Leland Gould's positive report on New Mexico's energy sector and wanted to give additional information about the energy sector.

He presented a report "Industry Clusters, Southeastern New Mexico Region". The purpose of the report is to set the stage for some focus group discussions with industry people so that we can then add to the task of updating the CEDS and producing a complimentary report dealing with recovery and resiliency. This report is more specifically for this five-county region looking at five industries. This report has been produced by Purdue University Center for Regional Development. New Mexico State has co-operated with Purdue University over the years in developing data analysis of actuality for the New Mexico economy. Purdue has specialized over the years and collaborated with a research firm called Economic Modeling and Specialist International. Dr. Patrick stated that this analysis information is based upon a data set that EMSI has available, and it's available to, to anyone internationally, and of course, there's a fee to access it.

The five industry clusters being analyzed include: (1) agribusiness, food processing, technology, (2) transportation and logistics, (3) energy, including fossil, renewable, (4) defense and security and (5) arts entertainment, recreation of visitors have more specific information about which businesses we find, constitute these clusters. These are the five main targeted clusters in the current SETS and CEDS Plans.

The purpose of this report is to acquaint everyone with what's going on in these five industries, and specifically convene some focus group discussions in the coming months of August and perhaps September, with knowledgeable people in each of these five industry clusters. We would talk about the status of these clusters, good, bad, and the challenges they see in the coming year.

The key point is in this region and across the State that we're interested in is job creation and job growth. With that comes income and opportunities for everyone including our families, and our neighbors, and our communities. I think this is probably understandable to you. If it makes common sense, and that is, how this region and economic performance, particularly job growth, is really tied to the national economy.

When the national economy is strong it has positive spillover effects on all elements and, and the reverse is also true. When the national economy is struggling, we might feel some of that in our different clusters and sectors. This data will take into account national affects and there are two components: the industrial mix effect and a regional competitive effect.

The first national effect, as I mentioned, is just the overall health of the national economy.

Assuming that the national economy is growing, more people who work and more people have money to spend. As a result, the money that is spent is going to end up in our region, and some of it's going to come to our State. A positive national growth effect could help our regional economy and our national state economy.

Dr. Patrick's report is available by contacting SNMEDD.

Ms. Batista presented the financial report stating that we ended up about 98% of our budget. Some of the items we came up short including \$5,000 which was on contract and that is because we are finishing up in the fiscal year.

We acted as fiscal agent for a couple of our entities that did not have their audits up to date. We also are short \$12,005,79 on our grants, but the first of July we deposited close to \$13,000. Even though we did pretty good. In the unbudgeted revenue line item we had \$3,501 from the sale of the Dodge Nitro.

We had a Capital Outlay Grant that was a one-time revenue that we got from the legislators for the purchase of new vehicle.

Our expenses were a little over on advertising because we had a staff person retire, Christine Sisneros. We had to advertise in the newspaper, and Indeed and those were costly.

Communication was a little high due to the fact we had to re-wire so that we could use the conference Room for zoom meetings.

We were 65% under on vehicle debt service due to the sale of the Dodge Nitro. We used the \$3,500 from the sale to pay off one of our vehicles. We do not have any more car payments at this time. If no one has questions, we will need a motion for approval.

A motion was made to approve the financials. Marilyn Burns mad a motion and Jon Hitchcock made a second. Motion carried.

8. Review and Approve the 2021-2022 SNMEDD Operating Budget:

The amounts stayed the same, except for the legislative grant. It will be about 40,000 short due to the fact that this was a one-time grant that we received for a vehicle from the legislators.

This is the last year for the \$200,000 Federal ADA Cares Act. That money was earmarked for the Economic Recovery Plan that we were asked to do. We will still have our regular EDA allotment of \$70,000.

Revenues for admin that we get from grants and member dues and the DFA appropriation of \$99,000.00 all stayed the same.

On the expense side, we stayed pretty much the same except for Salary and Wages. The difference that you're going to see is in program operations, Salary and wages.

When Christine retired, we hired someone to actually start working on these grants. The Salary Line item was increased for about \$8,200 for our grant administrator.

We then took our secretary/receptionist and moved her from \$14,000 part-time to \$28,000 full-time.

Other than Salary and Wages, there will be a slight increase in Fringe Benefits.

Matt White was concerned how losing the \$200,000 EDA money next year would affect the budget.

Dora explained that most of the money went for a consultant to write the Economic Recovery Plan and

Hubert's contract because we were mandated to do extra applications. It was also used to fix up the conference room such the TV, the tables, chairs, computer, and camera in order for us to have zoom meetings during the pandemic.

A motion was made by John Waters to accept the 2021-2022 operating budget and was seconded by Matt White. Motion carried.

9. Review and Adopt SNMEDD & SERTPO Annual Capital Asset Inventory and Resolution 21-01: A copy of the SNMEDD & SERTPO Annual Capital Asset Inventory and Resolution 21-01 was included in the Board packet. The Capital Asset Inventory is required by our auditor annually. SNMEDD included a newly purchased vehicle; conference room furniture, copier, and laptop/camera this year. These items excluding the vehicle, which was purchased with Capital Outlay funds, were purchased using the EDA CARES Act funds in order to comply with health and safety requirements during the 2020 pandemic.

A motion was made by Marilyn Burns to accept the Annual Capital Asset Inventory Report Resolution and was seconded by Sidney Gordon. Motion carried.

10. Review and Approve for Submittal of the FY 2021-2022 New Mexico State-Grant-In Aid Application:

This is the Certified Certification and Approval application for \$99,000 that we receive annually from DFA. We are recognized as a Regional Planning Council and our Board of Directors officially adopted the budget and we will obtain non-federal matching funds for our services equal to the amount of state funds requested. This is done through administration fees and dues. We will also submit an audit report to DFA each year.

We acknowledge that we are keeping up with our audits; we are not behind on financial reporting and that we're complying with these different responsibilities of planning district, executive orders, and that we will carry out and execute an annual work plan that was approved at our April Board meeting. We are in compliance with the system for Award Management.

This application is submitted with these minutes and work plan along with the minutes from the last meeting.

A motion was made by Lisa Flores and seconded by Jon Hitchcock. Motion carried.

11. Approve Consultant Contracts:

The two consultants are Hubert Quintana and Debi Lee. They have both done a tremendous job.

Hubert works with our legislators as well as with the EDA Recovery Act. He works on applications we have to fill out for ADA as a result of that Cares Act which is the money that will help us with the focus groups and the different meetings that we're having.

His contract actually went up during this Cares Act from \$55,000 to \$73,000 because he is doing a lot more on the EDA side, helping with the applications and following up. We are doing a lot more for EDA than just the Cares Act.

Debi's contract slightly increased from \$40,994 to \$44,544.76. Debi works so hard on all these reports that she prepares for the Board and is responsible for drafting the Recovery Plan.

That was the intent of the Cares Act money to hire consultants to help the District write the Economic Recovery Plan.

Matt White moved to approve the Consultant Contracts for Hubert Quintana and Debi Lee. Marilyn Burns seconded. Motion carried.

12. Program and Activity Reports:

Dora Batista—District Activity Report:

The staff summary report was included in the Board packet and is the format in which we have to report to DFA.

Also, we received Colonias funding in our district in the amount of five million. The recipients include Otero County \$1,605,000, La Luz Domestic Water Association \$ \$525,000. Otis Mutual Domestic Water Association \$221,613, Town of Lake Arthur \$1,047,191; Village of Loving \$1,541,466, and Town of Carrizozo \$158,657. Two other applications were submitted but their audits were not up to date, so they did not qualify. Overall, this year the Colonias funding was \$26,667,000. Our next step with the program is to comply with readiness to proceed items by October 29th.

We continue to work on our CDBG applications.

DFA is releasing several virtual seminars. They are going to begin with the ICIP. Carmen Morin has set a date tentatively July 13, 2021.

Dora had e-mailed Carmen at DFA to see if a definite date had been set. She plans to have a series of seminars including the capital outlay process, ICIP, the senior centers ICIP, tourism, outdoor recreation, transportation projects, Fund-It group. We will let you know when those dates are determined.

Dora also requested Ms. Morin to give us a Fiscal Recovery Funds update. We know that they have about 30 days allocate and spend that money and she would like to know if Carmen could provide a status report.

Mary Ann Burr—SERTPO:

A written report was included in the Board packet.

It was a busy quarter with the Transportation Project Fund called the TPF and our June 9th SERTPO meeting, which was held at the Roswell Convention Center. SERTPO committees conducted the rankings. Overall, we had 24 applications by 15 entities and after the ranking we ended up with 20 applications that ranked number one, meaning that they were ready to procure and advertise within 30 days.

Once they were ranked, we proceeded to do any last-minute updates to the applications and on June 14 2021, we uploaded all of the applications to the website. The process now is that an NMDOT who will submit a list to the State Transportation Commission which is expected in August. Also expected is that award letters will be scheduled to go out first week in September and the grant agreements will go out mid-September.

Now that the TPF is behind us, we can be more active with the TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program), RTP (Recreational Trails Program) and CMAQP (Congestion, Mitigation, and Air Quality Program).

The PFS Project Feasibility Forms were turned in. We only received five overall. They are reimbursement, so that may make a big difference. We received three TAPs and two RTPs. Feasibility reviews are scheduled for the week of July 12-16, 2021.

Final applications will be due to the COG SERTPO September 15, 2021. At that time a full application packet will be uploaded. They will be due October 29, 2021 to NMDOT.

After the five applications are ranked by the TAP selection committee selections to NMDOT will be awarded in March 22,2020.

Mr. Pappas and Ms. Burr did traffic counts in Ruidoso during the month of June. Once the data is retrieved and regenerated written reports are provided by e-mail to the Village to my contact person.

CDBG Grants close outs are moving along. Lake Arthur and Loving close the week of July 12-16, 2021.

Two others that will close out in a few months would be Ruidoso Downs and Carrizozo.

There will be a RTPO quarterly meeting scheduled for August and more than likely it'll be virtual, again. There is a SERTPO meeting scheduled for September 8, 2021.

Paul Pappas—Project Coordinator:

The 2021 CDBD grants applications are due August 13th.

One of my first assignment was I went to Hobbs and conducted surveys for two potential CDBG projects.

Mr. Pappas did some training in Tularosa on a potential grant. But unfortunately, they did not qualify.

We've got some existing grants we're working on with the Lake Arthur, Eddy County and Carrizozo. The next step in the application process is to complete an environmental assessments and solicit cost from the engineers.

Hubert Quintana—Consultant Report:

Mr. Quintana has been updating our CEDS plan due next year. He has looked up the findings of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. He also looked at the SNMEDD goals and objectives from our last CEDs update. Those findings were sent to the ADCs and EDOs and were asked to give us feed back comments by either updating or crossing out things that have been accomplished. They were also asked to add new things that they think we need to address while putting our next five-year plan together.

Ms. Lee and I have also been working with the Chambers of Commerce and Main Street organizations.

An e-mail with the findings and goals, objectives, and our findings will be sent to each Board member to look over findings for your County Chaves, Eddy, Lea, Lincoln, and Otero and see what needs to be added to what needs to be deleted.

This is one of the EDA requirements for our basic grant.

Another item is the Fiscal Federal Recovery Fund (FFRA) sponsored by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). All the communities got some money. The counties got the money directly from the state, or directly through the feds, and the municipal government had to fill out a form and receive funds from the State.

Some communities got as much as a \$1,000,000 and some got as little as \$25,000. It was free money from the impact that COVID-19 had on your community. It could be used to recover money that was lost from your gross receipts or for infrastructure projects that were started and waiting to be completed and were halted because of COVID.

This doesn't have to be paid back; it is a grant by your local government to be able to recover from COVID. The projects had to be undertaken after March 3, 2021, and before December 30, 2024.

The EDA, EAA Projects and CARES program for the City of Jal was initially going to develop broadband from Hobbs to Eunice then Jal. EDA ran out of money before the projects were funded. The project was put on a waiting list. Now EDA says they are ready and just waiting for the final notification.

We've expanded the program a little bit, so now we're going from Hobbs, Monument, Eunice, to Jal with the broadband expansion.

We were originally going to try to get about \$4.3 million but EDA has come out and said, the cost of materials is up as well as the cost of labor. With those changes they are going to allow us to increase the size of our application and the initial number because of the increase in cost.

Out of the region, we had 3 or 4 projects that we may be able to put together fairly quickly to try to get some of the EDA CARES ACT money.

Debi Lee—EDA CARES ACT Update:

Ms. Lee is contracted under the Cares Act to develop a Recovery and Resilience Plan.

This first year we have concentrated on the impact the pandemic has had economically. We assembled an economic recovery team and recently met on April 8, and on June 17, 2021.

The most recent discussion was about the American Rescue Plan. The state of New Mexico has hired Jennifer Myers as the State Recovery Coordinator and will work with all of the regional coordinators to help access information and funding.

The ERT also heard from Tiffany Roth who reported at the last SNMEDD Board meeting on April 9, 2021. She informed us of the recommendation to combine the workforce boards into two boards; an Urban Board and a Rural Board. She reported that the governor is asking for more information, and it looks like the process is going to take longer than expected, possibly 1 to 2 more years. They did rename it to be the Regional Designation Recommendation.

The ERT has had great participation by ENMU Presidents reporting on New Mexico Higher Education Department is planning their statewide opening of campuses. This is a critical component to the recovery in southeast New Mexico.

Hubert mentioned that we did have a focus group meeting with the Chambers, EDO's and Main Street Organizations.

The current economic evaluation \ is on the website snmedd.com as COVID 19, One year later. Clearly, there has been an economic impact from the pandemic, our all across the nation and the evaluation reports the details.

The evaluation show that after one year, Retail is now the primary industry where a before the pandemic it was the oil and gas industry. This report references the gross receipts taxes paid by the various industries to NM Tax & Rev and local governments. The one year comparison in this evaluation shows that construction comes in second, and then oil and gas comes in third, with food, and accommodations coming in fourth. This evaluation also reports that some communities are recovering faster and have actually gained revenues after one year.

This evaluation is available, and if you have any questions about it, please feel free to call Debi Lee.

I also provided you unemployment numbers. The one area that's coming back the fastest is in the entertainment and even though it's a very small industry, it's coming back strong.

My board report also talks about the the industrial cluster analysis, which is the Purdue study and our next steps to hold focus group meetings. It's our next steps for this next year, which will be the last year of this plan, is to really focus on resilience. We know that in the first year, there was an economic impact, and we know that recovery is happening because of the gross receipts taxes that are coming in.

In order to go forward to sustain a long-term resilience, we need to develop a plan that actually looks at industries and, and opportunities, growth, and some of the things that Dr. Patrick pointed out so clearly in his presentation earlier.

This recovery and resilience plan is going to be a road map for you and each of your communities. This plan will help guide you and drive the economic recovery, and allow you to have a long term, resilience, and sustainable economy, and so, my plea to you today is to get involved with us. We're going to need you.

You are invited to participate in these industry focus groups and we will be contacting you to see if you have an interest in being in any of them, or have someone you can recommend.

Once we complete our five focus group meetings, and we'll have a big group meeting, where we definitely need to have our community leaders attend and participate. If you can participate with us along the way, you'll be that much further ahead in understanding how our recommendations are coming together to help you implement the recovery plan.

The intent is to help provide you this roadmap that will guide you with a stronger and more economic community.

13. Announcements and Information Sharing:

The change to the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions went into effect on June 22nd.

That means that for the elected officials board that oversees the Eastern Area Workforce Board, county commissioners will need to designate a representative for the voting board.

The Workforce Board will be contacting everybody, probably in the next month, to 45 days, to ask each of the counties to designate an elected official, that will be their assigned representative to our board.

- Ms. Roth gave a brief update on the re-designation. The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions presented at the LFC meeting on June 24th and indicated that they were doing a two regional board system, and that they would be holding eight state meetings. For the eastern side of the state, those meetings will be in Tucumcari and Hobbs. She will notify us when they have the information.

The governor has mandated that the New Mexico Workforce Connection Center offices will be opening fully for services, they have been open the entire time during the Pandemic by appointment only.

Ms. Roth informed the board that she has transitioned to a much smaller role as a part-time position at the Eastern Board. The program manager, Beth Elias, has been named the executive director for the Eastern Board. Ms. Elias will be the person that will do presentations from here on out.

14. Adjourn: The meeting was moved by Mike Gallagher to adjourn and seconded by Robbie Roberts. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

APPROVED:

Raye Miller 10/8/2021
Raye Miller, President Date

ATTESTED BY:

Dora Batista 10-8-21
Dora Batista, Secretary Date