



NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FALL REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

October 18, 2023

Hybrid Meeting- 10 AM

Milan Village Hall

609 W. Historic Highway 66, Milan, NM 87021

I. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/QUORUM.

Chairwomen *Martha Garcia* [Cibola County] convened the meeting of the Board of Directors at 10:15 am. Roll call proceeded in the form of introductions around the table. In attendance were 12 Board Representatives, representing a quorum of 7 of the 9 voting entities of the Board (77.8%), along with all 4 COG staff. Linda Cooke, Village Manager, provided a welcome to the Board to the new Village Hall converted very recently from a bank.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

CIBOLA COUNTY: Martha Garcia; Judy Horacek
MCKINLEY COUNTY: Danielle Notah
SAN JUAN COUNTY: GloJean Todacheene,
CITY OF AZTEC: Jeff Blackburn (alternate)
CITY OF BLOOMFIELD: *Donna Sharpe (excused)*
CITY OF FARMINGTON: Linda Rodgers; Warren Unsicker (alternate)
CITY OF GALLUP: Louie Bonaguidi (Treasurer) Michael Schaaf, Ron Molina, Jon DeYoung (alternate)
CITY OF GRANTS: *Erik Garcia; Beverly Michael (excused)*
VILLAGE OF MILAN: James Mercer; Chris Archuleta
BOARD EMERITUS: *Jeff Kiely (excused)*

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Armando Sanchez (SJT Group),
Jonas Armstrong, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives
NM Environment Department (NMED)
Miori Harms, Uranium Mine Reclamation Coordinator, NMED
Office of Strategic Initiatives
Linda Cooke, Manager, Village of Milan

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Evan Williams
OFFICE MANAGER: Martina Whitmore
STAFF: Brandon Howe; Michael Sage

B. AGENDA & MINUTES ADOPTION.

Director Williams provided an overview of the day's agenda topics and the minutes from previous meeting.

ACTION: *Michael Schaaf* (Gallup) moved and *GloJean Todacheene* (San Juan County) seconded adoption of the agenda and minutes from August 2, 2023. Motion carried.

II. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

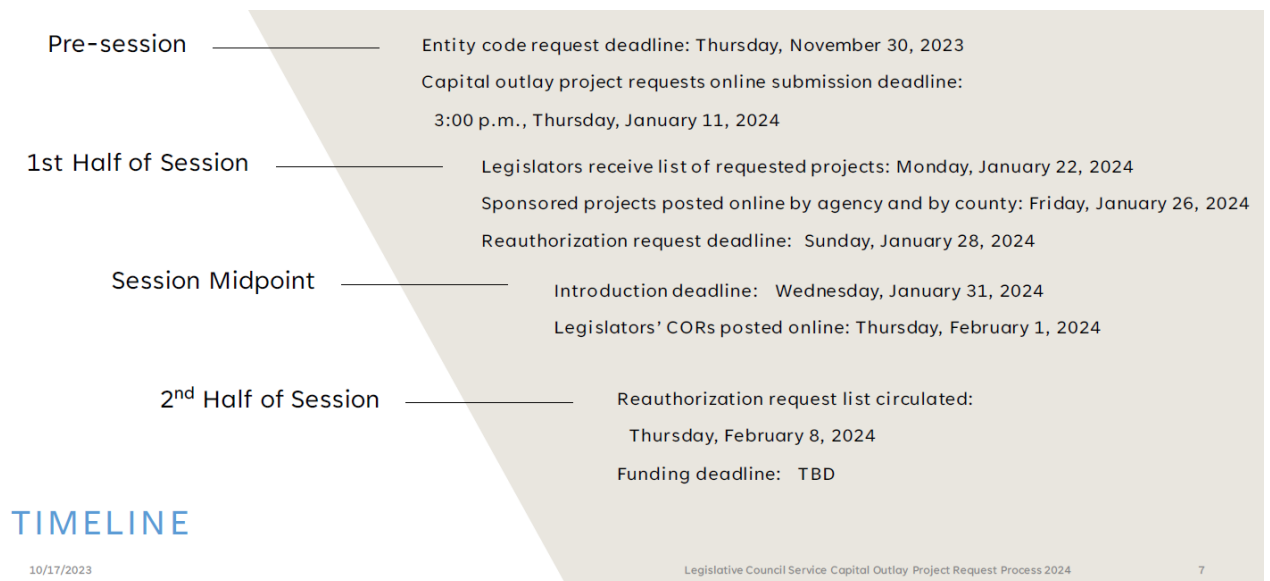
The COG arranged for three presentations under this section from:

Drew Lovelace, Director, Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) was going to provide a New Mexico State of Broadband, but due to the NM Infrastructure Finance Conference could not attend. COG staff was asked by the Board to arrange a separate meeting for Board members and partners in the near term as this topic is very important to the region.

Presentation via YouTube provided on November 28, 2023:

<https://youtu.be/Z2HUKNZSDew?si=dryWljSZ7owRPc82>

Michell Jaschke, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS) provided a Capital Outlay Presentation to explain in detail how that process actually works from beginning to end. Board members directed COG staff to provide key dates presented as follows:



Jonas Armstrong, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives and his team presented on initiatives within his office under the Secretary of Environment Department including Land of Enchantment fund and Uranium Mine Reclamation Workforce Training program. He also discussed the hydrogen hub competition that did not award a hub to New Mexico nor its collaborators.

III. EXECUTIVE/STAFF REPORT

Director Williams and Planning Director Brandon Howe provided a summary of the past quarter's key activities and issues.

- A. **STAFF SUMMARY REPORT.** Mr. Williams did provide this report to the Board for their review and understanding of accomplishments this quarter.
- B. **MANAGEMENT REPORT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW.** Mr. Williams and Mr. Howe did provide an overview to the Board on where the COG stood on several of its return-on-investment performance metrics that it tracks.
- C. **Regional Economic Planning & Development Office Review.** Michael Sage provided an in-depth presentation on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) and the

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Presentation on website.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. **FY2023 Financial Reports, Quarter 1 & Year End**: Mr. Armando Sanchez provided a review of the organization's financials.

ACTION: *Michael Schaaf* (Gallup), moved and *Danielle Notah* (McKinley) seconded, to approve the financial reports as presented. Motion carried

- B. **FY2024 Budget Amendment #1**. Mr. Evan Williams provided a review of the organization's budget and changes to the FY2024 final budget that were needed including direction from the Board on compensation.

ACTION: *Michael Schaaf* (Gallup), moved and *Danielle Notah* (McKinley), seconded, to approve the budget amendment as presented. Motion carried

- C. **Audit Update**. Mr. Evan Williams provided a quick report that the COG's annual audit is underway and is on track to be completed and submitted on time.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS; OTHER BUSINESS

- A. **FY2024 Board Meeting Calendar**. This calendar was set and distributed. Due to the Legislative Session, COG staff recommended moving the next scheduled meeting to January 10, 2024.

- B. **Announcements**. No announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: *Glojean Todacheene* (San Juan County), moved and *Danielle Notah* (McKinley), to adjourn. Motion carried. Chairwoman Garcia again thanked the Village and its staff for their new facility and hospitality for this meeting and adjourned the meeting of the Board of Directors at 12:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Evan J. Williams
Board Secretary and Executive Director