



# NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### WINTER MEETING

January 20, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Held via ZOOM | Streamed & Recorded to [Facebook](#)

## I. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

### A. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/QUORUM.

Chairman *Billy Moore* (McKinley County) convened the meeting of the Board of Directors at 10:08AM. Roll call proceeded and in attendance were 16 Board Representatives/Alternatives, representing a quorum 9 of the 9 voting entities of the Board (100%), along with COG staff, guests, and their CPA.

#### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

CIBOLA COUNTY: Judy Horacek; Martha Garcia  
MCKINLEY COUNTY: Billy Moore; Anthony Dimas, Jr.; Robert Baca  
SAN JUAN COUNTY: Jim Cox (late)  
CITY OF AZTEC: Michael Padilla, Steven Saavedra  
CITY OF BLOOMFIELD: Jason Thomas  
CITY OF FARMINGTON: Julie Baird  
CITY OF GALLUP: Fran Palochak; Louie Bonaguidi; Michael Schaaf; JM DeYoung  
CITY OF GRANTS: Laura Jaramillo;  
VILLAGE OF MILAN: Ellen Baca

#### GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Armando Sanchez, CPA  
Eric Ghahate (Contractor)  
Trisha Korbass, EDA  
Vincent Martinez, Tri-State

#### STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Evan Williams  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Martina Whitmore  
PLANNING TEAM: Michael Sage, Brandon Howe, Martina Whitmore, Robert Kuipers

### B. AGENDA & MINUTES ADOPTION.

Chairman *Moore* provided an overview of the day's agenda topics. Chairman *Moore* reviewed the minutes of October 21, 2020 for review and approval.

**ACTION:** *Fran Palochak (Gallup)* moved and *Louie Bonaguidi (McKinley County)* seconded adoption of the agenda and minutes. Motion carried – see voting sheet.

### C. OPEN MEETINGS ACT RESOLUTION.

Chairman *Moore* provided the annual Open Meetings Act Resolution for approval noting the number error of 2020 instead of 2021.

**ACTION:** *Fran Palochak (Gallup)* moved and *Anthony Dimas, Jr. (Gallup)* seconded adoption

of Resolution 2021-01: Open Meetings Act. Motion carried – see voting sheet.

**D. EMERITUS BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTION.**

Chairman *Moore* provided the creation of an Emeritus Board Member position on the COG Board as non-voting to honor Jeff Kiely's request to continue his credentials for participation in the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). He promoted this resolution for approval noting the number error of 2020 instead of 2021.

**ACTION:** *Louie Bonaguidi* (Gallup) moved and *Anthony Dimas, Jr.* (McKinley County) seconded adoption of Resolution 2021-02: Emeritus Board Position and approval of the nomination of Jeffrey G. Kiely to serve in this position. Motion carried – see voting sheet.

**II. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

*Vincent Martinez*, Senior Governmental Affairs Advisor (NM), Tri-State Generation & Transmission provided a presentation on the recent award of community assistance. He also presented the factors that influenced the closure of Escalante Generating Station in Prewitt, NM, actions to date, and plans for the future.

**III. REGIONAL PLAN PRESENTATION**

**A. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN.** *Bob Kuipers*, Program Manager, for the Northwest NM Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) provided a presentation on the Regional Transportation Plan. This plan is update and approved every five (5) years as per the COG's work program with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT). This plan was approved by the RTPO Committee

**ACTION:** *Fran Palochak* (Gallup) moved and *Anthony Dimas, Jr.* (McKinley County) seconded adoption of Resolution 2021-03: Regional Transportation Plan. Motion carried – see voting sheet.

**IV. EXECUTIVE/STAFF REPORT**

**A. Staff Summary Report:** Executive Director *Williams* provided a summary of the past quarter's key activities and issues. Mr. Williams noted that the COG had a great year as reported in our [Annual Report](#) and historic first quarter of activity captured in our [Connecting the Dots newsletter](#). Since there was an incredible amount of highlights and impact this quarter instead of reporting it all, he asked each COG staff to provide one major highlight that resulted from their work with the team.

**B. Connecting the Dots Newsletter.** Mr. Williams showcased our newsletter for the quarter, which highlights our work. He mentioned that the COG is producing Weekly News via Youtube and pushing that out to keep members, partners, and the public informed of our work.

**C. Legislative Session Preview:** Mr. Williams mentioned that COG transitioned Legislative Services to Brandon Howe and is coordinating capital outlay requests for our members and communities across the region. The COG will continue to track these requests and other bills that effect cities, counties, and the region.

- D. **Member Survey Results:** A presentation on the results of the annual member survey was presented to the Board. This survey revealed several areas of improvement that the COG needs to work on and provided some ideas for presentations for future Board meetings.

## V. FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. **FY2021 Financial Report, Q2:** Armando Sanchez, CPA provided a brief overview of the first quarter financial reports provided in the Board packet. He mentioned that COG has moved from full accrual back to modified accrual, which resembles a more accurate financial position of the organization and its operations.

**ACTION:** *Fran Palochak* (Gallup) moved and *Louie Bonaguidi* (Gallup) seconded, to accept the FY2021 Financial Report, Quarter #2 as presented. Motion carried – see voting sheet.

- B. **FY2021 Budget, Revision #3:** Mr. Williams presented and explained that this revision includes the new Tri-State funding and budgets only \$35,000 to be used as mandatory match on a special NMDOT grant for the Prewitt/Milan Transportation Master Plan. Staff apologized for not including this in the Board Packet and will send as a copy in the Board De-brief.

**ACTION:** *Louie Bonaguidi* (Gallup) moved and *Martha Garcia* (Cibola County) seconded, to accept the FY2021 Budget, Revision #3 as presented. Motion carried – see voting sheet.

- C. **FY2020 Audit:** Mr. Williams provided an overview of the audit as released by the State Auditor's Office. This audit represents the first unmodified opinion with no audit findings since 2011. Special thanks were extended to the Finance Team and Martina Whitmore.

## VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS; OTHER BUSINESS

- A. **Standing Partner Spotlights:** Based on guidance from the Executive Committee, rather than adding ex-officio members to our Board it was suggested to invite State and Federal agency partners to our meeting and allow them some time under this standing agenda item to present short updates and share critical information with our members.

- B. **2021 Board Meeting Calendar.** Mr. Williams presented the approved COG Board Calendar. Next meeting will be April 21, 2021, which will be held virtually.

- C. **Announcements & General Comments:** No announcements to report.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION:** *Anthony Dimas, Jr.* (McKinley County) moved and *Michael Padilla* (Aztec) seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried. Chairman Moore again thanked all Board members for their participate and patience for this virtual meeting and adjourned the meeting of the Board of Directors at 11:02PM. Motion carried by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

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Evan J. Williams  
Board Secretary and Executive Director

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Billy W. Moore  
Board Chair