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Connecting the Dots

Serving San Juan, McKinley, and Cibola County Governments for 40 years!

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OCTOBER - MARCH 2014

Produced by the Staff of the NWNM Council of Governments

SPOTLIGHT: CIBOLA COUNTY, GRANTS, & MILAN

Riverwalk Legacy Trail Project

The Rio San Jose has served and still serves many functions to the communities along its banks. Since 1991 the river was to serve as a backbone to a planned multi-use trail for the communities of Milan & Grants. In 1991, the City of Grants passed a resolution and accepted the Rio San Jose Master Plan which outlined improvements to maintenance roads along the banks of the river which serve as a multi-use trail for locals and visitors to the area.

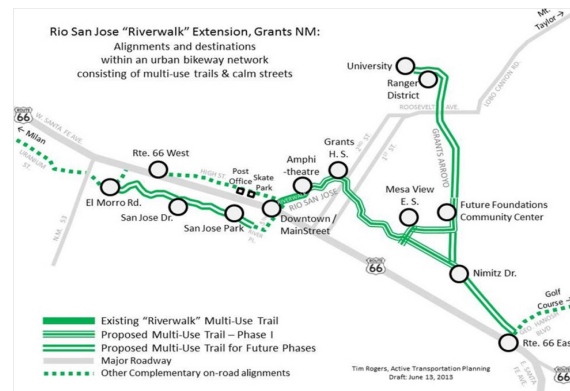
Riverwalk Legacy Trail Project

The project aims to:

- connect the city's neighborhoods to downtown, schools, and other public facilities by offstreet trails for pedestrians, joggers, bicyclists, and other non-motorized users.
- Improve public health by providing an interconnected off-road non-motorized transportation system that connects to and complements the on-road transportation system, encourages outdoor recreation and physical activity, reduces motor vehicle emissions, and creates a healthy community.
- Use the trail system to create access and economic and social opportunities for underserved populations such as youth, seniors and those with physical disabilities.
- Create public open spaces and gathering places and link existing community amenities, facilities and businesses.



"Residents of Grants strongly believe in the positive values of both physical and social qualities of the community, not only for the residents' enjoyment, convenience and affordability, but also for visitors."



The City of Grants has a strong sense of place as a unique community in a remarkably beautiful physical setting."

In 2003, Cibola County indicated the trails Transportation Goal #1 in the 20-year Comprehensive Plan. The goal was to have "a safe, efficient, high quality, well-maintained network of highways, roads, bridges, sidewalks, drainage structures and bike/pedestrian/equestrian paths that provides for and encourages a variety of transportation modes". The County envisions an alternative transportation network designed in such a way that minimizes conflicts among pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians and autos, minimizes impact on wildlife along with access to natural areas, and to provide improved amenities such as benches, bike racks and lighting.

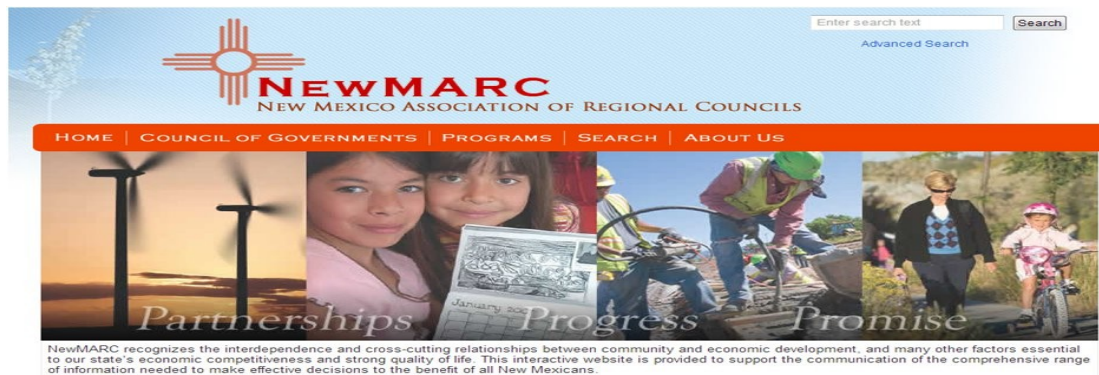
In that same year, the City of Grants listed the project as one of its top priorities within the city's own Comprehensive Plan. The City hopes to promote walking and bicycling in the community for both recreation and transportation along the Rio San Jose and all points beyond from the existing Riverwalk Park. The City has also shown the trail system on the City of Grants Pedestrian and Bike Trails map; extending from Riverwalk Park south and east, under the railroad tracks to the shopping and restaurant district near the eastern most interstate interchange. The City states that it will work with Cibola County to develop the trail north of Riverwalk park. Collaborative efforts are now underway between the City of Grants, Cibola County, Grants Mainstreet, and Future Foundations in improving the San Jose river banks and the Grants Canyon arroyo. This will be used as a non-motorized multi-use trail system in the near future.

The Rio San Jose River Walk "Legacy Trail" Plan, prepared by the NM Economic Development Department/ Mainstreet Program and (continued on page 3)

Panoramic Takes the Prize at New Mexico Finance Infrastructure Conference Fall 2013



Graphs from the Transportation Program Dashboard along with mapping of location of projects. Go to www.reachthenewmarc.com to see more.



At the last New Mexico Infrastructure Finance Conference at Isleta Resort and Casino, the Best Practice Award in Planning was given to NewMARC for Panoramic (<http://www.reachthenewmarc.com/>).

Panoramic, under start-up funding from the New Mexico Department of Transportation and the Aging & Long-Term Services Department, provided an opportunity for the COG to serve as a lead agency on behalf of the New Mexico Association of Regional Councils (NewMARC) to complete the pilot phase of website construction and implementation of the Panoramic software to be used to capture, share and track project data across various funding purposes. The software is web-based and designed to plan, track, evaluate, and share information about their program or project. Panoramic also provides spatial integration (mapping), cross-organization collaboration, and performance reporting that can be specifically tailored to nearly any program.

COG Steps Up for its Members as Alternative Fiscal



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SUSANA MARTINEZ

In Spring 2013, Governor Martinez issued Executive Order 2013-

006, which establishes "Uniform Funding Criteria and Grant Management and Oversight Requirements" for State capital outlay recipients. In short, this dramatically raised the bar on accountability. Those local governments, who are not compliant or in good stead with their budget, reporting, or audit, would not be eligible to receive appropriated capital outlay dollars.

This put in jeopardy the City of Gallup and McKinley County, who both were working their way diligently through some audits findings. These entities were set to receive capital outlay passed by State law and appropriated by local Legislators. The COG, through its relationship as a State Planning District and under contract through the New Mexico Local Government Division, began a dialogue to support innovative solutions to move this necessary money down to projects. Much of this funding was part of critical project matches that, if

not available, could lead to forfeiting committed other Federal and State commitments, e.g. Water Trust Board, Federal Highway Administration, and others.

Wayne Sowell was hired as the Local Government Division Director, and quickly embraced the COGs as formidable allies. He declared that COGs could act as an alternative fiscal agent, and deputized them to get started. The COG has endorsed many of the City's and

County's projects, which moved into the December 2013 bond sale. The COG continues to work agreements on the various projects and funding should be freed up in the near future.



A recent community development project, Milan Multi-Purpose Center in Milan, NM

Gallup: New Mexico's Newest Arts & Cultural District



On November 26, 2013, the New Mexico Economic Development Department an-

nounced that Gallup, Mora, and Artesia were selected for Arts & Cultural District (ACD) designation.

The COG staff worked hard in the trenches with the City of Gallup, McKinley County, the Gallup Business Improvement District, and gallpARTS—the regional arts council. This core group formed to:

- Facilitate two community charrettes to gain input and map assets;
- Produce a survey process to map and detail Downtown Gallup assets in an inventory via ArcGIS;
- Produce a Cultural/Historic building assessment;
- Garner over 50 organizations' letters of support and commitment;
- Submit a top-notch application that lead to an oral interview
- Create a video and powerpoint presentation that compelled the NM Arts Commission to choose Gallup.

Please watch the video which can be found on the COG's website, www.nwnmcog.com and scroll down to the bottom of the home page.

"The ACD program is a great inter-agency collabo-



We Left These People at Home

from Kjell Boersma 4 months ago [NOT YET RATED]

ration to leverage state resources," said Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Jon Barela.

"The Arts Commission is very pleased to authorize these new Arts & Cultural Districts because of the importance of arts and culture as economic and tourism drivers in our state..." Arts Commission Chair Sherry Davis said.

"Benefits for state authorized districts include a doubling of state historic tax credits to renovate buildings for eligible properties, access to Local Economic Development Act funds to rehabilitate cultural facilities and marketing and branding in larger statewide tourism campaigns."

The COG looks forward to coordinating this process which will stimulate real business opportunities in Gallup.

Riverwalk Legacy Trail Project continued from front page

the NM Department of Health/Healthy Kids Healthy Community Initiative, brings new air to this project. The plan was unveiled to the public in two public hearings/comment sessions. Benefits are:

- Fitness and Wellness
- Family resiliency
- Community Economic Development
- Increased property values
- Increase safety

Future Foundations and the Grants Mainstreet program spearheaded the application process through the New Mexico Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to request funding for \$200,000. Along with the TAP application, local funds, capital outlay and a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program are also being sought for this project.

Bicycle circulation is difficult today in Grants, due to lack of safe routes or highly congested streets without adequate facilities. Students and children on bicycles are at particular risk as they have travel paths that intersect with roadways classified as arterial and collectors. "Opportunities exist to improve conditions for bicyclists by establishing bicycle routes along several local roadways,

Rio San Jose: 1st St. culvert under construction, view from east



Active Transportation Planning, June 2013

Regional Transportation News



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

ONE TEAM. ONE VISION. ONE VOICE.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) continues to roll out several planning efforts and other updates which have kept the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) statewide pretty busy.

Statewide Rail Plan: The first draft of the Statewide Rail Plan is complete and ready for comment. A copy is available online at <http://dot.state.nm.us>.

Statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan: An initial meeting was held December 3 in Albuquerque.

NM-DOT Planning Procedures Manual (PPM): a new PPM was completed and specifies NMDOT, MPO and RTPO duties & responsibilities. Other areas the PPM will address include annual deliverables and timelines.

Functional Classification: FHWA functional classification of all New Mexico roadways is currently being reviewed for potential modification and Class upgrades would increase competitiveness for funding based on traffic count and regional utility. The NWRTPO is not requesting any upgrades, as most of our roads do not qualify based traffic count or are tribal roads under the BIA-Tribal Transporta-

tion Program—not FHWA.

Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP): The statewide LRTP Update is currently being worked on with all seven RTPO's and the four MPO's, who are also updating their respective regional plans. There are also nine statewide focus groups addressing the following areas: Public Health, Safety & Security; State of Good Repair; Access, Mobility & Connectivity; Economic Vitality – Freight Movement; Economic Vitality & Regional Development, Border, Rural & Urban Equity, Environmental Justice; and Visitor Travel, Recreation & Tourism.

There is an additional focus on Coordination or Special Topic Areas of: Federal, State & Tribal Lands; Cultural Resources, Historic Resources, Landscapes & the Natural Environment; and Plan Implementation & Project Delivery.

There are six areas of emphasis for the LRTP based on MAP-21 Transportation Bill Guidelines:

1. Every state must complete a 20 year LRTP (minimum)
2. Be multi-modal
3. Address both urban and rural
4. Coordinate with other state plans & the federal plan

(continued on Page 5)

COG delivers Adventure Tourism 10-Year of Impact Report

This report, prepared by Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (COG), is intended to highlight the progress of the "Adventure Gallup" initiative originally envisioned in 1999 and to document the economic significance of adventure tourism related travel to our region and McKinley County over the last ten years.

The COG facilitated the initial conversation and has coordinated this initiative from its infancy. The **"Adventure Gallup"** concept emerged in April 1999 during the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)* planning process facilitated by the Northwest COG. In 1999, a large, diverse group of community members attended a forum to define an economic development strategy for Gallup and surrounding area. The concept of building on the current assets and 'everything good that Gallup has to offer' rose to the top. This asset-based community development focus lead to a homegrown initiative around devel-

oping and promoting adventure tourism as an economic driver for the area. The Adventure Gallup concept included developing an adventure tourism initiative to create greater economic opportunity while also supporting education, recreation, culture and health for local residents and enhancing the quality of life.

With gratitude, the COG is proud to have been allowed a seat at the table of this movement by the broader Gallup community.

Finally, special thanks are due to Patty Lundstrom and Bob Rosebrough for their political and civic leadership, without their guidance and investment, this initiative would not have been possible.

**A copy of this report is available for
download on COG's homepage:**

nwnmcog.com

Transportation News continued from Page 4

5. Address the “3-C’s” of: Continuing, Cooperative, Comprehensive
6. Be performance based

There is also a Regional Working Group for each RTPO Region, and the first meeting for the Northwest was held in late February 2014. Our Region representation will address 18 topics that will include Tribal representation, Emergency Managements, the BNSF Rail and other areas.

The NWRTPO TAP applicants finalized contracts with New Mexico DOT to authorize funding for the following projects:

- Acoma SP-30 Turn-out & Overlook: \$259,019 with \$64,755 in FY2014 for planning & design and \$194,264 construction in FY 2015.
- Grants Riverwalk Bike & Pedestrian Trail: A total of \$462,051 utilizing \$64,755 in FY 2014 for planning & design and in FY15 \$397,296 for construction.
- Gallup Route 66 Downtown Pedestrian Safety Improvements: \$505,628 will be used for construction in FY 2014.
- Gallup Boyd to Boyd Bike & Pedestrian Trail: A total of \$280,000 and using \$30,000 for planning & design in FY2014 and \$250,000 for construction in FY 2015; this project will be altered to renovate the existing SRTS trail and bridge to Miyamura H.S. and Kennedy M.S

This represents a total of **\$1,506,598** in new funding investment into Transportation Alternative Projects for our region in 2014 – 2015!

Regional Transportation Improvement Program

In recent months, the NWRTPO has taken on the annual RTIPR prioritization process which includes initial submission and review of Project Feasibility Forms (or PFF’s), which after review are either authorized to go forward as Project Identification Forms (PIFs) or recommended to seek other funding sources, or undertake further research for project readiness in anticipation of the next year’s cycle.

This process revealed six new PIF’s added to the RTIPR this year including one from the Navajo Nation’s Northern Agency; these are for safety audits on US-491 in Shiprock and one in Cibola County for road and drainage improvements. There is also one PIF Update in Cibola County for County Road 42 and two new PIF’s in the Pueblo of Zuni for planning and design, and construction of improvements at the main intersection in the central Pueblo “downtown” Mainstreet project. NWRTPO Planner, Robert Kuipers, developed the RTIPR draft and final document for the NWRTPO, the draft and final DOT-District 6 RTIPR (McKinley, Cibola, Sandoval and

Catron Counties) and San Juan /Northern Navajo projects for the DOT District 5 RTIPR.

The NWRTPO also undertook the annual public transportation application ranking in November with four Public Transit providers and two Elderly and Disabled program providers.

Finally, the four-lane reconstruction of US-491 continues with roughly 36 miles from Naschitti to Tohatchi requiring construction. Other road improvements planning is being addressed on NM-371, an integral north-south corridor in Northwest New Mexico.

Shop talk...

Bob Kuipers also conducted a number of NWRTPO Orientation presentations throughout the region including presentations to the McKinley County Board of Commissioners on December 17, the Gallup City Council on January 14, and the Grants City Council on January 28. This round of orientations brings all 10 NWRTPO member governments up to date; the next round of orientations will be conducted in 2015 and for most of our member governments not until 2016. However, these orientations are available upon request by contacting the COG. Such presentations may be quite useful when there are changes in elected leadership or turnover of key staff. Further, the NWRTPO is currently updating member government appointments; a primary and alternate member must be appointed to the NWRTPO.

Transportation Day took place this year at the Legislature on February 14 and statewide MPO’s and RTPO’s Roundtables on March 10 & 11. Lastly, another round of TIGER (ARRA stimulus funding) applications are anticipated, and the Northwest RTPO will be pursuing recreational trails and Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funding.



Community Development Block Grant

Important CDBG Tidbits:

All **training information** will be posted to the LGD Website by 3/21/14.

NWCOG has a complete binder for its staff and members – copies and scanned documents can be made available upon request or as needed. We are here to assist our communities through this process.

Submission: Must be submitted by 5PM – 1 original and 2 copies, plus 1 electronic copy and 1 copy to the COG.



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The overall theme of the FY2014 CDBG workshop and new motto of NM Local Government Division's Community Development Bureau is **"Making the Difference"**.

The Sub-goals of the Bureau stress: **Consistency, Compliance, Teamwork, Accountability, and Transparency.** The Bureau will be ensuring compliance with HUD and consistency throughout the CDBG process with applicants and grantees.

CDBG is governed by **HUD CFR 24 and MAC Title 2, Chapter 110, Part 2** Small Cities Community Development Block Grant" (note: the later will be updated before next CBDG application cycle)

EO 2013-006 Compliance: to meet threshold all entities need to have a current audit submitted, budget submitted, and all reporting up-to-date. Wayne Sowell provided a strategy and approach to communities stuck in back-logged audits. Basically, instructing auditor to provide communities with a "disclaimer" audit, so that LGD could certify that an audit was submitted and allowing communities to complete audits. *This will keep communities in the game.*

Public Hearings – (1) projects cannot be pre-determined, (2) cannot be published in legal section and (3) applicant needs an affidavit of publication for application. We discussed some creative ways to gain more public input, including County Fair Booths, Senior Center meetings during lunch, water bills, etc.

ACS and Census Data: HUD does not allow use of

American Communities Survey data any-more; The only community in our region that can use Census data is McKinley County, and only for county-wide projects. Projects under 50 households must survey all households—this does not mean that we must get 100% participation. Count non-participation at 2.5 people, above 80% LMI. **COG can provide this information separately and as needed.**

Surveying: The overall LMI calculation is based on people not households; applicant must submit tabulation electronically for LGD verification.

SAM.gov: All entities (contractors, subcontractors, and vendors) that participate in a CDBG project must be signed up openly in SAM.gov.

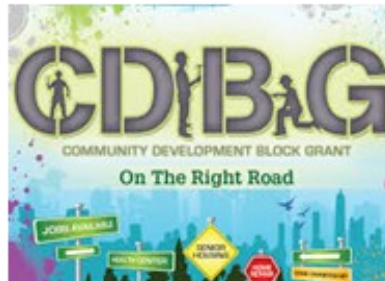
Procurement Policy: all entities are required to adopt and adhere to a procurement policy, **ANNUALLY**. We suggest that communities should do this annually along with the Open Meetings Act, which are recommended at first January meeting.

Water Conservation Plan and Drought Contingency Plan. Should include minutes for the meeting when it was adopted.

Legislative Match. Cannot use 2014 Legislative match as a secured cash match, as it is not considered secured.

Match/Leveraging: It was determined that communities could use pre-construction costs (planning, design, and environmental) as either match or leverage towards a project.

Asset Management Training: Each community will receive one point for attending this training. COG is working with the Environmental Finance Center to offer a workshop in the region on April 30th. Contact Prestene Garnenez (COG Planner) for more details.



High Plateau Vision 21

RESTORE—SUSTAIN—TRANSFORM

Regional Councils throughout the country (known variously as COGs, EDDs, RPCs, etc.) facilitate 5-year planning strategies under annual federal funding from the Economic Development Administration. These strategy plans, known as

"CEDS" (**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**) are subject to continuous action, modification, improvement and updating – with a new and fully updated strategy document submitted in 5-year cycles. We are currently due for a full update of the CEDS, as a result in **December 2013**, the COG partnered with our regional Economic Development Organizations (**Greater Gallup Economic**

for the three-county Northwest New Mexico region. The COG never one to forego a good opportunity also gathered significant input from our regional participants to that will further "roll up" into a **statewide economic**

strategy that is currently being worked on by all 7 COGs in New Mexico (NewMARC) and our many partners.

Participants were strategically selected from both the public and private sectors for their role, knowledge, expertise and experience in economic development efforts in the local and regional communities.



McKinley County Economic Strategy Forum at UNM-Gallup on December 18, 2013 (photo courtesy of GGEDC)



Brainstorming Session with participants from throughout Cibola County

Development Corporation, Cibola Communities Economic Development Foundation, and Four Corner Economic Development) to hold three **Economic Strategy Forums**—one in McKinley County, one in Cibola County, and one in San Juan County.

The Economic Strategy Forums, which were well attended with **50-60 participants** at the McKinley and Cibola Counties session, helped to identify economic deficiencies, assets, and strategies specific to respective counties. Of course, the broader effort is to produce a **5-year "blueprint"**



Facilitators help guide discussion on various topics of Infrastructure, Innovation & Sustainability, and Education & Talent Supply among others.

Next steps include more Forums to garner more input and develop a **Strategic Committee** to carry out the Plan. We anticipate Forums in late Spring.

The result the COG is eventually aiming for (by Winter 2014) is a clear and actionable regional strategy document that will be actively used to **guide, finance and promote broad-based collaboration in effective economic development** efforts in the northwest New Mexico region, and in the State of New Mexico as a whole.

Northwest NM designated SET-Stronger Economies Together Region

Learn—Plan—Collaborate—Act—
Empower



Rural citizens and leaders in Northwest New Mexico are being invited to join in an exciting learning/action process called “SET” - “Stronger Economies Together.”

The New Mexico Rural Development office of the US Department of Agriculture selected our three counties of Northwest New Mexico as a “SET” region. It’s being organized around the rural corridors that make up the “Trail of the Ancients” Scenic Byway, with study/action groups in San Juan County, in McKinley County and in Cibola County. Recent ‘kick-off’ meetings with USDA’s New Mexico State Director, Terry Brunner, were held in Shiprock, Zuni, and Grants and were facilitated by the COG.

This SET designation brings with it the services of the New Mexico State University Extension Program in the persons of Dr. Michael Patrick and Paul Gutierrez, who will serve as instructors and facilitators for the nationally-recognized SET curriculum.

The SET initiative will form the foundations of a Rural Leadership & Development Academy in

our region, and SET participants will be the founding members! On a parallel track, we will be working on forming a broad-based regional nonprofit corporation that can help bring in resources to move projects and initiatives in rural areas of the region. Also running parallel is an effort to form a Youth Academy for Leaders of Tomorrow.

Joining NMSU on the SET leadership team are Zuni Tourism Director Tom Kennedy, Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments Director Jeff Kiely and Planner Prestene Garnenez, USDA-Rural Development Area Specialist Bob Koenen, Dine College-Land Grant Office Director, Benita Litson, UNM-Gallup/Zuni Campus Director Bruce Klewer, Cibola Communities Economic Development Foundation Director Eileen Yarbrough, NMSU-Grants Applied Business Program Manager Michael Fields, and Trego Partners principal Diane Prindeville.

The SET process will involve monthly seminars led by the NMSU staff, and will include cooperative work toward creating a high-quality regional Rural Development Plan. This Plan will be woven in as an important element of the region’s federally-sponsored Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) being facilitated by the Council of Governments.

Three separate classes/work sessions will be held each month: one in San Juan County; one in McKinley County; and one in Cibola County. Then, every fourth month, all three study/action groups will gather together in a region-wide seminar and consultation session. At the end of a year of work, a regional plan will be completed, which will also contain priorities and strategies for the local communities and corridors.

Workshops are set to begin in late April. To learn more, visit the website: www.prosperitycollaborative.com and click on the “SET” tab. You may also sign up at the website.



Kick-off meeting in Shiprock at Dine College South Campus



Initial SET kickoff meetings with Terry Brunner in Grants



SET Meeting in Zuni at UNM campus

Notes from the Executive Director...

COGs: Weaving Together Planning & Action

The story is told of the two kids who were breathlessly running to school, worried that they might not make it on time. One of them suggested, "Let's stop here and pray that we won't be late." The other one responded, "I've got a better idea. Let's run and pray at the same time!"

This fable has a lot of meaning to me, as I survey my near-quarter-century at the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments. Seems like we do a lot of that "running and praying at the same time" – in other words, "implementing and planning at the same time." We've sometimes had to "go for the gold" even before we had the plan to get there; and at other times we've made a great plan, only to see it stall for lack of funding. Or we'll be in the middle of a good, solid planning process, but then the funding deadline comes roaring into view, or the Legislative Session starts teeing up, and so we cut bait and yes, "go for the gold."

And at this Winter's Legislative Session, as is our tradition, our Deputy Director Evan Williams worked tirelessly, day in and day out, to keep folks informed and connected – both inside and outside the Legislature – on issues and priorities being pursued. Many of the legislative requests were well planned, and that made it a lot easier!

As a regional planning agency, I have to admit we've seen our share of those plans that just sit on the shelf. And we've seen our share of projects that get funded even though they lack a good plan. But the times, they are a-changin'.

First of all, we planners have learned a lot about how to develop dynamic, living, flexible plans that actually get used, and tweaked, and modified, and ... actually carried out!

Secondly, there's a demand out there for sound plans – by public sector investors (read Federal and State funding agencies), by foundations, and by private investors. "Don't have your ducks in a row? Then don't come to us for funding!" "Don't have your plans in place, your goals and measurable outcomes, your clearances, your matching funds, your technical documents? Then go back, do your homework, and come to us when you're ready to talk!"

In this new scene, we're involved in a lot of planning – but we're seeing it as part of a more comprehensive cycle:



(Continued on Page 10)

Grants Deadlines

Tribal Infrastructure Fund Grant Applications
March 14, 2014

Water Trust Board Grant Applications
April 2, 2014

Recycling & Illegal Dumping Grant Applications
April 4, 2014 (in hand at 5 p.m.)

Scrap Tires Grant Applications
April 4, 2014 (in hand at 5 p.m.)

New Mexico Clean & Beautiful Grant Applications
April 21, 2014 (in hand by 4:00 p.m.)

Community Development Block Grant Applications
May 16, 2014



Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

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**“Leading the Field
to Empower Communities
& Move the Region**

Important Dates	Date	Place
NADO Washington Policy Conference	March 23-26	Washington, DC
2014 Economic Development Summit	April 1-3	Hobbs, NM
Brownfields Tools for Redevelopment & Economic Growth Workshop	April 8	San Juan College Farmington, NM
NWRTPO Committee Meeting	April 9	Gallup, NM
ICIP Training	April 23	Farmington
Asset Management Training	April 30	Gallup, NM
NWRTPO Committee Meeting	May 14	TBA
Memorial Day—COG Offices Closed	May 26	Gallup
NADO Board Summer Retreat	June 7-9	Stevenson, WA
NWRTPO	June 11	TBA
COG Board Meeting	June 18	San Juan County (TBD)
Independence Day—COG Offices Closed	July 4	Gallup

Notes from the Director continued from previous page

With that model in mind, we’re involved in many planning initiatives, such as (among others):

- The update of the regional “*Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*” (CEDS);
- Working with our fellow COGs in our statewide association NewMARC and with the Arrowhead Center at NMSU to produce a *Statewide “CEDS”*;
- Working with the Legislature’s *Interim Jobs Council* to help identify economic-base jobs that need to be created in the State’s top target sectors, and that can be developed in our region;
- Working with the City of Aztec on their *Vision Plan*;
- Working with McKinley County on implementing their *Comprehensive Plan*, as well as their *Energy Efficiency & Conservation Plan* and the *Regionalization Plan* for the county’s rural water systems;
- Working with the New Mexico Department of Transportation on 5-year updates to the *State and Regional Long-Range Transportation Plans*, including planning for freight and rail;
- Working with the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission on updates to the *State and Regional Water Plans*;
- Working with the New Mexico Department of Information Technology on a regional strategic plan for high-capacity

Broadband Deployment;

- Working with USDA and New Mexico State University Extension on a regional rural development plan under USDA’s “*Stronger Economies Together*” (SET) program;
- Working with Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation (GGEDC) on planning and financing the “*Energizing the Workforce*” initiative;
- Working with GGEDC and the Navajo Chapters of the Gallup metro region on a feasibility study for enabling the Navajo Chapter communities to participate in Inland Port development west of Gallup.

We are enjoying our ever-expanding and strengthening partnerships involved in all this planning work, and we especially enjoy seeing the actions and results that can emerge from these planning processes.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support, friendship and commitment to Moving the Region,

Jeff Kiely, Executive Director

