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VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

MARCH - MAY 2013

Produced by the Staff of the NWNM Council of Governments

SPOTLIGHT: MCKINLEY COUNTY-FORGING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS



Having a population of nearly **74,000 people** and approximately **70% living in rural** areas, McKinley County is making great efforts to help many of the rural residents living throughout the county. This past year saw the closure of several important small community projects. In 2010, McKinley County received a CDBG Construction Grant **(\$500,000)** for the expansion of Thoreau's community wastewater treatment plant and down in the southern portion, McKinley County received and assisted Ramah Water & Sanitation District with funding via the CDBG Planning Grant program for **\$50,000** with the completion of a Preliminary Engineering Report on the drinking water system (wells, storage, and distribution).

The successful closure of these two grants made way for the application of several more grant applications, including **\$500,000 Construc-**

tion grant in the 2013 CDBG round of funding; if successful in funding awards, the grant will assist the **Gamerco Water and Sanitation District** in their efforts to improve their drinking water system. New **Commissioner Tanner** and **Gamerco Water & Sanitation District Board members Tom Devlin & Jason Sanchez** made an effective presentation to the Community Development Council on the tremendous need to fund this project earlier this month. Also, the County is working with two communities (Box Canyon in western McKinley County and Thoreau, NM) in diagnosing flooding problems and searching for viable and feasible solutions; McKinley County is also reaching out the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop these Drainage studies. Lastly, **Ramah W&SD** was once again successful in working with the County & the Commission with the need in addressing their concerns with the Ramah wastewater system and treatment plant and in doing so were selected for application for a **\$50,000 CDBG Planning** grant.

New Leadership at Four Corners Economic Development



Our partners on the Economic Development front have recently brought new leadership to Northwest New Mexico and the Council of Governments is looking forward to a long and beneficial partnership with Ray Hagarman, new Executive Director of Four Corners Economic Development, Inc. (www.4Cornersed.com) in Farmington, NM. Ray comes to New Mexico from the Dayton, Ohio area where he was the Vice President for Investments at the Dayton Development Coalition (DDC), also a regional economic development organization serving the \$1.7 million people in the 12-county Dayton area. While at DDC he managed the highly successful Entrepreneurial Signature Program; the program focused on delivering a high level of services to technology entrepreneurs coupled with the management of a \$13.5 million seed venture fund.

Prior to the four years at the DDC, he was the Director of Finance and Operations for eight years at a large private foundation focused on economic development and quality of life initiatives in Springfield-Clark County, Ohio. This position involved portfolio management as well as the development and attraction of tenants to a technology park, which included LexisNexis, SAIC and Newport Spectra Physics.

A Tennessee native, Ray also spent 16 years in progressive management positions in banking and finance in Nashville, Tennessee and was a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force. Ray intends to optimize and energize the level of entrepreneurship and capital formation in San Juan County, as well as focusing on a high degree of assistance to existing businesses through workforce development, mentorship and capital access. He also sees the area's superb quality of life attributes as a key point for attraction of new industry and tourism.

Northwest New Mexico Broadband Planning: The Latest Developments

NM Broadband Plan

The goal of the Broadband Plan is to map available resources within the state to **identify gaps in coverage and to help fill those gaps**. NM DOIT has created a guide, the **Community Broadband Guide**, to assist in planning and implementation of broadband within regions and implemented a Regional Broadband Implementation Plan (RBIP) to provide technical assistance to two pilots through September 2014.

The objective of the RBIP is to make broadband around the state equally **affordable, redundant, and abundant** and to demonstrate the use of technologies and strategies that are most effective for rural areas.

Next steps:

- Assess Current Community Supply (infrastructure and available services)
- Assess Current and Future Demand (Survey of current and future needs)
- Create a Technology Plan
- Create and Implement a Broadband Plan
- Plan for Sustainability

In December 2012, the Cibola County Economic Development Foundation (CCEDF) presented at a joint Legislative Forum that Broadband planning and development is a critical piece needed for economic development and recruitment opportunities. Following this forum, the Economic Development Organizations (EDOs) convened and jointly developed a strategy for financing this planning effort; the Council of Governments has since partnered with **Cibola Communities Economic Development Foundation, Four Corners Economic Development, Inc., and Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation** to develop initially, the I-40 Connect Broadband Plan which later evolved into the Northwest NM Broadband & Telecommunications Plan.

The COG has since conducted extensive research into Broadband planning nationwide, including working with North Central Economic Development District, they've led a regional Broadband deployment strategy in Northern New Mexico through REDINET. Additional partnerships continue to develop; however, the following have been contacted to assist with this initiative: **Duncan Sill, REDINET Coordinator, Leo Baca, CenturyLink, Jon Barela, Cabinet Secretary, NMEDD, Theresa Becenti-Aguilar, District 4 Commissioner, NMPRC, Gar Clark, Broadband Program Manager, NMDOIT, Brian Tagaban, Executive Director, Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, and John Badal, Sacred Winds Communications.**

During the Legislative Session, the COG facilitated a second meeting with Gar Clarke, NMDOIT, presenting on a Statewide Broadband Plan and regional pilot planning projects. The group discussed including San Juan County and making this a truly regional endeavor. The Statewide Plan and the regional pilots need to have board-based support from four sectors;



economic development, health, education, and tribal. Based on Mr. Clarke's guidance, the COG worked on developing a grassroots stakeholder list that could be recruited and involved in the regional planning in each of the four targeted sectors; the COG continues to look for partners in these areas relative to Broadband planning.

The COG was also recruited to represent the region on the **New Mexico First/DOIT Leadership Team** for developing the Statewide Plan. The COG will be depending on the regional EDO's and their Boards to catalyze regional and local involvement, including the first phase of conducting a public survey. The survey is a general survey with three add-ons for each sector (education, health, and business). The COG will be collaborating with its regional partners to distribute and collect feedback from strategic participants.

In efforts for financing strategies for the regional Broadband Plan, the COG and its partners worked with **Representative Patty Lundstrom and Senator George Munoz** to advocate for \$50,000 for Broadband planning focused on Cibola County and the Navajo Nation; however, this was line-item vetoed by the Governor. The CCEDF has been working with the COG on utilizing NMFA Planning grant funds. Initial conversations with NMFA staff have determined that broadband planning is not eligible; however, the COG is working to deepen and re-frame the engagement with NMFA. Lastly, NM DOIT, has \$150,000 in technical and broadband planning consulting services available to two regions in the State. The COG has since applied to access these services.

Go to : <http://www.doit.state.nm.us/broadband/index.shtml> for the NM Broadband Portal

Snapshot of the Legislative Session 2013

Year after year, the Legislative Session brings much change to Northwest New Mexico and this year was no different. The House began new leadership with the placement of Representative Ken Martinez as the new Speaker; Representative Martinez is from Northwest New Mexico. Also, former COG Executive Director and Legislator, Representative Patty Lundstrom as Caucus Chair and Vice-Chair of the Appropriations and Finance Committee. Please see below for Northwest New Mexico's Legislative Delegation:



would get to keep their hold harmless or impose the new tax. Major impacts to San Juan and McKinley county area governments. (Signed)

The passage of the Locomotive Fuel Tax Credit (House Bill 120 – Representative Lundstrom), which expands Gross Receipts

Tax deductions for locomotive fuel after BNSF has invested \$50 million in rail infrastructure. This will result in significant economic development in McKinley County and New Mexico. (Signed)

Passage of Local Liquor Tax Proceed Uses & Rates (Senate Bill 397 – Senator Munoz) which increases the ability for voters to boost local liquor excise tax from 5% to 6% and expands usage to include social detoxification. Thanks and appreciation is extended to Jeff Condrey, consultant hired to assist in McKinley County, for the assistance in working with Senator Munoz to make some important amendments to the bill, which has been signed by the Governor. (Signed)

Passage of Public Employee Retirement (PERA) Changes (Senate Bill 27 – Senator Munoz). Senate Bill 27 amends the Public Employees Retirement Act and changes employer and employee contributions. The bill affects all current members and retirees, and adds a new tier of benefit structure for new members on or after July 1, 2013. (Signed)

The COG also participated in Grants-Cibola County events, Transportation Day, and assisted with McKinley County/Gallup Day at the Legislature – the most successful event during the Session. The COG was also successful at getting meetings with Keith Gardener, the Governor's Chief of Staff; Cabinet Secretaries; Legislative leaders; and our Delegation.

Deputy Director, Evan Williams also worked on scripting and spearheading work on several legislative initiatives and memorials including a Liver Transplantation Institute in New Mexico.

Finally, the COG also worked on supporting House Bill 2 appropriations for local and regional initiatives (Signed), and a package of a \$274M Capital Outlay Bill (Senate Bill 60) which included NWNM area appropriations in the amount of \$13,569,200 (signed), and assistance was provided to Northwest NM Delegation to help with constituent issues, capital outlay requests and reauthorizations, policy initiatives, and to act as liaison when requested.

<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>
Lee Alcon, D-6	Clemente Sanchez, D-30
Patty Lundstrom, D-9	John Pinto, D-3
Sandra Jeff, D-5	George Munoz, D-4
Ken Martinez, D-69	Benny Shendo, D-22
Tom Taylor, D-1	William Sharer, D-1
James Strickler, D-2	Steve Neville, D-2
Paul Bandy, D-3	
James Roger Magdalena, D-65	
Sharon Clahchischilliage, D-4	

Prior to the 2013 Session, local governments participated in joint City and County Legislative Forums (Cibola County, City of Grants, Village of Milan, Cibola Community Economic Development Foundation, and NMSU-Grants presented to Legislators in December and the City of Gallup and McKinley County in January). The Forums covered vital capital outlay projects, economic development needs, and other issues, such as Na'Nizhoozhi Center, Inc. (NCI) and Broadband planning.

A number of important bills were worked on during this 60-day Legislative Session, important among the many bills, the New Century Jobs Agenda Legislative package bills with the Economic Development Department to promote a business friendly environment and stimulate job creation in New Mexico; this bill was passed in House Bill 641. Others included amendments to the Film Production Tax Credit Changes or the "Breaking Bad Bill."

Another important piece of legislative, Hold Harmless, which will be phased out over 15 years. The basic details: repeals hold harmless over 15 years; authorizes a new local option "Hold Harmless GRT" of 3/8ths percent, not subject to referendum; and counties under 48,000 population

Regional Transportation Planning News

The annual **Regional Transportation Improvement Plan Recommendation (RTIPR)** prioritization took place in February with three project updates, and six new projects included for our region. This was followed by the DOT District RTIPR prioritization meetings in March. The current RTIPR represents **\$301,133,000 in projects for our three county region**. COG-RTPO Planner, Robert Kuipers, facilitates these meetings (including New Mexico DOT District 6 RTIPR), and develops both the draft and final RTIPR documents.

The Statewide quarterly Regional Planning Organization (RPO) Roundtable took place on March 4 in Santa Fe. This was followed by **Transportation Day at the Legislature on March 5**. Also taking place shortly after Transportation Day, was a joint RTPO orientation with BIA-Tribal Transportation Program and New Mexico State DOT presentations to the Pueblos of Acoma, Laguna, Zuni, and Ramah Navajo leaders at the Sky City Cultural Center in Acoma, New Mexico.

Slowly but surely, the COG continues to work toward a formal bidding process for the **Trail of the Ancients scenic byway interpretive kiosks** for the Northwest New Mexico Visitors Center in Grants, NM and the Manuelito (New Mexico Tourism Department) Visitor Centers which are both located on Interstate-40. The kiosks will be purchased utilizing grants funding of a total of **\$15,000**.

Other important items that were tackled were: Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF) applications for road pro-

jects that were submitted to the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department; and, a brochure that was developed for the NWRTPO which will be used for conferences and other marketing presentations. There is also improvements anticipated to the **NM-400 corridor (Fort Wingate to McGaffey)** from NM-DOT District 6 in the near future (either this summer or early fall).

There is also much collaboration going on with NM-DOT and statewide RPO's and MPO's relative to the **Long Range Transportation Plan update**. The **Transportation Alternatives Program**, a new **Policies & Procedures manual**, a **Functional Classification update**, another round of **TIGER 5 funding**, the **Annual Work Program updates**, and a **\$1.8 million pot of left over Safe Routes to School** funding are also creating a lot of buzz. The COG will keep everyone in the know on these important issues, topics, deadlines, and/or changes.

And finally, the RTPO continues to keep themselves trained and informed with the latest training opportunities: our own RTPO Planner, Robert Kuipers, and a number of NWRTPO members participated in an intensive **Transportation Project Management** training held in Albuquerque on April 15-17. We anticipate more of these training opportunities will become available to our members during the upcoming summer and fall months. Robert Kuipers also attended the **National Rural Transportation Conference** in Greenville, South Carolina on April 24-26 and returned with a wealth of information on various transportation related topics, issues, case studies, and collaborations.

Notes from the Director...

Sharing your pain ... but still looking for the gain.

We've all been pestered and sequestered, but we'll make it through - maybe leaner and meaner; maybe re-configured; maybe with new niches, missions and priorities - but the good work of local governments, and of your Council of Governments, will continue.

As I've often seen in the course of my 40-year career, times of turbulence can also be times of creativity and new progress. So even as the Congressional gridlock slows Federal decision-making to a crawl; even as all governmental systems suffer "post-recession stress syndrome" and the crazy-making of continuing resolutions and sequestrations; ... the conversations I'm in have gotten more and more "real," and more and more promising of new evolutions to come. Such as (to name a few):

- a growing consciousness of the need for higher levels of true collaboration and cooperation among all civic players - government agencies at the federal, state and local levels; nonprofit organizations; and civic-minded private sector leaders;

- an accelerating momentum toward community self-reliance (whether it be energy self-reliance in the San Juan Basin, food self-reliance in rural communities, political self-reliance in Navajo Chapters, or neighborhood self-reliance in providing for safe, beautiful and socially connected community life);
- a growing cadre of professionals in local government, higher education and nonprofit organizations committed to "thinking and acting regionally" in order to get the biggest bang for the remaining bucks that can be leveraged together and applied to the public good.

In my travels and many discourses this past year with colleagues and partners in the work, from Austin to Washington to Miami to Park City to up-country Massachusetts to Las Cruces, I have been encouraged by the quality of the people and institutions trying to "make it work," and by the innovations and best practices being demonstrated in places large and small. In the same way, I am encouraged by the good people in our regional community, who will continue to fight against the odds ... until the odds change in our favor!

My special appreciation goes out to the COG Board of Directors, and as always, to the COG staff - Evan, Bebe, Teresa, Bob, Prestene, Martina, Marco - as well as to continuing, new and emerging partners whose friendship and commitment keep me workin'

Gallup-McKinley Memorial Day 2013

The Gallup-McKinley Veterans Committee successfully planned another great event to honor our Veterans of the Gallup and McKinley County area. The 2013 Memorial Day Event was held on Monday May 27, 2013 beginning with an Observance Ceremony at 9:00 a.m. at the Veterans Plot at Hillcrest Cemetery. Then a Parade to honor our Military Servicemen and women currently serving, Veterans, and those who were lost; the Parade went through Downtown Gallup. Then at 11:00am the Official Ceremony at Courthouse Square.

This year the Grand Marshall is Former Gallup Mayor John Pena, who during his term in office was instrumental in the development of the Veterans Park and Memorial located in the Courthouse Square.

Honoree for this year is Emerson Martin, Private First Class, United States Marine Corps who was Killed in Action



(KIA) on May 29, 1969 in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. At the time of his death Emerson was survived by his wife Jeanette and their seven week old son Emerson. A member of the Navajo Tribe, Emerson was born in Crownpoint, New Mexico on December 18, 1947 but resided in Churchock, NM most of his short life.

Among the many medals posthumously awarded to Emerson was the Silver Star Medal "For meritorious service while serving as a Rifleman with Company A,

First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam from February 21 to May 1969."

The Committee will also be unveiling for the first time in over three years new glass panels on the Memorial Pillars with 130 new Veterans names added.

INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS & AN INTRODUCTION TO PROJECTEERING WORKSHOPS IN NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO ICIP 101

Northwest New Mexico is made up of a myriad of forms of government—on the one hand, we have municipal and county governments, but on the other, we also have boards of trustees of pre-colonial land grants, Water and Sanitation Districts, Mutual Domestic, Navajo Nation Chapters, and Pueblo Councils. Unfortunately, some of these forms of governments see high levels of turn-over of leadership from year to year which can leave gaps in understanding and in maneuvering the process in accessing funding to move projects forward to completion. The need to know these days is more critical as funding sources become more stringent about rules and selective of the projects to fund.

But, wait! The COG can help, as we are in the perfect position to share with new staff & newly elected officials in the planning and funding cycle.

In keeping with the COG's Planning and Development Philosophy of Full Cycle Planning, Full Circle Funding, the COG will host and facilitate **two workshops in early June and/or July** at locations near you; we're dubbing these workshops "ICIP 101". The focus of these workshops will be on:

- Choosing an approach that best meets those need of your community

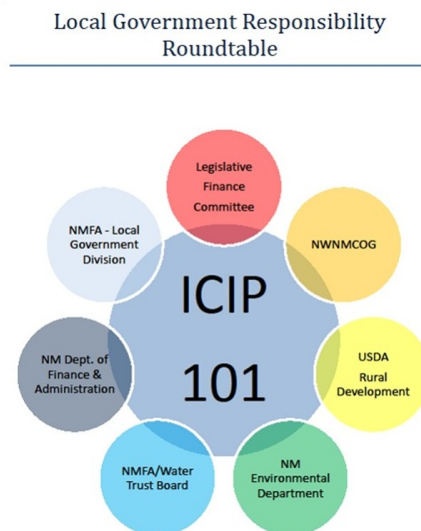
- Protection of public interest
- Adding value for the taxpayer
- Public participation
- Local official participation

ICIP 101 is a preliminary training session with an emphasis on the "PROCESS" and "PROJECTEERING." Projecteering or project engineering is a term we've come up with to describe the courses of action, evaluation and process of taking an idea or a community need from initial conception to final construction.

The COG will provide the basics in the understanding and use of the state's capital improvements program. The "basics" cover the legislative process, the ICIP (Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan), Asset Management, Project Identification/Triage, and Funding Sources & Cycles. There will be speakers from the Department of Finance Authority, USDA, and the COG.

The one-day workshops will be located central to attendees in both Cibola & San Juan County. Please see the NWNMCOG website for further details on projecteering; <http://www.nwnmcog.com/projecteering.html>.

Been through the process before? No worries, come for a refresher.





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

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Important Dates	Date	Place
EPA Brownfields Conference 2013	May 14-17	Atlanta, GA
State Transportation Commission Meeting	May 16	UNM-G Calvin Hall
Memorial Day (Holiday)	May 27	COG Closed
NWNMCOG Board Meeting	May 29	Gallup, NM
RPO Roundtable	June 5	Route 66
EDA Regional Conference/SWREDA Training	June 5-7	Eldorado Hotel Santa Fe
NADO Summer Board of Directors Retreat	June 8-10	Eldorado Hotel Santa Fe
NWRTPO Meeting	June 12	Navajo DOT Tse Bonito, NM
NMAC Annual Conference	June 18-20	Clovis
State Tribal Summit	June 20-21	Santa Fe
Independence Day	July 4	COG Closed
ICIP 101 (Process and Projecteering)	June	TBA
NWRTPO Meeting	July 10	TBA
ICIP Workshop	July 22	CCSD Board Room Shiprock, NM
ICIP Workshop	July 23	NMSU-G Grants, NM

Notes from the Director (continued from Page 4)

and smilin' when the going gets tough. Folks like (just to name a few): USDA-Rural Development Area Director Evert Oldham; New Mexico Community Capital CEO Leslie Elgood; Pat Keptner and Marcie Franklin of Tohatchi Area of Opportunity & Service, Inc. (TAOS); UNM-Gallup Academics Dean Neal Mangham, Business Department Head Frank Loera and Business instructors Al Henderson & Sonny Moore, and Human Services Department Head Dr. Sylvia Andrew; New Mexico Tech administrators Elmer Guy, Jason Arviso & Cindy Higgins; Association of Commerce & Industry President Dr. Beverlee McClure and her co-conspirator on the “Economic ThinkTank” group, Terry Brunner, State USDA-Rural Development Director; NMSU Professor Dr. Jim Peach and his boss at the Arrowhead Center, Dr. Kevin Boberg; Paladin Data Systems rep Jeff Pavey of Poulsbo, Washington (helping us on our “Panoramic” software pilot project); new Gallup City Councilor Yogash Kumar, just recently appointed to our COG Board and a frequent visitor to my office to discuss many ideas large and small; long-time friend and colleague Jeff Condrey, formerly Gallup City Manager, Local Government Division Director, and USDA-RD Director among other executive adventures, and recently working as special assistant to McKinley County Manager Richard Kontz; former field representative for Senator Jeff Bingaman - and now for Senator Martin Heinrich - Jim Dumont; New Mexico First Executive staff Heather Balas &

Charlotte Pollard; new NADO Executive Director Joe McKinney and his fabulous staff, including his Economic Development Director Brian Kelsey, who is helping all of us New Mexico COGs on our statewide *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)*; and Economic Development Directors Patty Lundstrom (Greater Gallup EDC) and her Deputy Michael Sage, Eileen Yarbrough (Cibola Communities EDF) and Ray Hagerman (Four Corners ED, Inc.) and his Administrative Director Julie Rasor. Ray was brought on as Four Corners CEO just a month ago, and we've enjoyed spending time with him, learning from him and having him on the regional team. Welcome, Ray!

Special thanks to my NewMARC colleagues Hubert Quintana (NewMARC Chair) and Tim Armer (North Central EDD Director) for friendship and collaboration “beyond the call.”

Also ... a shout-out to my good friend, mentor and partner-in-crime Jasper Welch, newly installed as Executive Director of the National Business Incubation Association (NBIA).

Jeff Kiely, Executive Director

