



NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

October 19, 2022

at the Aztec Public Library
Meeting Room

319 S. Ash Avenue *** Aztec, NM

I. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/QUORUM.

Chairman *Billy Moore* [McKinley County] convened the meeting of the Board of Directors at 10:08 am. Roll call proceeded in the form of introductions around the table. In attendance were 13 Board Representatives, representing a quorum 8 of the 9 voting entities of the Board (88.9%), along with 1 COG staff. City of Aztec Mayor Michael Padilla provided a welcome to the Board.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD EMERITUS: Jeff Kiely
CIBOLA COUNTY: Martha Garcia; Christine Lowery
MCKINLEY COUNTY: Billy Moore; Brian Money
SAN JUAN COUNTY: GloJean Todacheene;
CITY OF AZTEC: Michael Padilla; Jeff Blackburn; Steve Saavedra
CITY OF BLOOMFIELD: *Excused*
CITY OF FARMINGTON: Julie Baird; Warren Unsicker (alternate)
CITY OF GALLUP: Fran Palochak; Michael Schaaf
CITY OF GRANTS: Erik Garcia; Donald Jaramillo
VILLAGE OF MILAN: Roseanne Lopez

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Armando Sanchez

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Evan Williams

B. AGENDA & MINUTES ADOPTION.

Executive Director *Williams* provided an overview of the day's agenda topics and the minutes from August 3, 2022.

ACTION: *Fran Palochak* (Gallup) moved and *GloJean Todacheene* (San Juan County) seconded adoption of the agenda and minutes from August 3, 2022. Motion carried.

II. MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

Executive Director *Williams* wanted to check-in with each local government to find out what's going on and what's big in each including three questions:

	Biggest Success	Biggest Challenge	(Legislative) Priority
Aztec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Main – 60 days to completion • Reservoir #1 – rebuild, closed over 7 years 	Staffing Challenge Project Gaps and Financing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reservoir • Arterial Route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OutRec (BLM) – motocross expansion (160 acres along NM173) and other trails – events getting 500+ riders and 100+ motor homes. • NM173 Re-construction – Quality Waters/Navajo Dam (“Fix the Dam Road”)
Bloomfield			
Farmington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pinon Hills Blvd Bridge Extension • Pinon Hills Golf Course face-lift – irrigation, cart path and amenities. • FUND: GRT 1/4% for community transformation and QOL • River Trails new segment • Complete Streets Downtown Project • Totah Theatre renovation • Sobering Center and joint intervention (additional park rangers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Juan Generating Station just closed – litigation • Public inebriation morphing into new homeless in terms of camps • Hiring challenges – active recruitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Outlay wish list (OR, Allabilities and therapy pool) • New Police Station (old HillCorp/ConocoPhillips) • Continued push to change PERA to bring back officers for school resource officers. • Senior Center unit costs per meal – deserve better – increasing Title III process.
San Juan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan priority: Support law enforcement – new helicopter • Support and collaboration with Cities (e.g. Trails + Grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing Challenges (Adult Detention center and Sheriff’s Office – HB68 policy change) • Strategic Plan priority: Support law enforcement – new helicopter • Supply Chain and Inflation • Re-districting • Farmers compensation of Gold King Mine spill. 	Have not set priority yet – start with ICIP and Commission.
Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage Projects are working to prevent flooding and stormwater • Grants Rodeo Arena • GRT increasing • ED Collaboration with Chamber and MainStreet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Costs • Staffing & Operational Growth • Crime 	BioPark Project
Milan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport Road in construction • Soccer field in construction • Bank remodel into Manager’s Offices • GRT increasing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Costs • Staffing & Operational Growth Crime	BioPark Project
Cibola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Guard Armory – public safety building (Sheriff’s, E911, Fire & Emergency Management) – completion in February • Returned to healthier financial status – re-investment into NPOs with transparency and accountability • Strong Staff & Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads – County Roads need improve – washed out roads and bridges • Economic Development & Tourism Focus • Water • Housing 	Capital Outlay priorities including Top 5 ICIP projects.
Gallup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety Building Complex (November 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development throughout the City not just north of City • Mentmore Road and County Road #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and Sewer Upgrades

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing with GMCS for teachers Water Well (2 drilled) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Wells (4 more needed) Staff Retirements (Attorney, Police Chief) 	
McKinley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Efforts/Projects with City and Schools Federal funding support for projects like Bridges Industrial Park and Carbon Coal Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Emergency Hospital Issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development Bridges/Infrastructure

III. EXECUTIVE/STAFF REPORT

Executive Director Williams provided a summary of the past quarter’s key activities and issues. Due to time constraints, Mr. Williams asked the Board to bring any questions about the activities and tasks of his team. No questions were voiced by Committee members.

- A. **STAFF SUMMARY REPORT.** Mr. Williams did provide this report to the Board for their review and understanding.

ACTION: *Fran Palochak* (Gallup) moved and *Billy Moore* (McKinley County) seconded adoption of the report. Motion carried.

- B. **JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT:** Mr. Williams explained for several years that the COG’s around have sought to create a Statewide Association – New Mexico Association of Regional Councils to help secure resources for Statewide programs. A joint powers agreement has been drafted and we recommend that our COG approve and join this Statewide Association. Director Williams would represent our COG on the Board.

ACTION: *GloJean Todacheene* (San Juan County) moved and *Fran Palochak* (Gallup) seconded to approve the Joint Powers Act and join as the NWNMCOG. Motion carried.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. **FY2023 Financial Report, Quarter 1:** Mr. Armando Sanchez provided a review of the organization’s financials. One point that was brought to the Board’s attention was the need for membership dues to be paid as those funds provide the COG’s general fund and ability to match programs.

ACTION: *Billy Moore* (McKinley County) moved and *Michael Schaaf* (Gallup) seconded, to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried

- B. **FY2023 Budget Amendment #1.** Mr. Williams provided a quick overview of changes being made to this budget amendment, which included several new grants and special projects.

ACTION: *Billy Moore* (McKinley County) moved and *Michael Padilla* (Aztec) seconded, to approve the FY2023 budget amendment #1 as presented. Motion carried

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS; OTHER BUSINESS

- A. **Holiday Calendar.** Mr. Williams presented the COG Holiday Calendar for 2023.

ACTION: *Michael Padilla* (Aztec) moved and *Fran Palochak* (Gallup) seconded, to adjourn.
Motion carried.

- B. **FY2023 Board Meeting Calendar.** Mr. Williams presented the COG Board 12-month Master Calendar as approved the August board meeting. The next meeting scheduled for January 18 is the second day of the Legislative Session. The Board asked that this meeting be moved a week prior thus occurring on January 11, 2023.

ACTION: *Approved by acclamation.*

- C. **Announcements & General Comments:** No comments or announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: *Billy Moore* (McKinley County) moved and *Michael Schaaf* (Gallup), to adjourn. Motion carried. Chairman Garcia again thanked the City of Aztec and the Library for their hospitality for this meeting and adjourned the meeting of the Board of Directors at 12:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Evan J. Williams
Board Secretary and Executive Director

ATTEST: _____
Martha Garcia
Board Chair