
**EASTERN PLAINS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING
June 1, 2016
YRB-Youth Recreation Building, 1504 E. 7th St. Clovis, NM**

Chairman Fidel Madrid conducted the meeting with the sign-in sheet serving as roll call.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves, guest are listed below under guest present.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fidel Madrid, Clovis; Wesley Shafer, Grady; H.P. Cargile, Melrose; Lewis Cooper, Texico; George Gonzales, De Baca County; Justin Ingram, Ft. Sumner; Ernest Tapia, Guadalupe County; Roman Garcia, Vaughn; Robert Aragon, Harding County; Donna Sue Milson, Roy; Dorothy Hazen, Roy Alternate; Richard Primrose, Quay County; Mike Cherry, Quay County Alternate; Larry Wallin, Logan; Cynthia Lee, San Jon; Robert Lumpkin, Tucumcari; Becky Frazee, Dora; Kim Summers, Elida; Toni Whitecotton, Floyd; Justin Bennett, Union County; Jack Chosvig, Clayton; Leroy Montoya, Clayton Alternate;

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Ashley, Curry County; Robert Sandoval, Clovis Alternate, Leona Powell, Grady Alternate; Carolyn Johnson, Texico Alternate; Becky Harris, De Baca County Alternate; George Dodge, Guadalupe County Alternate; Albert Sena, Ft. Sumner Alternate; Rudy Martinez, Vaughn Alternate; Apolonio "Moe" Ramirez, Logan Alternate; Toni Stoner, San Jon Alternate; Jared Langenegger, Tucumcari Alternate; Jill Caviness, Causey; LaVerne Lee, Causey Alternate; Beverly Creighton, Elida Alternate; Oscar Robinson, Portales; Leo Lovett, Portales Alternate; Angie Gonzales, Union County Alternate; Terry McNabb, Folsom; Margaret O'Quinn, Folsom Alternate; Bonnie Donnelly, Grenville; Katie Braniblett, Grenville Alternate; Franklin McCasland, Arch Hurley Conservancy District.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sandy Chancey, Vincent Soule, Raymond Mondragon, Mary Gray, Erick Robinson, and Igor Gomzin.

GUEST PRESENT:

Tom Phelps, CEO Plateau
Douglas Clark, CNJ
Wendell Bostwick, Curry County Commissioner
Manual Lucero, Fort Sumner Councilman
Jamie Wall, Fort Sumner Clerk
Mayor Sherman Martin, House
Anita Allen, House Trustee

Mayor David Babb, Logan
Mayor Billie Jo Barnes, San Jon
Mayor Ruth Ann Litchfield, Tucumcari
Ken Carruthers, President and CEO Citizens Bank
Jeremy, Clovis Parks
Jessica Smith, Portales Council
Diane Parker, Portales Council
Ben Salazar, Field Representative Senator Udall's Office
Calvin Davis, Curry County Road Department
Dennis Fury, Superintendent Curry County Road Department
Tony Romirez, EDD
Claire Burroughs, City of Clovis
Bernard Treat, Xcel Energy
Corby White, Xcel Energy
Wade Holderman, FSID
Chase Gentry, CIDC
Ernie Kos, Executive Director of Clovis Chamber
Mike Gray, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity RCC

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

THAT the June 1, 2016 Board of Directors agenda be approved with the above amendments being made.

MOTION: Robert Lumpkin
SECOND: Toni Whitecotton

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION: Tom Phelps, CEO Plateau

Tom commented he appreciates the work all of the members do in their community. He said he was glad Sandy asked him to speak and be present at the meeting. He also glad he was able to be a sponsor for the lunch.

Tom stated he wanted to talk about Plateau and what they are all about. He is sure there are questions about the wireless sale. He will talk about that a little bit, but more importantly he will talk about the future of Plateau.

ENMR-Eastern New Mexico Rural Cooperative was established in 1949. Five (5) or six (6) ranchers, in the Clovis rural area, couldn't get phone service from the area provider. They decided to form a cooperative and went to Washington and got some funds to build the infrastructure. A couple of years later they actually made the first phone call through the exchange just south of Clovis.

ENMR started out with about sixty (60) members and has grown to approximately 10,000 members with assets approaching 225 million. A substantial amount of work has been put in to

providing telecommunications to the Eastern part of New Mexico. Specifically the ENMR or Plateau area is the Northeast squadron of New Mexico.

ENMR is governed by a thirteen (13) person elected board. They serve a three (3) year term and may run for reelection. There are currently about two hundred and fifty (250) employees. In the 1980s the board established Plateautel Communications, which allowed them to move outside of their certificated area and provide service outside the ENMR exchange area. They have since moved out into providing cable and high speed internet services to Clovis, Roswell, and Tucumcari to name a few locations. They've also built a significant fiber optics network that covers most of eastern New Mexico.

In the 1980s the board decided that ENMR needed to branch out and so they made the decision to get into the cellular business. They formed partnerships with other rural telecommunications providers, such as yucca telecommunications, growing that wireless business. Today there are over 80,000 customers, covering all of eastern New Mexico and a large portion of west Texas. It was a good business and made profitable sense, but the business plan was based on roaming. What that is, in layman terms, the big providers AT&T's the Verizons, the T-Mobiles, and the Sprints of the world initially chose not to bill the more rural areas such as eastern New Mexico. That presented an opportunity for Plateau to build the wireless infrastructure and provide service to their members. It also allowed the AT&T customers that were roaming in the area to use Plateau facilities to complete calls; with revenues being paid to Plateau. Originally it was fifty (.50) cent a minute to connect to Plateau services and connect their call to wherever they were calling, ie., New York City or wherever. The amounts the large carriers were charging decreased, but the minutes increased. Therefore it still worked out to be a significant business opportunity for Plateau. But, Plateau always knew when, not if but when, the big carriers decided to come in to the rural areas and build their infrastructure Plateau would lose a significant amount of revenue.

In November of 2013 Tom received an email from the head of AT&T acquisitions which read, "Tom, just want to let you know you've been a good partner with us in terms of roaming charges, but we've decided to over bill your area." In other words our infrastructure was not going to generate the kind of revenue that it had in the past. The last sentence of his email was "Would you consider an offer to buy?" The board made the decision we couldn't continue to operate without the roaming, because Plateau would from a significant positive situation to a negative situation. This information is not what you want to deliver to your members. Ultimately a decision was made to negotiate an agreement with AT&T and they now own the wireless operations of Plateau.

Plateau will still be heavily involved in telecommunications in eastern New Mexico. The future for Plateau is bright and has to do with the placement of fiber optic cable. Fiber optics is the key to urban and rural communities and fiber helps us provide high speed internet. Over the last several years have built fiber optics in Clayton, Farwell, Fort Sumner, Logan, Mosquero, San Jon, Santa Rosa, etc., which represents several miles of fiber replaced and are able to reach 43% of our customers. That's a significant achievement and the challenge is to provide fiber optics to 100% of membership. They've estimated this will require an additional 1,500 miles of fiber and approximately 190 million dollars. The board has approved an aggressive plan that will allow 100% coverage in fifteen (15) years, 2030. This sounds like a long time off, but in the scheme of

things it will be a short period of time. The fiber optics is the true future of Plateau and the members require the service.

In terms of future challenges, the day to day involvement with state and federal regulations Plateau continues to constantly evaluate changes in regulations. They make sure they are in position to fully meet the needs of the members.

ENMR Plateau will continue to be a strong supporter of the communities as they have been since the inception of the cooperation. They will still contribute funds and help with matching dollar funds to help with developing jobs and opportunities in the communities. The past has shown that Plateau has delivered what they say they will and they will continue to do this.

Tom commented that this was a little of an over view of Plateau and he will be happy to answer any questions.

There were some questions but mostly gratitude and thanks were expressed to Tom and Plateau for the support and service provided throughout the area.

Tom stated Plateau would continue giving scholarship and he thought approximately 70,000 was given in scholarships this past year.

Sandy commented that the Jobs Council took an assessment of the broadband infrastructure in New Mexico. She said our part of the state is extremely blessed with coverage because there aren't massive gaps, in the broadband infrastructure, in eastern New Mexico, like there is in other parts of the state. Sandy said when they looked at the map many asked how Plateau does it? She said she shared Plateau contact information, but the bottom line is Plateau has a great CEO and board for the ENMR Plateau telecommunications. She thanked Tom and Plateau for a wonderful job in serving the area.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 13, 2016:

THAT the April 13, 2016 meeting minutes be approved as written and submitted.

MOTION: Robert Lumpkin

SECOND: Toni Whitecotton

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Financials:

Erick brought everyone's attention to the financial report stating we are on track and as usual the base budget and EDA are a little short and we'll need to keep a watch on the spending for this quarter as we enter the end of the fiscal year. We'll keep a tight watch on these to make sure we stay in compliance. Transportation budget is in line with what is expected near the end of the year.

We did have a little trouble getting some draws due to updating in the state computer system. The problems seem to be fixed and all draws are current at this time. The transportation draws are happening in a timely manner.

At this point we are waiting for the final funds on the SWPP (Source Water Protection Plan) to come through then we'll be closing that fund. The final invoice should be around \$16,000 and there should be a surplus in that fund so there will be some budget adjustments once that money is received.

Erick asked for any comments or questions.

THAT the June 1, 2016 financials be approved as submitted.

MOTION: Robert Lumpkin

SECOND: Wesley Shaffer

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of 2016-2017 Annual Budget:

Erick commented this is the proposed budget for 2016-2017 and this budget is pretty much in line with prior years.

In terms of expenses nothing really changing from last year. The main changes have to do with the SWPP ending and picking up some CDBG. We don't have budgeted salary increases or anything like that.

The main change in the budget will be we are changing our accounting system software. Right now we are using MIP, which runs about \$4,000.00 a year. Based on where EPCOG is in terms of operations we could go with cheaper software, which is ultimately Quick Books. In doing this it will save about \$3,500.00 a year. When Sandy and Erick were looking at the budget they decided this was a good decision to make. Erick commented that EPCOG doesn't need that much of a system. Back in the day when we had the workforce, wind energy and the housing programs MIP was certainly beneficial, but now it's a little bit over kill.

Everything else in the budget is very much status quo and in line with past years. We'll add other funds as they come up such as CDBG and SWPP if another grant becomes available. Right now the current programs are what we will continue to run.

Erick asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

THAT the 2016-2017 budget be approved as presented.

MOTION: Donna Milson
SECOND: H.P. Cargile

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of 2016-2017 Cost Allocation Plan:

Sandy reviewed the cost allocation plan commenting that Erick made a few minor changes. She stated this is the narrative form of how costs are allocated among programs. It is the methodology of budgeting and expenditures. Basically costs and some work hours are allocated between programs; any direct costs are allocated to appropriate fund/program.

THAT the 2016-2017 Cost Allocation Plan be approved as presented.

MOTION: Becky Frazee
SECOND: Roman Garcia

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of 2016-2017 Annual Work Plan:

Sandy stated this is the Annual Work Plan that is submitted to Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) every year for the State Grant and Aid. She did a little cleanup as some of the tasks were duplicated. One task states EPCOG will host an ICIP workshop, but that most likely will not happen in 2017 because of the state's budget crunch. Other than the changes mentioned the Annual Work Plan remains the same.

THAT the 2015-2016 Annual Work Program be approved as presented.

MOTION: Roman Garcia
SECOND: Robert Lumpkin

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of 2016-2017 Open Meetings Resolution:

Sandy reviewed the open meetings resolution stating it is required each year. The meetings are still the same and the only changes made are to the dates.

THAT the 2016-2017 Open Meetings Resolution be approved.

MOTION: Toni Whitecotton
SECOND: Donna Milson

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Executive Director's Out of State Travel (SWREDA Conference, Baton Rouge, LA):

Sandy commented since the NewMARC meeting she has a little update on the SWREDA (Southwest Regional Executive Director's Association), stating EPCOG is a member of the association. There are six (6) states that make up this association. As of May 31, 2016 she will be the New Mexico board member, this means any of her time, travel, and expenses will be covered.

THAT the Executive Director's out of state travel to the SWREDA Conference in Baton Rouge, LA be approved.

MOTION: Robert Lumpkin

SECOND: H.P. Cargile

MOTION CARRIED

Election of 2016-2017 Officers (Nominees-Fidel Madrid, Chairman; Oscar Robinson, Vice-Chair, and Wesley Shafer, Treasurer.):

Chairman asked for any nominations from the floor.

Roman Garcia moved that nominations cease.

THAT the current slate of officers be re-elected by acclamation.

MOTION: Roman Garcia

SECOND: George Gonzales

MOTION CARRIED

Bylaws:

Sandy commented the Bylaws haven't changed and are in the board packets just for informational purposes. Please let EPCOG know if there are any updates that need to be made.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Sandy said a meeting is planned for June 28, 2016 with the Executive Committee for a Strategic Planning session. EPCOG has complete Strategic Planning and she wants to get input from the committee on any items/tasks they might like to see EPCOG carry out.

EPCOG completed last year's audit with zero findings.

Organizational Structure:

EPCOG continues to provide services to our members with funding from the Economic Development Administration, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration. A contract with the New Mexico Environment Department for Curry and Roosevelt Counties Source Water Protection Plan has just been completed. EPCOG is currently administering a CDBG project and acting as fiscal agent for the City of Texico.

With a decreased operating budget EPCOG staff has made every effort to conserve funds and have reduced travel and other expenses. Additional funds are brought in by taking on short term projects have allowed for replacement of some computer equipment.

Information Dissemination:

Major changes are continuing to occur at all levels of government. EPCOG staff strives to keep local officials informed regarding transition and administration of state and federal programs, including environmental issues. Disseminating information on grant funding, training opportunities, legislative issues, meetings, etc., is primarily done through email and phone calls.

Sandy said since email is the main source of communication occasionally her and Ray may send out the same information, but they want to make sure everyone receives information they feel is important.

Direct Technical Assistance:

A primary service to member governments and organizations is direct technical assistance in the development and implementation of priority local programs and projects. EPCOG staff is available to assist community leaders in establishing an implementation strategy including the determination of funding alternatives, assistance with grant applications, economic development projects, transportation projects, assistance with grant writing, etc.

Coordination/Liaison:

The Eastern Plains Council of Governments Board of Directors and professional staff interact on an on-going basis with policy officials and administrative personnel of state and federal agencies. Providing support for local and regional program priorities is an essential part of the annual work program.

EPCOG will assist in resolving problems or capitalizing on opportunities by keeping a clear line of communication with key policy officials and administrator at the state and federal levels.

Training:

Sponsorship of workshops and seminars on pertinent current programs is an effective way for EPCOG to assist its members to improve their understanding of program opportunities. EPCOG will continue to provide members information on any training opportunity offered by our federal and state partners

Review and Comment:

As a result of Executive Order 2003-048 the Office of Management and Budget has been notified that the State of New Mexico is no longer participating in the Single Point of Contact in the Clearinghouse Review and Comment Process. However, EPA's grant applications must continue to comply with the intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968 and Section 204, or the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966, as amended. To satisfy this requirement, New Mexico Environment Department, forwards all applications for EPS funding to the seven Councils of Government for review and comment. This year nine (9) applications for EPA funding were reviewed by EPCOG.

EPCOG will also review and comment on applications prepared by our members for federal and state funding.

Policy Development:

EPCOG will actively participate in the development of state and federal policies which support local government and regional priorities. Active involvement will continue in boards, task forces, and advisory committees that will benefit our region.

Legislative/Regulatory Advocacy:

EPCOG is available to assist members with any legislative or regulatory issues they may have, as well as preparation of capital outlay requests. EPCOG monitors legislation that may impact members and relays pertinent information as soon as possible.

Housing:

EPCOG provides affordable housing, for low income, elderly and special needs clients, in Santa Rosa, Portales and San Jon. These properties are managed by JL Gray Company.

Economic Development:

EPCOG has provided assistance to several communities in economic development planning. We work with economic development organizations in all seven counties of the region and is required by the Economic Development Administration to compile a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) every five (5) years.

Water:

As water shortages continue to persist in our region, EPCOG has given priority

consideration to water related planning efforts this past year. Funding was obtained from the New Mexico Environment Department to prepare a Source Water Protection Plan for Curry and Roosevelt Counties, and we hope for funding to complete similar plans for our remaining five (5) counties.

Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO):

EPCOG contracts with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) for the coordination and facilitation of both the Northeast (NERTPO) and the Southeast (SERTPO) Regional Transportation Planning Organization. EPCOG's transportation planner acts as a liaison between the NMDOT and State wide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) Development office and local governments on the RTPO process and getting projects into STIP for funding.

Special Projects:

EPCOG continues to take on special projects such as the job fairs, special purpose planning processes, and assisting with organizing meetings and other events.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

EDA/Government Affairs/SWPP-Raymond Mondragon:

This report covers from April 12 2016 through May 31, 2016

- April 12 attend the Water Policy Advisory meeting at Clovis City Hall
- April 12 meet with contractors and Texico Cemetery Association members at the Texico Cemetery to review scope of work for quotes. (bid was awarded by the Texico City Council to Nick Griego & Sons and work has begun at the Texico Cemetery)
Pictures of the cemetery in Ray's report in board file.
- April 14-15; attended the NMIDEA Professional Development Training in Artesia, NM. I was elected to the board of directors. The NMIDEA group is the New Mexico Industrial Developers Executives Association.
- April 18; I was asked to be the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Young Professionals Group. I talked about leadership, legislative issues and the future.
- April 20; attended the Clovis/Curry County Chamber Board of Directors meeting and talked about the upcoming ENM Spring Job Fair.
- April 21; attended the ground-breaking for the Habitat for Humanity on a home that will be built for a family.
- April 21; we held the ENM Spring Job Fair at the Clovis Civic Center and it was very successful. We had 340 go through the door, 52 vendors, 272 people interviewed with all likely 110 are anticipated to be hired.
- April 22; attended the community partners breakfast at CAFB we were briefed on Cannons mission by Lt. General Highholt.
- April 26; attended the Texico city council meeting to issue the bid on the contractor for the Texico Cemetery and briefly met with the Texico Cemetery Association.

- April 29-30-31 traveled to Santa Fe for an ESGR event where 4 star General Glass Commander of all National Guard forces was the speaker. After that traveled to Albuquerque to the Iselta Resort for the ESGR training and development as well as the banquet. During the banquet I was awarded the New Mexico Medal of Merit by Adjutant Brig General Salas signed by Governor Susanna Martinez. (all expenses were paid by ESGR)
- May 2; Sandy and I had a conference call with Trisha Korbas of EDA with the city of Tucumcari in regards to a possible EDA infrastructure grant.
- May 3; attended finance director Don Clifton's retirement event over 35 years with the city of Clovis.
- May 10; attended the Clovis water policy meeting. Traveled to Portales and met with Orlando Ortega and discussed a fall job fair in Portales.
- May 10; attended a meeting with the Texico Clerk Carolyn Johnson and the Texico Cemetery Association.
- May 12; attended a NMIDEA board meeting by conference call and attended the Clovis Community College Rad-Tech pinning ceremony.
- May 13; attended the nurses pinning ceremony and the CCC graduation.
- May 16; had a meeting with the contractor and members of the Texico Cemetery Association to discuss scope of work. And attended the Region I water planning group meeting in Tucumcari, NM.
- May 17; met with officials and consultants at Cannon AFB a company called AECOM to discuss growth in the city of Clovis and within the region.
- May 18; ICIP training was cancelled by DFA.
- May 19-20 attended the NM First Town Hall to discuss Economic Vitality & Security. I was interviewed during the event.
Pictures of the town hall meeting in Ray's report in board file.
- May 23; Checked and took photos on the Texico Cemetery Project.
- May 24; participated in a DFA ICIP webinar.

Transportation-Vincent Soule:

Events, Meetings, and Assistances

April 2016

- Federal Highway Administration approved amendment to budget
- NMDOT approved out-of-state travel to national rural transportation convention
- Attended NERTPO meeting in Raton, NM
- Sent out letters of appointment for member assignment and confirmation to the RTPOs
- Had Quality Assurance Review
- Call for Projects announced
- Discussed deadline of applications with NERTPO and SERTPO Program managers
- Submitted 2nd Quarterly Report and reimbursement package to NMDOT
- Contacted NMDOT Transit & Rail Division to present information to the March meeting

May 2016

- Attended ICIP training webinar
- Attended RTPO Roundtable
- Managed NERTPO meeting in Tucumcari, NM

- Attended Clovis City Commission Meeting
- Assisted various members with assigning representatives to NERTPO & SERTPO

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ NERTPO Meeting in Angel Fire, NM; June 29th, 2016
- ❖ SERTPO Meeting in Roswell, NM; June 30th, 2016
- ❖ NADO National Regional Transportation Conference in Chattanooga, TN on June 13th – 15th, 2016
- ❖ Will attend Traffic Count Class when date is decided
- ❖ PTF meetings will be made for respective districts
- ❖ Will attend the Transportation Commission Meeting in October

COMMENTS:

Chairman Fidel Madrid thanks Sandy, Ray, Mary and Vincent for all they do and for the work put into preparing for the Annual Meeting.

Ben Salazar, from Senator Udall's office, thanked the Village of Logan for the fantastic Memorial Day Event honoring Veterans. He commented he has attended several in larger areas such as Santa Fe and Albuquerque, but Logan's was one of the best he has attended.

Larry Wallin, of Logan, thanked EPCOG for their help with getting a new bridge and with the Senior Citizens.

Several thanked EPCOG for their support and assistance to the communities. Others present thanked the communities for all they do in striving to make their communities better.

CRY FROM THE WILDERNESS AWARD PRESENTATION:

The 2016 award winner, of the Eastern Plains Council of Governments' "Cry from the Wilderness Award" for advocacy of regional issues, dedicated service and leadership, was Vice-Chairman Oscar Robinson from the City of Portales.

ADJOURNMENT:

Since there is no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjournment at 11:50 p.m.



Fidel Madrid, Chairman

*All reports and handouts are filed in the Board Minutes File.
Lunch was provided by Leal's and sponsored by Plateau, Citizens Bank, Xcel Energy and FEC.