

**APPROVED MINUTES OF  
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
9 A.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020  
ZOOM MEETING**

OFFICERS PRESENT: Blaschke, Caleb – City of Willcox (Chair)  
Vivian, Vicki – City of Benson (Vice-Chair)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brown, Heath – Town of Thatcher  
Cassella, John – City of Safford  
Coxworth, Dan – Cochise County  
Harvey, Suzanne – Town of Huachuca City  
McLachlan, Matt – City of Sierra Vista  
Rapier, Derek – Greenlee County  
St. John, Jennifer – Santa Cruz County  
Welker, Dustin – Graham County

STAFF PRESENT: Curtiss, Dina – Accounting Manager  
Dennis, Keith – Community Development Program Manager  
Glenn, Heather – Administrative Assistant  
Heiss, Randy – Executive Director  
Porter, Maria – Economic Development Manager  
Vertrees, Chris – Transportation Program Administrator  
Villa, Laura – AAA Program Director

GUESTS: Adam, Kevin - RTAC

**I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Blaschke called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

**II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION**

**John Cassella**, Safford – shared that their event forms were modified to include Covid mitigation; they received a WIFA loan for the wastewater affluent line to the fairgrounds that will save about 50 million gallons a year and got a good interest rate; Council and staff are still looking at options regarding APSPRS. **Dustin Welker**, Graham County – they received \$200,000 grant from State Forestry Service for the Gila River to create 7 fire breaks along the bridges, dams, farm crossings. 400-500 foot breaks on each side as well as by 5 well clusters. It is a pioneer project for tamarisk removal. Election kept him busy with lots of calls, but he has full confidence in the election process. **Jennifer St. John**, Santa Cruz County – stated she agrees with the election comments made by Mr. Welker. All ballots counted that night. **Randy Heiss** asked about what 'Sharpiegate' is. **Mr. Welker** explained that a group was saying that if a Sharpie was used to mark their ballot that the ballots were ineligible because it bled through to the other side. **Ms. St. John** stated there is no merit to that claim as the ballots are designed in such a way that even if the mark did bleed through, it would not show in the area that reflects a person's choice. **Caleb Blaschke**, Willcox – they recently put out a bid for the gas regulator station to redo and he hopes it will be under \$250,000. He advised their utility rates increased to help offset the cost of upgrading infrastructure. They are starting a road improvement program. They were able to secure a loan locally for a \$1.5 million project; 1.4% interest rate over ten years; a Utah bank offered the loan at 1.48% interest. They are also talking with the local bank about potentials loans for APSPRS and the gas regulator station. **Vicki Vivian**, Benson – they are looking at a bond issue for \$43.2 million new City Hall building plus \$300,000 for park improvements. Lantern Festival is this weekend with a 25% chance of rain. **Dan Coxworth**, Cochise County – stated they are seeking brownfield properties to mitigate. They are assessing several properties now. They are also

considering potential redevelopment sites, not just ground contamination sites, so if anyone knows of any older properties that may contain asbestos or lead-based paint, etc, contact him. The County funded a Port of Entry and infrastructure study that should be complete by the end of the year. They have implemented Citizen Serve which is an online permit tracking system that will allow contractors and the public to apply for permits without having to come into the county offices. **Derek Rapier**, Greenlee County - advised they are counting the last of their ballots. **Randy Heiss** reminded members of a new partnership formed with AZ Town Hall. The topic this year is Creating Vibrant Communities and they will hold an online event November 20. He advised that a meeting invitation was sent via email and he encouraged everyone to involve their elected officials. SEAGO's IT consultant is retiring at the end of December and they are looking for recommendations for his replacement on an as-needed basis. Anne Carl, SEAGO's attorney, may also need to be replaced if she wins the election. There could be some significant delays in getting items addressed during the next 4 years, no matter who wins and he encouraged everyone to work together.

### **III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No one from the public was present.

### **IV. ACTION ITEMS**

1. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of the April 30, 2020 Minutes

Dustin Welker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

**MOTION: Dustin Welker**  
**SECOND: Vicki Vivian**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

2. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of Resolution No. 2020-04 relating to the diversion of dedicated transportation revenues (HURF) to the State General Fund

Randy Heiss explained that the information is updated from last year. The Public Safety fee sunsets July 1 and the legislature may shift HURF funds to cover public safety. The resolution covers three points: 1- Limit diversions to 20 million per the statutes; 2 - Modernize transportation funding mechanism. We have fallen behind from other states. And 3 - Index the gas tax to inflation, so we are keeping up with other states. Weren't able to advance resolution last year because it was created towards the end of the fy and legislature cut their session short.

Vicki Vivian made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 2020-04 to the Executive Board.

**MOTION: Vicki Vivian**  
**SECOND: Dustin Welker**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

3. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of the Calendar Year 2021 SEAGO Policy Principles

Randy explained this is an update to SEAGO's 2020 Policy Principles. This is a 3-fold flyer that will be available once the Boards approves it. Some of the changes include replacing the Older Americans Act with support for additional Covid-19 issues so that people's services are not discontinued.

Advocacy increased for the Ombudsman program. Funds are needed for technology to reduce social isolation in long term healthcare facilities and an ombudsman can't get in to visit. Social isolation has a detrimental effect. The Economic Development program added an item to support local efforts to create a diversified resilient economy through strategic planning initiatives, data analysis, program development and funding opportunities. Most are the same from last year.

Matt McLachlan asked what expansion of the border crossing showed for positive impact to our region? Randy Heiss advised he doesn't have local data in front of him but it was \$181 million statewide. MAG did a whole group of studies and discovered the current issue is if you are not a dual citizen and do not have essential business, you are not allowed to cross border. Studies show that people are still crossing the border and doing shopping in the border towns. Randy Heiss will send everyone the MAG info. The Policy Principle was first approved by the Executive Board in 2014.

Dustin Welker made a motion to recommend that the Executive Board approve the SEAGO Policy Principles for Calendar Year 2021 as presented by staff.

**MOTION: Dustin Welker**  
**SECOND: Jennifer St. John**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

4. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Willcox

Chris Vertrees provided an overview of the IGA. In February, Willcox applied for 5311 Dial A Ride service for one year with the operational period beginning in 2021. SEAGO did the feasibility study, helped with the application and study and we have good internal knowledge of the project. SEAGO has the knowledge, relationship, and can save the city money to administer the project. Chair Blaschke thanked Chris and SEAGO for their help and advised that Willcox is really excited and they think it will be a really big benefit to the city and surrounding areas. They are grateful for the partnership.

Derek Rapier made a motion to recommend approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement between SEAGO and City of Willcox to the Executive Board.

**MOTION: Derek Rapier**  
**SECOND: Jennifer St. John**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

## V. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Future Meeting Dates

Randy advised the group that meetings will be held by zoom until further notice and if they receive a meeting cancellation notice to ignore or double check with SEAGO. He reviewed the upcoming meeting dates.

- B. Strategic Plan Implementation Progress Report

Randy provided an update on the status of each Tactic. This iteration was approved and began at the beginning of the fiscal year. Updates are highlighted in yellow and he invited members to review the plan and call him with any questions.

C. Quarterly Finance Report

Dina Curtiss provided an update on SEAGO finances and responded to questions.

D. Community Development Program Update

Keith Dennis provided an update on Community Development Programs and responded to questions. Caleb expressed gratitude to Keith for bringing the Colonias and Vitalist funding avenues to the region.

E. SEAGO Economic Development District Report

Maria Porter provided an update on Economic Development and responded to questions.

F. AAA Program Updates

Laura Villa provided an update on AAA Programs and responded to questions.

G. Transportation Program Updates

Mr. Chris Vertrees provided an update on Transportation Programs and responded to questions.

## **VI. RTAC REPORT**

Mr. Kevin Adam provided an update and responded to questions.

## **VII. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS**

Randy mentioned that SEAGO received an unemployment claim for an employee who is currently employed at SEAGO. He advised the employee was also contacted by other states that unemployment claims were submitted in that person's name, also. He recommended that everyone be aware that fraudulent claims are being made.

## **VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Randy advised that the nominee to fill the Graham County private sector representative slot wasn't qualified under EDA requirements, so the search continues and he hopes to have a new nominee to bring forward. The CDBG Method of Distribution is up for renewal and is also expected to be on the agenda.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Blaschke adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

