

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
SEAGO EXECUTIVE BOARD  
ZOOM MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20, 2020**

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Ortega, Richard – Vice Mayor, City of Safford (*Chair*)  
Gomez, David – Supervisor, Greenlee County (*Secretary*)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barlow, Bill – Mayor, City of Tombstone  
David, Paul – Supervisor, Graham County  
English, Ann – Supervisor, Cochise County  
Huish, Don – Mayor, City of Douglas  
Montoya, Luis – Mayor, Town of Clifton  
Richardson, Barbara – Representative, Cochise County Private Sector  
Sedgwick, Antony – Representative, Santa Cruz County Private Sector  
Valle, Dan – Representative, Cochise County Private Sector

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Adam, Kevin - RTAC  
Cardenas, Maria V. - US Census

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

- I. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pursuant to A.R.S. §38.431.03 Subsection A.1., the Executive Board may adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of the Executive Director.
- II. Chair Ortega adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 9:15 a.m. for the purposes of discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of the Executive Director.
- III. **PUBLIC SESSION CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS**

Vice Chair Ortega called the Public Session of the Executive Board meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and roll was called.

- a. Discussion and possible action relating to the employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of the Executive Director.

Supervisor Ann English made a motion to show a 100% vote of confidence in the SEAGO Executive Director; Bill Barlow seconded.

**Motion:** Supervisor Ann English  
**Second:** Councilmember Bill Barlow

**Action:** Unanimous

#### **IV. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION**

**Supervisor Ann English**, Cochise County, advised that Cochise County and all of Southeastern Arizona is looking for complete support for the Port of Douglas. She stated there is funding from one part of the government; they are waiting for the other. Randy Heiss advised that SEAGO would be behind the County all the way in support of the Douglas Port. **Mayor Huish**, City of Douglas, said that Senator Sinema wrote a letter to the Chair of their Appropriations Committee in support and that he also spoke with Representative Ann Kirkpatrick. He stated that the Port will support the entire SEAGO region; not just the Douglas area, adding that we are all in this together and they appreciate everyone's ongoing support. Randy asked about the Economic Development grant; Mayor Huish advised they are asking questions and he takes that as a positive sign.

#### **V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No one from the public spoke.

#### **VI. PRESENTATION – U.S. Census Thank-You Presentation**

Maria V. Cardenas thanked everyone for their support with the 2020 census, provided an overview of the 2020 Census and presented a Certificate of Thanks to SEAGO, which would be mailed.

#### **VII. ACTION ITEMS**

1. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of the August 21, 2020 Minutes

Chair Ortega called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Supervisor Ann English made a motion; Barbara Richardson seconded the motion.

**Motion:** Supervisor Ann English  
**Second:** Ms. Barbara Richardson  
**Action:** Unanimous

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

Randy Heiss explained that this is an updated version of last year's resolution. It primarily asks for three things: 1- if there are any HURF diversions that they be limited to \$20 million per year per ARS; 2 - State and Federal policymakers modernize our transportation funding mechanisms through a variety of different ways; 3 – index the gas tax to inflation. He stated that he hopes we have bigger window of opportunity to get it passed this year. It was passed unanimously by Administrative Council at their last meeting.

Chair Ortega called for a motion to approve Resolution 2020-04. Supervisor David Gomez made the motion; Mr. Dan Valle seconded.

**Motion:** Supervisor David Gomez  
**Second:** Mr. Dan Valle  
**Action:** Unanimous

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

Randy Heiss updated the Policy Principles from last year's version, also. He advised that Covid cut short our ability to progress and that most changes are fairly minor. He designed a 3-fold brochure with the principles information from page 10. Starting last year, Randy explained that we expanded from just transportation to include all of the SEAGO programs, especially since they all feed into each other to achieve common goals. The main changes were to AAA by the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act; a couple of new principles were added driven by Covid 19; more emergency money for nutrition; most money exhausted due to a huge increase in home delivered meals; CARES Act funding being asked to be increased. Covid does not seem to be going away anytime soon. There are families without income to pay for essentials and can't afford healthy food. Social isolation increased for at-risk population and technology needs to be made available to people who are homebound.

Chair Ortega called for a motion to approve the SEAGO Policy Principles for Calendar Year 2021 presented by staff. Councilmember Bill Barlow made the motion; Supervisor David Gomez seconded.

**Motion:** Councilmember Bill Barlow  
**Second:** Supervisor David Gomez  
**Action:** Unanimous

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

Chris Vertrees advised that the City of Willcox applied for 5311 funding in February to provide transportation for Willcox and surrounding cities. In June, that funding was approved by ADOT for a one year ramp-up and another year for a one year operations pilot project. SEAGO has been working closely with City of Willcox on a transit feasibility study and implementation plan to guide the project. ADOT understood that Willcox did not have the technical experience to administer project so they budgeted \$46,000 for a consultant to administer the project. SEAGO has the technical knowledge and experience. This item was reviewed by the Administrative Council and the Willcox City Council; both approved them. The IGA was sent to their lawyer who requested two points be added: an indemnity clause with more language and a commitment from SEAGO to provide a certificate of insurance annually. These changes are being updated and will be sent back to the Willcox City Attorney.

Chair Ortega called for a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between SEAGO and City of Willcox with the adjustments and changes. Supervisor English made the motion; Mayor Huish seconded.

**Motion:** Supervisor Ann English  
**Second:** Mayor Don Huish  
**Action:** Unanimous

## **VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Future Meeting Dates**

Randy Heiss asked the members to mark their calendars with the date provided. He advised the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting probably won't be held in person. Take note of the December 3 admin and ex committee meeting; if there is business that is needed to be taken care of and you are an officer of either committee, you will be needed on the meeting. Chris Vertrees advised there was nothing from TAC report needed to be addressed, so there may be no need for the meeting. If so, we'll send out cancellation notice. Supervisor Gomez asked for December 3 meeting status to be sent out today.

### **B. Strategic Plan Implementation Progress Report**

Randy Heiss explained that he is a strong believer in having a Strategic Plan, as it helps guide the organization and shows the progress or problems associated with each item. He directed the members to the document and touched on a couple of items: he announced that the HURF exchange program will be continuing. Another item is to identify transportation partners for Graham and Greenlee counties for sustainable, dependable transportation. One partner is National Association of Development Organizations. NADO was awarded grant funds to help us with this and we are working with them to identify steps moving forward. The last item is a community development goal to develop additional capacity. He advised they have hired a temporary employee to help with the housing rehab program and this employee has spent most of her career working with CDBG, HUD and HOME funding. She is working with Keith to develop a scalable housing rehab program that can be replicated throughout the region. Chair Ortega stated he appreciated that Randy put emphasis on the most important items rather than going through each item.

### **C. Quarterly Finance Report**

Dina Curtiss provided an update and addressed questions.

### **D. Community Development Program Update**

Keith Dennis provided an update and answered questions. Chair Ortega stated he heard on the "Squawk on the Street" show mention this morning that they may be dropping 5 items for the CARES Act. Keith responded that he'd be keeping an eye out for updates.

### **E. SEAGO Economic Development District Report**

Maria Porter provided an update and answered questions.

### **F. AAA Updates**

Randy advised she had a family emergency this morning and could not participate in the meeting. Her report is provided on page 45.

### **G. Transportation Program Updates**

Chris Vertrees provided an update and answered questions.

## **IX. RTAC REPORT**

Kevin Adam provided an update and answered questions.

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

Randy Heiss announced that SEAGO began their Comprehensive Economic Study. Those who participated were very engaged but attendance was low. He encouraged CEDS representatives to

participate. Randy announced that the SEAGO IT consultant is retiring and we are in search of a replacement, if anyone has recommendations. He advised that the RFP is due for auditing services and should begin early next year. Randy reminded everyone that the Arizona Town Hall partnership is this afternoon and asked everyone to please register if they haven't already. He mentioned that Mayor Rivera has been the Thatcher representative forever. He is retiring from public service entirely. He couldn't attend today because he's receiving an award at the League of Cities and Towns meeting today. Please send him a note of thanks for all his service to the SEAGO region and being such a great advocate in local decision making. He reflected on Kevin Adam's comments that we will be looking at challenging times ahead. He wondered if we will have a government shutdown or can they continue until new administration is seated. He noted that there has not been a lot of action on stimulus program and the country is still very much divided. Chair Ortega said that he and Supervisor David saw Bob Rivera at a shared meeting and he never mentioned that he was receiving an award.

He also mentioned that he had received the survey about the effects of Covid for his business which was shuttered a couple of years ago, so he did not respond. Randy reiterated that it's a tough time and we're trying to see what we can learn about the various businesses and how we can help them.

Supervisor David asked Mayor Huish to introduce himself. Mayor Huish stated it is a pleasure to sit in with everyone and be able to put faces with names. He shared that he is retired now and has a chance to give back to his community. He said there are lots of positive things happening in Douglas. His family has been in Douglas since the Mexican Revolution. "I haven't got enough nickels together to get out of town," as his dad used to say. He advised Mayor Montoya that he hoped to go hunting in Greenlee County someday. He invited everyone to visit Douglas; they will be having the Christmas parade and tree lighting in person and online. He believes it is a great time to live in Douglas and Southeastern Arizona. Supervisor Gomez asked if Dave and Joe Huish were related to him as he worked with them at APS. Mayor Huish advised they were. Mayor Montoya and Supervisor Gomez invited him to visit Greenlee County anytime.

## **XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Randy Heiss announced that February is election month for officers, also known as the Executive Committee and he'll be sending out an email to see who wants to continue and who may wish to step up. There is still need to fill the Graham County Private Sector Rep and he has shared some suggestions with Supervisor David. Keith mentioned that the Method of Distribution for CDBG will be coming up soon. Randy asked Mayor Huish if he'd be willing to host that meeting if meeting in person is possible with ten people. Mayor Huish responded that they'd be delighted to host everyone and will make it happen, if possible.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Gomez wished a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and their families. Chair Ortega adjourned meeting at 11:30 a.m.