

## Administrative Council Meeting - Thursday, February 5, 2026

### Summary:

The SEAGO Administrative Council convened to discuss various updates and initiatives affecting member entities. The meeting commenced with a quorum confirmation and introductions. Heath Brown facilitated the meeting, leading the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call before moving on to updates from member entities.

Heath Brown reported on public works initiatives in Thatcher, including the groundbreaking for a new Culver's and challenges with ADOT permitting. Greg Volker highlighted the approval of Alumin Dynamics' air quality permit and the successful grand opening of Lyons Park, which is set to expand with additional grants. Cindy Blackmore-Clifton provided updates on the Chase Creek Bridge replacement and senior center improvements, focusing on tourism development. Jennifer Schmidt from Douglas discussed progress on the commercial port of entry and upcoming community events, while Derek Rapier mentioned renovations at the fairgrounds and preliminary discussions on jail management services.

The council approved the minutes from the previous meeting and discussed advisory aging vacancies, with Celeste Vasquez noting six openings on the council. She mentioned Gary Clark's eligibility to return and Susan Lane's eligibility for a second term. The renewal of the road pavement assessment project was also addressed, with a recommendation from the TAC to maintain portal access for another year.

A motion to approve the renewal and SEAGO TIP amendment number two was unanimously passed. Additionally, a resolution for the EDA planning grant was introduced, requiring a commitment of matching funds over three years.

Brent Morris was unanimously approved as the Graham County PSR, following a recommendation from a conference room participant. The quarterly finance report indicated a successful audit for three consecutive years, with acknowledgments for contributions from staff. John Merideth provided updates on digital initiatives, including a Wi-Fi digital inclusion grant and mobile app developments.

William Osborne discussed the Community Development Program, including the Housing Feasibility Study and regional account fund recipients. The meeting concluded with updates on SEAGO policy principles and an employee recognition program aimed at enhancing community engagement in transportation project funding.

### Action Items:

\* Greg Volker will volunteer to take on the chairperson role for Cochise County.

- \* Cindy Blackmore-Clifton will prioritize tourism-related initiatives and work with the Council to spark economic development.
- \* Derek Rapier will assemble a committee next week to discuss managing jail and inmate services in Greenlee County.
- \* Vernon Batty will apply for a grant for construction funding for the main street design process in Pima.
- \* Jeff Pregler will distribute the draft general plan to all applicable government organizations after its completion on February 13th.
- \* Chris McLaughlin will prepare for a public hearing on the comp plan with the Planning and Zoning Commission on February 11th.
- \* William Osborne will finalize the draft of the Housing Feasibility Study for limited distribution prior to publication.
- \* Jennifer Smith will ensure the city of Douglas provides feedback on the SEDS SWOT survey.