

MINUTES OF  
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
10:00 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025  
TEAMS ONLINE MEETING

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Arnold Lopez, Chair, Safford  
Jorge Maldonado, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair, Nogales  
David Gomez, Treasurer, Greenlee County

**MEMBERS PRESENT  
ONLINE:** Ken Budge, Bisbee  
Heather Floyd, Cochise County PSR  
Mark Mermis, Cochise County PSR  
Jose Grijalva, Douglas  
Carolyn Flowers, Sierra Vista  
Colin Regan, Tombstone  
Paul David, Graham County  
Alex Blake, Duncan  
Marina Morales, Greenlee County PSR  
Luis Carlos Diaz, Santa Cruz County

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chris Vertrees, Executive Director/Transport Prog Manager  
John Merideth, IT Manager  
Dina Curtiss, Finance Manager  
Celeste Vasquez, AAA Program Director  
Will Osborne, Community Development Manager  
Kevin Fowler, Economic Development Manager  
Heather Glenn, Administrative Assistant

**GUESTS PRESENT** Kevin Adam, RTAC

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION**

**Graham County Supervisor David** highlighted a change in EPA's Waters of the US definition, which may ease permitting for projects. **Chris Vertrees** thanked members for allowing the meeting to be held virtually do to the federal government shutdown, as in-person meetings have a financial impact on SEAGO's budget.

**III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No one from the public was present to speak.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of the August 15, 2025, Minutes

**MOTION:** David Gomez, Greenlee County

**SECOND: Mark Mermis, Cochise County PSR**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

Supervisor David commented on the IT department blocking AI-formatted notes, which SEAGO will investigate.

**2. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of Marina Morales as Greenlee County PSR**

Chris Vertrees provided history of the function of Private Sector Representatives serving on the SEAGO Executive Board and then gave an overview of candidate Morales' vast community experience before requesting a vote to recommend approval to the Executive Board. Supervisor Gomez stated that SEAGO couldn't have found a more qualified individual; she is excellent.

**Motion: David Gomes, Greenlee County**  
**Second: Mark Mermis, Cochise County PSR**  
**Action: Unanimous**

**3. Discussion and Possible Action to recommend approval of the proposed representatives for appointment to fill Advisory Council on Aging vacancies**

Celeste Vasquez discussed the nominations for vacant seats on the Advisory Council on Aging and requested a vote to approve reappointments of Kathy Spangler and Arnold Lopez.

**Motion: Jose Grijalva, Douglas**  
**Second: Mark Mermis, Cochise County PSR**  
**Action: Unanimous**

**4. Discussion and Possible Action to recommend approval of the 2025 CDBG project application**

William Osborn provided an overview of the CDBG project applications submitted and requested a vote to recommend approval to the Executive Board.

**Motion: David Gomez, Greenlee County**  
**Second: Jorge Maldonado, Nogales**  
**Action: Unanimous**

**5. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of the SEAGO Policy Principles for Calendar Year 2026**

Chris Vertrees directed members to the list of Policy Principles created by SEAGO Managers, explaining that the document provides staff and agency members with talking points on the various legislative issues that arise each year. He asked for feedback and questions and then requested a vote to recommend approval to the Executive Board.

**Motion: Jorge Maldonado, Nogales**  
**Second: David Gomez, Greenlee County**  
**Action: Unanimous**

**6. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of IGA between SEAGO and City of Douglas for technical assistance with Davis-Bacon Labor Standards requirement**

Chris Vertrees explained that SEAGO has significant experience in Labor Standards Monitoring and capacity to provide the technical services needed for Douglas' upcoming project. SEAGO experience in this area makes a natural partner to provide the technical services needed to successfully support the project. To formalize this partnership an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Douglas and Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization is needed. The agreement will be for 6-month period and will not exceed \$10,543. If the project extends beyond the 6-month period, the agreement may be extended upon mutual written agreement between the Douglas City Manager and the SEAGO Executive Director. He then requested a vote to recommend approval to the Executive Board.

**Motion:** Ken Budge, Bisbee  
**Second:** Jorge Maldonado, Nogales  
**Action:** Unanimous

**7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Future Meeting Dates**

Chris Vertrees asked the members to review the Executive Board and Executive Committee meeting calendar for 2026 and advise him of any conflicts. He announced the next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2026.

**B. Strategic Plan Progress Update**

Chris Vertrees provided an update on the progress of SEAGO's Strategic Plan.

**C. Quarterly Finance Report**

Dina Curtiss gave an update on the quarterly finance report, advised that the annual auditors visited this month and stated the audit was going well and answered questions.

**D. IT Updates**

John Merideth gave an update on IT and answered questions.

**E. Community Development Report**

William Osbourne gave an update on community development and answered questions.

**F. Community Development Block Grant Updates**

William Osbourne gave an update on community development block grant projects and answered questions.

**G. SEAGO Economic Development District Report**

Chris Vertrees gave an update on economic development and answered questions.

**H. AAA Program and Legislative Updates**

Celeste Vasquez gave an update on AAA programs and legislation and answered questions.

**I. Transportation Program Updates**

Chris Vertrees gave an update on Transportation and answered questions.

**V. RTAC REPORT**

Kevin Adam provided his RTAC legislative update, discussing the state budget outlook, revenue collections, and potential impacts of federal actions on state funding.

**VI. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS/ CURRENT EVENTS**

Nogales Mayor Maldonado mentioned the USMCA discussion, showing how much Nogales and the region depends on border trade.

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chris Vertrees advised looking for a Graham County PSR nominee, Election of Officers, possible Audit results and Extension of Road Assessment items to be on the next agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Lopez moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 a.m.