

## Administrative Council Meeting Summary

Thursday, August 6, 2026

A meeting to review regional projects, grants, appointments, and program updates.

- Forwarded Jaime Aguilar ACOA appointment to executive board
- Forwarded Resolution 2026-02 (Title VI) to Executive Board
- Authorized RFP/contract for \$1.5M Brownfields QEP support
- Recommended Mignon Hollis for Cochise private-sector seat
- FY metrics: 1,067 AAA clients; \$140,599 AAoA funding reduction
- Local capital notes: \$450,000 paving budget remaining; potential \$500M one-time distribution

### Action Items:

- \* Celeste Vasquez will follow up with the Cochise County candidate she is in conversation with and bring that candidate back to the council if the candidate decides to pursue the seat
- \* Celeste Vasquez will forward the recommendation to appoint Jaime Aguilar as the ACOA representative for Greenlee County Unincorporated to the executive board
- \* The committee will recommend approval of Resolution 2026-02 (Title VI plan) to the Executive Board.
- \* Staff will publish a request for proposals, evaluate proposals received, and enter into a contract with a qualified environmental professional to implement SIGO's Brownfields Assessment Coalition grant.
- \* The committee will recommend the appointment of Mignon Hollis as the Cochise County private-sector representative to the Executive Board.
- \* Interested individuals will submit a nomination and resume for Santa Cruz County private-sector representative to Chris Vertrees by October 22, 2026.
- \* Staff will recruit a community and economic development planner to support the upcoming CDBG workload.
- \* John Merideth will present the Transit Connect app at the upcoming Tribal Transit Conference in California.

- \* Celeste Vasquez will request any available carryover funds for the AAA and pursue additional funding opportunities.
- \* Meeting participants will review the SEDS project list and add projects using the document comment tab or by emailing Chris Vertrees
- \* Chris Vertrees will send the new SEDS link to all attendees for review before the Friday EDA submission
- \* Chris Vertrees will resubmit the RTAC/project list to Bartech for consideration in the 2028 legislative budget
- \* Local agencies will promote their projects to their legislators and prioritize presence at the Arizona Policy Summit to increase the chance of project selection

#### Key Discussion Points:

#### Opening and Attendance

The meeting began with attendance checks and acknowledgement of members who were tentative or delayed, including discussion of storm impacts on attendees' ability to join. A quorum was confirmed and the pledge of allegiance was recited before moving into roll call and staff introductions.

#### Member Entities — Vernon, Flipton, Bankin, Grand County

Roll call completed, then Vernon reported recent heavy rainfall, completion of a major paving project on Acatillo in front of the hospital, and remaining budgeted funds for chip seal and paving; Flipton outlined budget-driven projects including a zoning code update, Chase Creek Bridge bidding timeline, an Elk Slaughter demolition contract, and exploration of a municipal complex purchase; Bankin reported routine road, water, and sewer maintenance; Grand County provided a CDBG sidewalk project progress update and thanked project support staff.

#### Member Entities — Wachuca City, Safford, San Carlos

Wachuca City discussed a skyline/road project to their landfill, strong community event attendance including July Fourth and National Night Out, and an upcoming CDBG project; Safford reported an airport overlay with a full closure planned next week and limited storm impact; San Carlos noted a change in representation and participation in updates.

## Member Entities — Santa Cruz and Technical Issues

Santa Cruz County reported passage of its budget after a truth-in-taxation hearing, one CDBG project at the bid-review stage and another pending advertisement, and three anticipated projects for the fiscal year; several participants experienced microphone or connection issues that briefly interrupted updates.

## Public Comment, Consent Agenda, and ACOA Nomination

The call to the public produced no registrants, the consent agenda passed after a motion and second with a minor typo identified for correction, and Celeste presented ACOA background leading to a motion, second, and affirmative vote to forward Jaime Aguilar's appointment for Greenlee County Unincorporated to the executive board.

## Title VI Resolution Discussion and Vote

The committee completed a voice vote and approved moving Resolution 2026-02, SIGO's Title VI plan, forward to the Executive Board. Chris Vertrees summarized the plan's purpose, the underserved populations covered (race, color, ethnicity, poverty status, age, disability), and the regulatory funding deadline requiring a formal resolution by October 1.

## Brownfields Grant QEP Procurement and Questions

Vertrees reviewed the \$1.5 million Brownfields Assessment Coalition grant, confirmed EPA approval of work plan, scope, and budget, and requested authorization to publish an RFP, evaluate proposals, and enter into contract for a Qualified Environmental Professional; the committee approved the recommendation. Jeff Pregler asked about local nomination timing and Vertrees explained the nomination form on [sego.org](https://sego.org), the October 1 funding availability, and the queuing process for nominated sites.

## Cochise County Private-Sector Representative Appointment

Vertrees noted bylaws requiring private-sector representatives and explained that Heather Floyd's term expired; he presented Mignon Hollis's background and qualifications and asked the committee to recommend her appointment to the Executive Board, which the committee approved by voice vote.

## Future Meetings and Santa Cruz County Nomination Request

Vertrees announced the Administrative Council's final meeting of the year on November 5, 2026, and requested nominations (with resumes) for the vacant Santa Cruz County private-sector Executive Board seat, with nominations due October 22, 2026, so the seat can be in place for the November meeting.

#### Quarterly Finance and Community Development Program Updates

The fiscal-year-end financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2026, were distributed and no questions were raised. Community development updates covered the Brownfields grant closeout on September 30 with under \$15,000 remaining committed to a Wilcox-area landfill, ongoing WIFA/WIFA-like projects (Douglas well, storage tanks in Graham County), and active recruitment for an additional community and economic development planner to manage a heavier CDBG project workload totaling multiple projects and several million dollars.

#### IT Report and Digital Resources Update

John Merideth presented analytics and multiple IT initiatives: the upcoming retirement of segotam.org in favor of Transit Connect, live and in-development apps (fleet management, training registration, Transit Connect, IT asset management), subscription cancellations yielding roughly \$9,873–\$11,373 in savings, and a new GIS maps/apps webpage hosting CDBG, economic development, traffic, and TIP data; John will present Transit Connect at the Tribal Transit Conference.

#### Arizona Area Agency on Aging Programs and Subcontracts

Celeste Vasquez reviewed executed subcontracts effective July 1, 2026, provided county-by-contractor funding breakdowns, and reported the AAA started the fiscal year with \$140,599 less than the prior year due to state reductions and higher service costs; she plans to request carryover funds and pursue additional funding opportunities. Program highlights included multiple Older Americans Month events, World Elder Abuse Awareness Month outreach with "red flag" materials, and engagements that included the Attorney General visiting all four counties and adopting SEGO materials.

#### Outreach, Partnerships, and Caregiver Programs

Celeste Vasquez described recent public outreach at Bisbee Pride and program-level partnerships, including a new collaboration with Arizona DES Access to manage long-term care intake amid HR1-driven Medicaid losses. She outlined case management work led by Shauna Riffel, potential regional adult daycare development at Hummingbird, Life Care

Center's possible memory café, ACL's emphasis on family caregivers, and health-promotion class expansions. Key metrics for information-and-referral services and concerns about Part D reductions concluded the segment.

### Transition and Questions

Celeste closed her updates and invited questions, and Greg Volker transitioned the meeting to the next agenda item, introducing the comprehensive economic development strategy update.

### Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (SEDS/CEDS) Update

Chris Vertrees explained the purpose of the SEDS for qualifying projects for EDA and other federal grants, cited the SEDS' role in securing a \$1.5M brownfields grant, and asked attendees to review the SEDS project list, add projects via the document comment tab or email, and expect a new SEDS draft and review link prior to the Friday EDA submission.

### Transportation Program and Funding Process

Chris summarized transportation updates, noting the RTAC list history, reduced available funding this year after tax-code adjustments that left no projects funded, the decision to recycle last year's list for 2028 budget consideration, and the Arizona Policy Summit (Oct 14–16 in Flagstaff) as the key venue for legislators to review and pick projects—urging local agencies to actively promote their projects.

### Staff Announcements and Local Events

The meeting moved to staff announcements with no additional staff items raised; Celeste announced a no-cost vision clinic being coordinated with Chad Brown in Clifton and clarified the event provides vision exams.