APPROVED MINUTES OF
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
9:00 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026
TEAMS ONLINE MEETING

OFFICERS PRESENT: Greg Volker, Chair, Benson
Jesus Valdez, Secretary, Santa Cruz County
Heath Brown, Treasurer, Thatcher

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Bejerano, Safford
Cindy Blackmore, Clifton
Jaime Fontes, Nogales
Terry Hinton, Duncan
Gerald Hursh, Huachuca City
Jeff Pregler, Sierra Vista
Ana Urquijo, Douglas
David Thompson, San Carlos Apache Tribe
Dustin Welker, Graham County

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Vertrees, Executive Director/Transport Prog Manager
John Merideth, IT Manager
Dina Curtiss, Finance Manager
Celeste Vasquez, AAA Program Director
Heather Glenn, Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INTRODUCTIONS

A quorum was confirmed, Chair Greg Volker called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and requested roll call.

II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION

Greg Volker, Benson. reported recent heavy rainfall, completion of a major paving project on Ocotillo in front of the hospital, and remaining budgeted funds for chip seal and paving; **Cindy Blackmore, Clifton,** 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; **Terry Hinton, Duncan,** reported routine road, water, and sewer maintenance**; Dustin Welker, Graham County,** provided a CDBG sidewalk project progress update and thanked project support staff. **Gerald Hursh, Huachuca 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; **Eric Bejarano, Safford,** reported an airport overlay with a full closure planned next week and

limited storm impact; **David Thompson, San Carlos Apache Tribe,** noted a change in representation and participation in updates. **Jesus Valdez, 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.

III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC
No one from the public was present.

IV. ACTION ITEMS
1. Consent Agenda
a. Approval of May 7, 2026, Meeting Minutes

MOTION: **Dustin Welker**
SECOND: **Greg Volker**
ACTION: **Unanimous**

2. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of the proposed representatives for appointment to fill Advisory Council on Aging vacancies
Celeste Vasquez provided an overview regarding the Advisory Council on Aging nominees and requested a motion to recommend approval of the nominees to the SEAGO Executive Board.
MOTION: **Cindy Blackmore**
SECOND: **Dustin Welker**
ACTION: **Unanimous**

3. SEAGO's Title VI Plan, Resolution 2026-02
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.

MOTION: **Jesus Valdez**
SECOND: **Heather Brown**
ACTION: **Unanimous**

4. Brownfields Grant QEP Procurement

Chris Vertrees provided background on the Brownfield grant and advised SEAGO will publish a request for proposals, evaluate proposals received, and enter into a contract with a qualified environmental professional to implement SEAGO's Brownfields Assessment Coalition grant. Jeff Pregler asked what the timing is to apply. Mr. Vertrees advised the funds will be available October 1 to be nominated and SEAGO will put interested agencies in the queue.

MOTION: **Jeff Pregler**
SECOND: **Gerald Hursh**
ACTION: **Unanimous**

5. Cochise County Private Sector Representative
Chris 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.

MOTION: **Cindy Blackmore**
SECOND: **Dustin Welker**
ACTION: **Unanimous**

V. INFORMATION ITEMS
A. Future Meeting Dates
Chris Vertrees announced the Administrative Council's final meeting of the year on November 5, 2026,

B. Mr. Vertrees 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.

C. Quarterly Finance Report
Dina Curtiss gave an update on the quarterly finance report and answered questions.

D. Community Development Program Updates
Chris Vertrees gave an update on community development block grant projects on behalf of Will Osborne, who was away at a conference, and answered questions.

E. IT Updates
John Merideth provided an update on IT and answered questions.

F. AAA FY26 Subawards
Celeste Vasquez directed members to page 28 to review the AAA Agency Subawards for FY 2026 and provided a brief overview.

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

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

I. Transportation Program Updates
Chris Vertrees gave an update on Transportation and answered questions.

VI. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS
Chris Vertrees reminded members that SEAGO is still seeking nominees to fill the Santa Cruz County Private Sector Rep vacancy.

VII.FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
Chris Vertrees announced that the next Administrative Council meeting would be held Thursday, November 5, 2026 via TEAMS.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Volker adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.