Approved MINUTES OF
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
10:00 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

OFFICERS PRESENT:	Jorge Maldonado, Chair, Nogales David Gomez, 1st Vice Chair, Greenlee County Arnold Lopez, Treasurer, Safford
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Luis Carlos Davis, Santa Cruz County Chad Brown, Clifton Marina Morales, Greenlee County PSR Brent Morris, Graham County PSR Jose Grijalva, Douglas Mark Mermis, Cochise County PSR Paul David, Graham County Alex Blake, Duncan
STAFF PRESENT:	Chris Vertrees, Executive Director/Transport Prog Manager John Merideth, IT Manager Dina Curtiss, Finance Manager Will Osborne, Community & Economic Development Manager Maria Valles, Community Coordinator Heather Glenn, Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INTRODUCTIONS
A quorum was confirmed; Chair Jorge Maldonado called the public meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38.431.03 Subsection A.1., the Executive Board may adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of evaluating the performance of the Executive Director.

Chair Maldonado called the Executive Session to order at 10:06.

III.PUBLIC SESSION – 10:30 A.M.
a. Reconvene to Public Session/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call
Chair Maldonado called the Public Session to order at 10:32 a.m.

b. Discussion and possible action relating to the performance of the Executive Director

David Gomez motioned to approve the performance of the Executive Director; Second by Chair Maldonado.

MOTION: **David Gomez**
SECOND: **Jorge Maldonado**
ACTION: **Unanimous**

III. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION

Jose Grijalva, Douglas, reported the City has generated good revenue this FY due to higher visibility and variety of events being held; WrestleCon will be held at Douglas High School on September 24; Christmas tree lighting will be held the day after Thanksgiving. **Paul David, Graham County,** advised that public comment opens September 21 by the US Forst Service, who is seeking input on thinning forests. Supervisor David shared that thinning the forests improves runoff. **Arnold Lopez, Safford,** advised that FMI is applying for a land exchange with BLM. He also stated he is seeking feedback on flock cameras and shared that open enrollment for Medicare begins in October. **Chad Brown, Clifton,** stated that Clifton will be holding their Fall Festival in November; he has been working with Chris Vertrees on a transportation program in his area. **Alex Blake, Duncan,** advised that the Economic Development Foundation, a full 501(c)3, is looking for opportunities in his area. The Town had a Councilmember pass from cancer, and they are working with a skeleton crew. **David Gomez, Greenlee County,** invited everyone to the Greenlee County Fair happening September 17-20 at the newly improved County Firegrounds. **Jorege Maldonado, Nogales,** stated that the future is mining in their city. He has been meeting with heavy equipment operators to mitigate traffic hazards. Feedback is at a level 3 alert and is really hurting them business-wise. **Carlos Luis Davis, Santa Cruz County,** agreed with Mayor Maldonado's comments that there is much more traffic in their county. He advised there will be an item on the November ballot about it.

III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public was present.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of May 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes

MOTION: **David Gomez**
SECOND: **Arnold Lopez**
ACTION: **Unanimous**

2. Discussion and possible action to approve Cochise County Private Sector Rep

Chris Vertrees provided background on the Public Sector Representative purpose and process. He gave an overview of nominee Mignonette Hollis, sharing that she has a great deal of experience in the area of Economic Development, and would be a real asset on the Board. He then requested a motion to approve her nomination.

MOTION: Jorge Maldonado
SECOND: Chad Brown
ACTION: Unanimous

3. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of the proposed representatives for appointment to fill Advisory Council on Aging vacancies

Chris Vertrees provided an overview regarding the Advisory Council on Aging nominees since Celeste Vasquez was not present. He requested a motion to approve nominee Jaime Aguilar, to represent Greenlee County on the ACOA.

MOTION: David Gomez
SECOND: Jorge Maldonado
ACTION: Unanimous

4. 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: Chad Brown
SECOND: Arnold Lopez
ACTION: Unanimous

5. 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. Chair Maldonado asked if overages in excess of allotted amounts come from the grant; Mr. Vertrees advised that they could.

MOTION: Paul David

SECOND: David Gomez
ACTION: Unanimous

6. Discussion and possible action to approve an Agreement between SEAGO and AZ LTAP

Chris Vertrees explained that the Arizona Local Technical Assistance Program (AZ LTAP) exists to help Arizona's local agencies obtain access to technical and management materials; deliver on-demand technical assistance and training; and maintain a vast network of communication with industry experts. He advised that SEAGO has been a contributing agency member and annually programs $10,000 in STBG funding for more than 20 years to AZ LTAP. He provided an overview of the services available to all SEAGO region member agencies at no cost. He then requested a motion to approve the agreement between SEAGO and AZ LTAP for Fiscal Years 2027-2031.

MOTION: David Gomez
SECOND: Brent Morris
ACTION: Unanimous

7. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2026-03 (SEAGO CEDS)

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. He stated that this is time sensitive and advised that the EDA has already reviewed it and was very helpful. He asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2026-03.

MOTION: Arnold Lopez
SECOND: Jorge Maldonado
ACTION: Unanimous

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Future Meeting Dates

Chris Vertrees announced that the next scheduled meeting is November 20; however, Chair Maldonado has a conflict. He announced that there will be need to the Executive Committee to meet on October 1 to obtain approval for the Duncan TIP amendment. It will be going to bid in February 2027. He reminded everyone that the Executive Committee consists of the Executive Board Officers, but that all members are invited to attend and participate; however, only the Executive Board Officers may vote.

B. Santa Cruz County PSR Nominations

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 announced that the annual audit is scheduled for November 9. She gave an update on the quarterly finance report and answered questions.

D. Community Development Program Updates
Will Osborne gave an update on community development and CDBG projects and answered questions.

E. CDBG Updates

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

G. AAA FY26 Subawards
Chris Vertrees directed members to report Celeste Vasquez prepared regarding the AAA Agency Subawards for FY 2026 and AAA Program updates.

H. AAA Program Updates

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

VI. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS
Chris Vertrees introduced Jaime Fontes as the new City Manager for the City of Nogales.

VII.FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
Chris Vertrees announced that Staff would be sending out a poll regarding availability to hold the next Executive Board meeting on Friday, November 13. He also stated he believes the next agenda will contain an item regarding an FMI grant for housing CHDOs.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Volker adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.