

Region IV, Chief Elected Officials

Special Virtual Meeting Via Zoom or Phone

To join meeting by phone, dial: (346) 248-7799, then enter Meeting ID: 811 6139 0218

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Friday, May 7, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

- a. Mayor Miyagishima called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Mayor Miyagishima asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Welcome, Introductions, Roll Call, and Abstentions

- a. Mayor Miyagishima asked Ms. Longovia to call roll and asked members to state their representation. There were no abstentions.

Present:

Commissioner Manuel Anaya
Chapter Vice-President Jeremiah Apachito
Mayor Nora Barraza
City Councilor Irene Galvan
Commissioner Anita A. Hand
Mayor Pro Tem Gordy Hicks
Mayor Hilda Kellar
Mayor Ken Ladner
Commissioner Art Malott
Mayor Ken Miyagishima
Mayor Andy Nuñez
Commissioner Jim Paxon
Mayor Javier Perea
Commissioner Chris Poncé
Mayor Richard Rumpf
Commissioner Manny Sanchez
Commissioner Linda Smrkovsky
Mayor Deb Stubblefield
Mayor Edna Trager
Mayor Diana Trujillo
Mayor Sandra Whitehead

Absent:

Mayor Richard Bauch
Mayor Chon Fierro
Mayor Benny Jasso
Mayor Rulene Jensen
Mayor Esequiel Salas
Mayor Ed Stevens

Staff:

Jay Armijo, SCCOG Executive Director
Steve Duran, WIOA Administrator
Angela Longovia, Communications Manager

Guests:

Veronica Alonzo
Margarito Aragon
Tracey Bryan
Concha Cordova
Christina Garcia-Tenorio
Darleen Lopez
Marissa Molano
Josh Orozco

IV. Public Comment

- a. Ms. Tracey Bryan, Chair of the State Workforce Board, stated she attended the April 30, 2021 Region IV, Chief Elected Officials meeting and wanted to clear up some confusion from that meeting about what is proposed by the State Board. Ms. Bryan stated that New Mexico has one of the lowest-performing workforce systems in the country and the Southwestern region is the second-lowest performing region in the state. What the State seeks to do is create the conditions to transform the system into one that is effective, innovative, and efficient.

V. Approval of Agenda

- a. Mayor Pro Tem Hicks made **a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by** Commissioner Anaya. **Motion carried unanimously.** Roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Manuel Anaya – Yes
Mayor Nora Barraza – Yes
Commissioner Anita A. Hand – Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Gordy Hicks – Yes
Mayor Ken Ladner – Yes
Commissioner Art Malott – Yes
Mayor Ken Miyagishima – Yes
Commissioner Jim Paxon – Yes
Mayor Javier Perea – Yes

Commissioner Chris Poncé – Yes
Mayor Richard Rumpf – Yes
Commissioner Manny Sanchez – Yes
Commissioner Linda Smrkovsky – Yes
Mayor Deb Stubblefield – Yes
Mayor Edna Trager – Yes
Mayor Diana Trujillo – Yes
Mayor Sandra Whitehead – Yes

VI. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding

- a. Mayor Miyagishima requested a motion to suspend the rules so Resolutions 20 – 30 and 20 – 31 can be discussed concurrently. Mayor Whitehead **made a motion to suspend the rules; seconded by** Mayor Trujillo. **Motion carried unanimously.** Roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Manuel Anaya – Yes
Mayor Nora Barraza – Yes
Commissioner Anita A. Hand – Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Gordy Hicks – Yes
Mayor Ken Ladner – Yes
Commissioner Art Malott – Yes
Mayor Ken Miyagishima – Yes
Commissioner Jim Paxon – Yes
Mayor Javier Perea – Yes

Commissioner Chris Poncé – Yes
Mayor Richard Rumpf – Yes
Commissioner Manny Sanchez – Yes
Commissioner Linda Smrkovsky – Yes
Mayor Deb Stubblefield – Yes
Mayor Edna Trager – Yes
Mayor Diana Trujillo – Yes
Mayor Sandra Whitehead – Yes

Resolution 20 – 30 opposes the proposed changes to NMAC 11.2.4, which is proposing to remove units of local governments, mayors, or their designees, from the Chief Elected Officials board; and directs the administrative entity to submit this resolution for public comment and to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, as well as other stakeholders. Mr. Duran state for members who did not attend the April 30, 2021 meeting, this amendment is for the Chief Elected Officials to collectively submit a letter for public comment opposing changes to NMAC 11.2.4. Public comment ends May 24, 2021. To summarize the changes in the NMAC, Mr. Duran stated that mayors will not lose a voice on this board, but they will lose voting power. That is a concern because the Chief Elected Officials in the Southwestern area have been effective and with this change, only the County Commissioner Chairs will have voting power. Mr. Duran presented a proposed draft letter to submit for public comment.

Commissioner Smrkovsky stated her understanding is that because of the changes to WIOA, it is going to be one vote per county. Mr. Duran stated that these proposed changes are one option. Another option is to leave the composition as-is with one vote per member which

would include the president of the Alamo Chapter as well as mayors. Commissioner Smrkovsky stated that with her research into WIOA, her understanding is that it is one vote per county and asked if anyone from the State can clarify.

Mr. Aragon stated that there are no options. If the NMAC is approved, it will be one county one vote, and mayors can still be on the board, included in discussions, and provide input, but when it comes to voting, it is one county one vote. The responsibilities of the Chief Elected Officials are to approve the budget, nominate and approve board members.

Commissioner Smrkovsky asked if the State Workforce Board will approve the NMAC. Mr. Aragon stated that after public comment ends, there will be a hearing for in-person public comment. The State will need to address each question submitted through public comment and possibly make changes to the NMAC. If that happens, the comment process begins again.

Commissioner Smrkovsky stated that she is interested in urban and rural designations. She stated there are probably times when programs in the rural area do not fit in the urban areas and programs in the urban areas probably do not fit the rural areas. Would this CEO board stay the same and have an urban and rural section, would the board be split up, or how would it work. Mr. Duran replied that it has yet to be determined. If the Governor moves forward with the local area designation that was recommended, our understanding is that it still needs to be worked out. Our understanding is that local workforce boards will be de-certified and with all the investments that have been made in workforce board members, gaining knowledge and understanding of the workforce system, potentially some of those members may not come back. A question is, is overhauling the entire system for the issues at hand really a benefit. There was no comprehensive analysis on those models, other than what was provided, and no input from workforce partners, stakeholders, and the public. This is why we would like the current model to remain in place until deeper discussions can be had.

Commissioner Smrkovsky indicated she is concerned that we are low-performing and that funding will get cut and programs will go away. Mr. Duran stated that it has been so long that the board reverted funding to the State that he cannot recall when it happened. Mr. Duran added that regarding performance, there are issues statewide and in our program. All of these issues can be resolved under a concerted effort if we work together with the State Board, Chief Elected Officials, service providers. There are things that we need to do statewide, but it does not require overhauling the entire system over the issues that are brought forward. That is what is indicated in the letter to the Governor in Resolution 20 – 31.

Mr. Aragon stated that if the two-region model is approved, this is where the proposed changes for the NMAC come in. The Chief Elected Officials will need to request a regional designation. Then the local board has to request to be redesignated. This is not a new process. Local boards have to do this every four years.

Regarding being a low-performing region, Mayor Perea asked if the two-region model will fix the issues. Mr. Duran replied that we do not know the implications of this model. In speaking with his counterparts in the other regions, they all believe the issues can be addressed under the existing structure. Mr. Duran also expressed that in the grant agreement with the State and Chief Elected Officials, there are no numbers indicating how many individuals are to be served.

Mayor Miyagishima asked if it has been decided how the funding will be allocated for the urban and rural areas. Mr. Aragon stated that the PY20 allocation was based on two regions and is in the Transformation Committee's report.

Mayor Miyagishima stated the letter for public comment needs to be amended to change the date from May 4, 2021 to May 7, 2021 as the date when Resolution 20 – 30 is approved by the Chief Elected Officials. Mayor Barraza **made a motion to change the date on the letter to May 7, 2021; seconded by** Mayor Whitehead. Mayor Miyagishima asked those in favor to say AYE and for anyone opposed to state their name. No one opposed. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Trujillo **made a motion to approve Resolution 20 – 30 as amended; seconded by** Commissioner Sanchez. **Motion passed.** Roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Manuel Anaya – Yes	Mayor Javier Perea – Yes
Mayor Nora Barraza – Yes	Commissioner Chris Poncé – Yes
Commissioner Anita A. Hand – Yes	Mayor Richard Rumpf – Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Gordy Hicks – Yes	Commissioner Manny Sanchez – No
Mayor Ken Ladner – Yes	Commissioner Linda Smrkovsky – No
Commissioner Art Malott – Yes	Mayor Deb Stubblefield – Yes
Mayor Ken Miyagishima – Yes	Mayor Edna Trager – Yes
Mayor Andy Nuñez – Yes	Mayor Diana Trujillo – Yes
Commissioner Jim Paxon – Yes	Mayor Sandra Whitehead – Yes

Resolution 20 – 31 recommends to Governor Michell Lujan Grisham that the existing Four Local Area Designation Model, not change due to the current economic recovery conditions, lack of a comprehensive analysis on the proposed models, stakeholder input, and transparency. Mr. Duran presented two maps, one showing the current four-local area designation model and the other showing the proposed two-local area designation model with four metro counties and 29 rural counties. Mr. Duran presented a drafted letter expressing the concerns on behalf of the Chief Elected Officials. Mayor Miyagishima stated the letter has a date of May 4, 2021 on the second paragraph indicating when the Chief Elected Officials met and requested a motion to change that date to May 7, 2021. Commissioner Anaya **made a motion to change the date on the letter to May 7, 2021; seconded by** Mayor Barraza. Mayor Miyagishima asked those in favor to say AYE and for anyone opposed to state their name. No one opposed. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chapter Vice President Apachito and Mayor Kellar joined the meeting during the discussion.

Mr. Miyagishima recognized Ms. Bryan who had comments. Regarding the two-region model, Ms. Bryan stated they spoke with many states who had done what is called consolidation and had very good outcomes. Funding is allocated by population regardless of the structure. As for the process moving forward, they are following the Department of Labor's process and that is why they have sought input from the Chief Elected Officials.

Mayor Nuñez **made a motion to approve Resolution 20 – 31 as amended; seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem Hicks. **Motion passed.** Roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Manuel Anaya – Yes	Mayor Javier Perea – Yes
Chapter Vice President Jeremiah Apachito – Yes	Commissioner Chris Poncé – Yes
Commissioner Anita A. Hand - Yes	Mayor Richard Rumpf – Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Gordy Hicks – Yes	Commissioner Manny Sanchez – No
Mayor Hilda Kellar – Yes	Commissioner Linda Smrkovsky – Yes
Mayor Ken Ladner – Yes	Mayor Deb Stubblefield – Yes
Commissioner Art Malott – Yes	Mayor Edna Trager – Yes
Mayor Ken Miyagishima – Yes	Mayor Diana Trujillo – Yes
Mayor Andy Nuñez – Yes	Mayor Sandra Whitehead – Yes
Commissioner Jim Paxon – Yes	

Commissioner Smrkovsky commented that the CEO board needs to be much more engaged than they have been in the process. As County Commissioner, when they get ready to do the budget, they have work sessions so they understand where the money is going. When she chaired the workforce board, they had meetings with the CEOs to go over the budget. Now it appears the process is left to the administration and she feels they are not in the know about everything that is going on until they read a report. She stated she would like to have work sessions to be informed before making decisions.

VII. Reports and Information Items

- a. Update from DWS Liaison – Christina Garcia-Tenorio
Ms. Garcia-Tenorio stated they had a terrific turnout at the CEO training regarding the Roles

and Responsibilities of the Chief Elected Officials. If any of the members have questions about the training or the resolutions presented today, they are welcome to contact her.

VIII. Other

a. Member Input

- i. Mayor Miyagishima thanked the members for attending on short notice on a Friday afternoon. He also shared that years ago the City of Las Cruces and the Village of Hatch had a partnership called the Rio Grande Natural Gas Company. The City of Las Cruces and the Village of Hatch each appointed board members. This was a professional working board. Members received monetary compensation each month for attending. There was always a quorum. Mayor Miyagishima stated the State should allow us to keep the current model, or if they really want to make changes, they should allow the CEOs to appoint qualified people to serve and spend as much time as needed to interact with board staff because Commissioners and Mayors have a lot on their plate.

IX. Next Meeting

- a. Friday, June 11, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

X. Adjournment

- a. Mayor Perea **made a motion to adjourn; seconded by** Commissioner Smrkovsky. **Motion carried unanimously.** Roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Manuel Anaya – Yes	Mayor Javier Perea – Yes
Chapter Vice President Jeremiah Apachito – Yes	Commissioner Chris Poncé – Yes
Mayor Nora Barraza – Yes	Mayor Richard Rumpf – Yes
Commissioner Anita A. Hand – Yes	Commissioner Manny Sanchez – Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Gordy Hicks – Yes	Commissioner Linda Smrkovsky – No
Mayor Kellar – Yes	Mayor Deb Stubblefield
Mayor Ken Ladner – Yes	Mayor Edna Trager – No
Mayor Ken Miyagishima – Yes	Mayor Edna Trujillo – Yes
Commissioner Jim Paxon – Yes	Mayor Sandra Whitehead – Yes

- b. Mayor Miyagishima adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

ATTESTED

Kenneth Miyagishima

06/16/2021

Date