

**EASTERN PLAINS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
10:00am Wednesday, August 9, 2023
418 Main Street, Clovis, NM 88101**

Chairman Roman Garcia called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Chairman Garcia reminded all to state their name and motion in reference to sunshine law and open meeting requirements; he then called the executive session to order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session to discuss limited personnel matters pursuant to (NM 1978 Section 10-15-04)

Board members only; the item discussed concerned limited personnel matters and no action was taken.

THAT the August 9, 2023, Board Meeting return to the standard meeting.

MOTION: Tina Dixon

SECOND: Cynthia Lee

MOTIONED CARRIED

ROLL CALL

Following Roll Call, Chairman Garcia welcomed Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Helen Casaus, City of Clovis; Leona Powell, Village of Grady; Connie Harrison, Town of Texico; Kenny Flores, City of Santa Rosa; Roman Garcia, Town of Vaughn; Brian Fortner, Quay County; Cynthia Lee, San Jon; Ralph Moya, City of Tucumcari; Tina Dixon, Roosevelt County; Jonathan Valdez, Union County & Des Moines; Wade Holdeman, Fort Sumner Irrigation District.

STAFF PRESENT

Sandy Chancey, Ray Mondragon, Vincent Soule, Celia Kirkland, Julie Surina, Alanna Hurt

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & SALUTE TO THE NEW MEXICO FLAG

INTRODUCTIONS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES

Those attending in person, then via zoom, made their introductions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

August 9, 2023, Agenda

THAT the August 9, 2023, Board of Directors' agenda be approved as submitted.

MOTION: Cynthia Lee
SECOND: Helen Casaus

MOTIONED CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 7, 2023, Minutes

THAT the June 7, 2023, board meeting minutes be approved as submitted.

MOTION: Cynthia Lee
SECOND: Leona Powell

MOTIONED CARRIED

GUEST SPEAKER

Jorge Ayala; Regional Director at U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA – Austin

Sandy re-introduced Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales and offers a chance to make remarks. He thanks the room for all their hard work and passes on the governor's appreciation. Sandy then introduced Jorge Ayala. Ayala explained the areas his region covers and encourages all to reach out, stating that EDA had not made an investment in the EPCOG Region in several years. Ayala stated a guiding principle for his team is helping distressed communities make a lasting and positive impact on peoples' lives; he encourages community representatives to reach out with a plan of action so that they may partner with the EDA, broadening their communities' funding.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financials

Approval of FY23 Year End Budget Adjustments

Kyliegh Knight, Managing Partner at FWB, stated there were several changes to the budget for yearend adjustments. Kyliegh Knight stated there was a deficit from the previous year, but there was also a large cash reserve from the properties that were sold. On revenue items NMDOT was a little higher than anticipated, dues were on track, admin services were down, and the Capital Outlay grant for \$25,000.00 and has not been used in full yet. Sandy Chancey clarified the Capital Outlay grant was not lost and will carry over for this year's use, as it does not expire until 6/30/2026. Other income was mostly a refund from New Mexico Tax & Revenue due to additional taxes were paid years back. Kyliegh Knight noted several of the adjustments were just reclassifications.

THAT the Aug 9, 2023, financials be approved as submitted.

MOTION: Tina Dixon
SECOND: Brian Fortner

MOTIONED CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Updates of EPCOG Personnel Policy

Sandy Chancey introduced the two policies regarding employee termination: one stating that during an employee's probationary period any writeup is subject to immediate review and/or suspension, and the second stating it is generally the practice of EPCOG that three writeups will immediately require suspension pending termination, decided on a case-by-case basis. Ralph Moya, Board representative from Tukumcari, pushed for immediate termination upon any three writeups for liability's sake. Sandy explained that EPCOG generally practices a three-strike policy and will evaluate termination based on the severity of the writeups. The approved policy change is stated as:

"Generally, it is the practice of EPCOG that three writeups will immediately require suspension pending consideration of termination." This was amended from, "Generally, it is the practice of EPCOG that three writeups will immediately require suspension pending termination. Such action is on a case-by-case basis."

THAT the August 9, 2023, personnel policy be approved with the above amendments above.

MOTION: Ralph Moya

SECOND: Jonathan Valdez

MOTIONED CARRIED

DIRECTORS & STAFF REPORTS

PowerPoint Presentation

EPCOG Executive Director Sandy Chancey and staff presented their combined report which is attached and made a permanent part of these minutes.

COMMENTS

Public comment for which no action will be taken. (State name and organization affiliation.)

Billie Jo Barnes, Mayor of Village of San Jon thanked everyone again for all their hard work on the village. Ben Salazar, Field Representative for Congresswoman Fernandez, encourages all counties to look into an internship program available to public education departments. It is a noncompetitive grant; Curry County has already filled 76/110 allocated slots, and they encourage rural areas to take advantage of this. Union County has had a very successful AmeriCorps program, and they will be sending out applications if anyone would like information on how to access that program. He also encourages veterans from our counties to look into the PAC Act; the deadline is slowly approaching. review, you may be able to get back pay.

ADJOURNMENT

THAT the Board Meeting adjourned at 11:42am.

MOTION: Cynthia Lee

SECOND: Ralph Moya

MOTIONED CARRIED