



# REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES

City of Española – Los Alamos County – Rio Arriba County – Santa Fe County  
City of Santa Fe – Taos County – Town of Taos – Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh – Pueblo of Jemez

## **REGIONAL COALITION MEETING MINUTES**

**Town of Taos Council Chambers**

**400 Camino de la Placita, Taos, N.M. 87571**

**May 8, 2015**

**9:00a-11:00a**

**A. Call to Order – Mayor Lucero – 9:00a-**

**Attendance:** Chair, Mayor Alice Lucero, City of Espanola; Vice Chair, Councilor Andrew Gonzales, Town of Taos; Secretary/Treasurer Javier Gonzales, Mayor of Santa Fe; Commissioner Henry Roybal, Santa Fe County (5 minutes late); Councilor Steve Girrens, Los Alamos County Council; Commissioner Mark Gallegos, Taos County; Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh was excused; Pueblo of Jemez was excused; Rio Arriba County was excused.

**B. Confirmation of Quorum - Mayor Lucero-** Confirmed.

Mayor Lucero confirmed that there were enough members present to have a quorum and so continued with the agenda.

**C. Approval of Agenda – Mayor Lucero-** All approved.

Mayor Lucero requested a change to the agenda, and that was to move action items to number one, so item five became one, and all of the other action items followed. Mayor Lucero requested a motion to approve the amended agenda, and the motion was approved.

Motion: To approve the agenda.

Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = unanimous).

**D. Approval of Meeting Minutes - 9:15a (Tab A)-** Approved.

Motion: To approve the minutes for the meeting for the month of April.

Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = unanimous).

**E. Discussion/Action Items (1 hr, 15mins) 9:15 – 10:40a**

**1. Action-Review/Approve(3mins)9:15 - 9:18a**

Mayor Lucero welcomed everyone to the meeting, and proceeded to honor Commissioner Tom Blankenhorn for his service on the RCLC. Commissioner Blankenhorn attended every meeting and was a very valued member of the Coalition. Mayor Lucero invited Commissioner Blankenhorn to the front of the chambers for recognition. He was always very engaged, and Mayor Lucero reiterated that the board members missed his participation. Commissioner Blankenhorn thanked the Mayor for her kind words, and the Mayor presented him with a certificate of recognition. Andrea Romero, the Executive Director of the RCLC, read the certificate that was presented to Commissioner Blankenhorn that recognized his service to the Coalition from January 2013 to December 2014 and thanked the Commissioner for his time and service and expressed that all hoped he would continue to attend meetings. Commissioner Blankenhorn thanked the members of the Coalition and elaborated on all he had learned about the scope of influence that LANL has on Northern New Mexico, and also all that he had learned about environmental remediation. Commissioner Blankenhorn thanked Mark Gallegos for taking his seat on the board and stated that as the Commissioner and Mayor of Questa Mr. Gallegos was enjoying the full fruits and complications of the Superfund site. Andrea Romero took a photo of the current board members with Commissioner Blankenhorn. The attendees of the meeting offered Commissioner Blankenhorn a round of applause.

**a. Review/Approve Travel for ED travel to ECA Conference (Tab E)**

Mayor Lucero explained that there is an upcoming ECA conference that the Executive Director needed to attend and that she had gone ahead and approved the travel due to time constraints but still needed ratification from the board. The ED would travel to South Carolina and the Mayor felt that the information that would be obtained there was important for the Coalition to have. The Coalition needs to be as informed as possible about everything going on at LANL and the other national laboratories. Mayor Lucero and called for a motion to approve the travel to the ECA conference. Councilor Steve Girrens agreed with the Mayor's decision and stated that he felt that it was very important that the ED participate in the conference so that she would be aware of what's happening with the ECA and that her attendance would help to inform the RCLC of the bigger picture.

Motion: To approve the Executive Director's travel to the ECA conference in South Carolina.

Moved by Steve Girrens

Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = unanimous).

## **2. NM Congressional Delegation Updates (10mins) 9:15-9:25a**

Michelle from Senator Udall's office informed the board that rather recently there was a significant financial settlement that took place and she wanted to let the board know that Senator Udall welcomed the \$73 billion settlement from the DOE to the State of New Mexico. Senator Udall put out a statement that she said she would share in full with the Executive Director but wished to highlight some of the more important points to the board. Senator Udall was very pleased to see that the case would not end up in a court battle that would cost taxpayers money and delay compensation to the state. He was glad to see that the settlement included an agreement that there will be an ongoing independent review of the environmental and regulatory compliance as part of the settlement. He will continue to push for the safe reopening of WIPP and cleanup at LANL. Also in the past couple of weeks the House of Representatives reported out its energy and water appropriation subcommittee bill for fiscal year 2016. It is a \$35 billion bill with \$1.2 billion above the fiscal year 2015 enacted amount but still \$633 million below what the President asked for. In the Senate the subcommittee on energy and water development will be taking a look at their numbers. They have not seen any actual allocations yet but are expecting that bill to be reported out of that committee somewhere around May 19th. By the next RCLC meeting they will have numbers from the Senate that will be higher than what the House reported out. Michelle stated that if there were any significant developments before the next RCLC meeting that she would share them with Andrea.

Katie Richardson from Senator Martin Heinrich's office shared several pieces of legislation that Senator Heinrich has been working on that are all relevant to LANL and the RCLC. The first piece addressed laboratory directed research and development. That is the portion of the lab budget that the lab can direct toward basic research. That basic research then later sets them up for meeting the national mission 20-30 years out. It also is a tremendous recruitment tool for scientists at the laboratory as well as a retention tool. It is also some of the most accessible research at the laboratory. The cluster of tech companies that are looking to license technology from the laboratory are optimizing technology that came out of the LDRD program. This legislation will increase the amount of the laboratory budget that will be spent on the LDRD program from 6% to 10%. Senator Udall is on this bill as well as their co-sponsor. There are also two pieces of tech maturation and tech transfer legislation that Senator Heinrich has put forward. In particular, one is called the Microlab Bill that would be \$3 million to each of the national laboratories to set up a space where entrepreneurs, industry, academia, and laboratory scientists can collaborate together. The second bill is specifically a national laboratory technology maturation program bill that would offer the opportunity for businesses who have licensed technology from the laboratories to receive a voucher to interact with the scientists who developed that technology to bring it closer to the market and closer to commercialization. They are getting a lot of really positive feedback on these bills

from their companies and Senator Heinrich's office appreciates help spreading the word about this legislation. Mayor Lucero inquired about how much Senator Heinrich was proposing for the technology bill, and Katie responded that she didn't know off of the top of her head, and that that amount might be yet to be determined. Katie stated that she would report that figure when she could.

Patrick Graham from Congressman Lujan's office confirmed that his office was in receipt of a letter from the Coalition on April 27th regarding the House Water and Energy Appropriations Bill. He stated that there were challenges with the timing of the request as the bill was already being brought up as well as when their legislative staff got into the numbers. There was some confusion about the actual numbers as well. Ultimately the Congressman did vote against the bill because it did not address some of his questions. Mr. Graham had a copy of the press release regarding his negative vote on that bill and stated that he would get that to Andrea.

### **3. Presentation by Kathy Keith, Regional Development Corporation (30mins) 9:25-9:55a (Tab B)**

Kathy Keith prepared a presentation about the Regional Development Corporation that is a non-profit organization established in 1996 in conjunction with the DOE. The DOE had decided that as their footprint around the country was shrinking, the economies around their facilities would be affected by the downsizing. There were six organizations in the State of New Mexico that would be directly impacted. The RDC exists to create a diverse and sustainable economy in Northern New Mexico.

The primary service areas for the RDC are Los Alamos, Rio Arriba County, Santa Fe, and Taos. There are 15 board members that are private sector leaders, nine are nominated by local elected officials, one member is from the Pueblo Council, and five at-large.

The RDC focuses on jobs. They look to diversify the economy so it is not dependent on just one industry or employer. They look for resources to grow new industries, determine what industries are expanding and shrinking, and determine what new industries may or may not be culturally appropriate for the area. They desire industries that have the potential to raise the average wage for the region.

LANL is the largest private sector employer in Northern New Mexico, and Kathy stressed the importance of diversification. The next largest employer is the services industry including tourism, professional services, and real estate. The RDC has enacted the REDI initiative that will focus on value added agriculture, the green industry, technology, media and film, and the outdoor recreation industries.

A serious problem for the rural communities of Northern New Mexico is lack of broadband access. The REDI Net project has secured approximately \$76 million to create a fiber system from Taos down to Santa Fe. The workforce development Accelerate program is a partnership with six colleges (UNM Los Alamos, UNM Taos,

Northern New Mexico College, Santa Fe Community College, Luna College, and New Mexico Highlands University. The program offers certificates and two-year technical training degrees for up to 120 students per year, and is funded by the U.S. DOE and the Office of Environmental Management.

Councilor Girrens thanked the members of the Coalition for listening to the presentation and stressed the importance of the RDC and what they are accomplishing. The RDC was established before the RCLC and began to pave the way to focus on the communities of Northern New Mexico. He stated that the RCLC could help the RDC especially in the public policy sector. He expressed his appreciation for the Acceleration Education program and stated that it could be the future of new businesses for Northern New Mexico. He said he couldn't emphasize enough the importance of the RDC and a potential partnership with the RCLC to realize the missions of both organizations.

Councilor Andrew Gonzales asked Kathy where exactly the Accelerate Program was in regards to its five year plan. Kathy stated that it was important that the Accelerate workforce program become a statewide program instead of just a regional program, and said that they had requested funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in order to do so. Kathy stated that since its inception, the RDC had doubled the graduation rate of participants in the program.

### **3. Presentation by Christine Gelles, Acting Manager of the Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office, DOE (30 mins) 9:55a-10:25a**

Denise who was representing Christine Gelles offered her sincere apologies on behalf of Christine who was unable to attend the RCLC meeting due to a personal emergency that developed late Thursday evening. Christine would like to meet with the RCLC at either the next meeting or whenever possible to give her presentation. The Citizens Advisory Board will be meeting May 20th at Sandia Resort and Ted the chairman of the Accident Investigation Board for WIPP will be presenting in detail about the AIB report.

### **4. Updates for Board Members(15min)10:25a–10:32a**

#### **a. Invitation and Information on Manhattan Park by Brian Bosshardt (3mins)**

Brian Bosshardt discussed the ongoing Manhattan Project National Park. He stated that LANL was preparing for a four day visit from the Department of Energy and National Park service, and that they had already visited the two other sites involved in the project at Hanford, Washington and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He invited the RCLC board members to a dinner on June 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at a new restaurant called Cottonwoods on the Green. It will include between 25-30 delegates from the DOE and NPS that are working on the project.

#### **b. RCLC Budget Update by Brian Bosshardt (2mins) (TabC)**

Brian then covered the financial update for the RCLC. He explained that the lower

cash balance reflected the payment for executive director services and that there was an additional month of executive director services that was not showing on that report. He apologized that it hadn't made it onto his spreadsheet and assured it would not happen again. Brian said that he and Andrea would be working in the next week to have an accurate report emailed to the members of the board and would have it ready at the next RCLC monthly meeting for board member approval.

**c. Report from the Executive Director (2 mins) (Tab D)**

Andrea updated the board on the DOE grant application to submit for \$100,000 to fund the RCLC. That is currently being reviewed and edited for final approval to be sent by the end of May to the DOE. A letter has also been put together to talk about the budget response in the bill for the House Energy and Water appropriations looking to cut our budget by \$9 million. The letter expresses the RCLC's disapproval of that budget cut. Andrea talked about the breakfast the preceding Friday with Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney. Many questions were answered about the \$72 million agreement in response to the fines imposed on the WIPP situation. Talking point from that breakfast were included in the packet. The RCLC has also been inviting various pueblos to participate in the Coalition as part of the strategic plan for expansion. Letters of invitation were sent to Cochiti, Santa Clara, and Pojoaque pueblos. The Coalition has already received letters of in response from Santa Clara and San Ildefonso regarding that participation and Andrea will follow up with the board on those negotiations as they take place. Andrea introduced a new staff member to the Coalition, Lindi Douglass, who will be supporting the Coalition for the remainder of the year. Also included in the packet are news briefs that came into the news recently. One is on the agreement between the DOE and the State of New Mexico, and the interim high level waste facility that is proposed for Southern New Mexico.

Councilor Andrew Gonzales said he had spoken with Secretary Flynn and he had expressed interest in attending the next meeting and updating the board on how fines were settled and said we should try to get him on the next meeting agenda. Andrea stated that she was working with his office, and they're working on some calendar issues, but they're trying to make accommodations to get Secretary Flynn at a meeting.

**F. Meetings at a Glance (5 mins) 10:35a-10:40a (Tab G)**

Mayor Lucero gave an overview of the meetings that are scheduled for the next three months and said that they were looking forward to hearing from Christine Gelles and Secretary Flynn. The next meeting will be June 12th in Rio Arriba county, which might be moved in order to accommodate Secretary Flynn. On July 10th the meeting will be held at Jemez Pueblo, and on August 14th at City of Española. Andrea stated that it was possible that the meeting at Jemez Pueblo might have to be moved, but that was yet to be determined. Andrea said that Governor Loretto may not be able to accommodate the RCLC that day.

### **G. Public Comment (20 mins) 10:40a-11:00a**

Mayor Lucero indicated that there is a three minute limit for each public comment.

Eric Kertcher, an economist from Taos County thanked the board for allowing the RDC to speak. He expressed concerns that the RCLC doesn't understand whether or not they are seeing results in their economic endeavors. He appreciates the board's efforts to educate our youth and identify jobs, but as long as we put that infrastructure and we take that much talent toward something that does no good, we're failing. He says the board should not support new weapons missions like the new B-61 and the Manhattan Park.

Margarita Denavan from Arroyo Hondo talked about the mission of LANL is nuclear weapons. She hasn't heard people talking about it, and they need to. She wants her group from Taos County to be on an agenda meeting so they can speak not only to their representative and to the Coalition. She says she is concerned for her national security, that is not only protecting the country from foreign countries, but protecting the country from the waste within.

Marilyn Hoff of Arroyo Hondo endorsed everything that Margarita and Eric said before her, and said that nuclear weapons are a dead end product. It offends her that her elected representatives support LANL and their nuclear weapons of mass destruction. She wishes the RCLC would reword their mission to make it clear that their constituents do not support nuclear weapons. She wants the board to use their influence to open up the medical records of the people living downstream and downwind from LANL. She wants the public to know how many people are dying from cancer.

A citizen of Arroyo Hondo wanted to know who was on the Executive Committee. Mayor Lucero stated that it was herself, Councilor Gonzales as the Vice-Chair, and Mayor Javier Gonzales as the Secretary Treasurer. She wants the RCLC to listen to her disc on the Realities of Nuclear War and advocate for the second phase of the La Habra report and divorce themselves from LANL. A digital copy of the audio disc will be made available to the Coalition.

### **H. Adjournment – 11:00a**

Mayor Lucero indicated that there was no more business on the agenda, and called for an adjournment to the meeting.

ATTEST:

---

Mayor Alice Lucero, Chair

---

Andrea Romero, Executive Director