

REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES

CITY OF ESPAÑOLA – LOS ALAMOS COUNTY – RIO ARRIBA COUNTY
SANTA FE COUNTY – CITY OF SANTA FE – TAOS COUNTY

Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2012

**Santa Fe Community Convention Center – Lamy 7 Peralta Rooms
201 W. Marcy Street, Santa Fe, NM**

Facilitator David Abelson called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Introductions were made

1. Approve the February 17th meeting minutes

Mayor David Coss motioned for approval of the minutes with minor changes, seconded by Councilor Chair Sharon Stover – the motion was approved.

2. Update on Washington, DC meetings

Mr. Abelson commented that Attorney Seth Kirshenberg did an exceptional job of facilitating the DC trip. The meetings were productive and provided opportunities for creating new ideas amongst the group. It was an excellent first step in making an impression upon Washington, DC officials about the importance and value of the Regional Coalition.

Mr. Abelson handed out to the members of the Coalition a draft copy of the proposal being sent to the Department of Energy requesting funding for the Coalition. Mr. Abelson then asked for comments on the DC trip.

Mr. Kirshenberg commented that the success from the meetings in DC was due in part to the effectiveness of the participants in relating the message on environmental cleanup.

Mayor Coss commented that the meetings were well organized and productive. It was also very educational for him. The number for cleanup are still quite large, and we can view anything over 189 million as a success. He was very glad the group was able to go to DC and express their concerns.

Commissioner Andrew Chavez commented that while in DC he got a better understanding about LANL and the other laboratories throughout the Country. He also realized what the Coalition can accomplish as a group and how much each individual entity relies on LANL.

Commissioner Danny Mayfield commented that he was impressed the effort included Eddy County Commissioner John Volpato, Representative Jim Hall, and John Heaton, City of Carlsbad. He shared that it was a non-partisan effort coming together with different interests and different concerns for their own communities. However, they were able to express a common message with respect to their concerns. He stated the delegation in DC voiced their opinion that they too were impressed with the different interests speaking as one in DC.

Elmer Torres commented that San Ildefonso Pueblo plans to participate with the Coalition. He commented that this is the first time that he is aware of a Tribal member participating on such a trip. Mr. Torres stated he felt the Delegation listened to their concerns and looks forward to the Pueblo working with the Coalition.

Mayor Alice Lucero commented that the trip to DC was a great learning experience; it was such a diverse group. She stated that the delegation seemed to listen due to the group's diversity. She thanked Seth Kirshenberg and his staff for the great job they did in setting up the visit, she also thanked Los Alamos County for their leadership.

Secretary Martin seconded everything that was said. He added that it was not only a non-partisan group, it included people considered right of center and left of center that came together with a common voice, which is something that is good for New Mexico. He felt that the delegation was very receptive. Secretary Martin commented that he appreciated having everyone together in DC and really enjoyed the trip.

Harry Burgess commented that as the group was going from meeting to meeting the message became more refined and that it was received very well. He indicated that it was a positive trip.

Chair Sharon Stover commented that the idea of the DC trip was started in December by Secretary Martin and wanted to thank him for his suggestion. Chair Stover felt that the group learned from the delegation, but they in turn learned from the group as well. She indicated agreement with Commissioner Mayfield that the delegation was very encouraging to the group - having that support is important as the Coalition moves forward, especially considering there is more work ahead.

Mr. Kirshenberg pointed out that the trip to DC was the first step of many to come and the group must understand that the budget process is ongoing.

Mr. Abelson asked everyone to look at the funding application and send comments to county staff; he then thanked Secretary Martin for his support of the Coalition.

3. LANL fiscal year 2013 Budget Briefing – Terry Wallace

Terry Wallace provided a report on the 2013 budget. He stated that over the past five – six years, on average, the LANL budget has been about \$2.25 billion. This includes labor, the contract used to operate the site and other items it takes to run the Laboratory.

Mr. Wallace shared that he is a native of Los Alamos. During the 60s, 78% of the workforce lived in Los Alamos. In present day, only half of the workforce lives in Los Alamos with the remaining portion residing in Santa Fe and Rio Arriba County.

He stated that 2/3 of the LANL budget covers labor costs. Understanding they would realize significant decreases in their budget the Laboratory was faced with a decision for how to address their shortfall. Mr. Wallace commented that it was clear they needed to cut back their labor costs, which resulted in the voluntary separation program offered to their regular workforce. He indicated that the voluntary separation program was a success but they are not out of the woods in terms of balancing this fiscal year.

Mr. Abelson asked Mr. Wallace about their fixed costs for environmental. Mr. Wallace responded stating that a portion is fixed but not all. Monitoring cleanup efforts and utilities are examples of fixed cost items.

Chair Stover asked Mr. Wallace what he predicts the impact will be on the flexible workforce. Mr. Wallace commented that he could not answer that question without further analysis of their situation. He continued stating the impact of involuntary separations is devastating and the chance of that at LANL is incredibly small. Those who opted for the voluntary separation are leaving the first week of April; the Laboratory will then take a look at their budget again to ensure they are able to accomplish all aspects found within their mission.

Mr. Abelson inquired if their fixed costs decrease as they work with NMED and progress with their cleanup efforts. Mr. Wallace commented that he would have to get back to him, the numbers do decrease some, but he was not sure how much

4. LANL 101 – Briefing on LAB Mission & Operations – Terry Wallace

Mr. Wallace moved right into his second presentation, which covered portions of the lab's mission. He shared that in 1992 the United States determined that we would no longer test nuclear weapons. A major task was then assigned to the Laboratory – as long as there are nuclear weapons within the U.S. arsenal they must remain safe and reliable. That mission was given to LANL and remains a major component of the lab's work.

Los Alamos supplies the technical talent for any emergency response that includes a nuclear threat. Mr. Wallace offered the example of a nuclear device turning up in Socorro, NM. He stated there would certainly be FBI presence but Los Alamos would also be there to determine how to disable the device. The Laboratory has people on on-call 24hrs/7 days a week in case such an emergency arises.

Secretary Martin inquired about the coordination that occurs and the lab's involvement with events such as the Balloon Festival or the Super Bowl. Mr. Wallace responded stating that at events such as the Super Bowl, the Laboratory provides support and

expertise related to the monitoring for nuclear devices. The Laboratory has also developed sensors for protecting against bio-threats.

Secretary Martin commented that during the Las Conchas fire the EPA was monitoring air quality and he understood that the device used was developed at the Laboratory. Mr. Wallace confirmed that the device used in the air planes was developed at the Laboratory.

Chair Stover inquired if it is fair to say that postponing or cancelling the building of CMRR would impact these efforts? Mr. Wallace commented that some of these projects would certainly be impacted.

Commissioner Mayfield asked if there is any other facility in the County that duplicates what is done at CMR. Mr. Wallace commented that there are smaller facilities, however, none can handle the amount of material they do at CMR.

Chair Stover commented that the next meeting would be held in Los Alamos and that she hoping to arrange a tour of the CMR.

Mr. Abelson thanked Mr. Wallace for the informative presentation.

5. Overview of Press Conference

Mr. Abelson provided an overview of the press conference format.

6. Wrap Up/Next Steps

Mr. Burgess reported plans include having the Executive Director position advertised by the next meeting.

After much discussion about future meetings, those in attendance agreed to the following meeting dates and locations:

May 10, 2012 – Taos County
June 8, 2012 – Los Alamos County
July 13, 2012 – City of Española
August 17, 2012 – Rio Arriba County

Discussion was also held about the potential of a tour of the WIPP facility in September or October.

Mr. Abelson reminded the group that the Joint Powers Agreement is set-up in a way that the Pueblo's can join at anytime – San Ildefonso has expressed interest in joining.

Meeting adjourned at 10:43