



**REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES**  
**City of Espanola - Los Alamos County - Rio Arriba County - Santa Fe County**  
**- City of Santa Fe - Taos County - Town of Taos - Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh**

**City of Santa Fe Council Chambers**  
**Friday, December 13, 2013**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Mayor Coss called the meeting to order at 9:28am.

**Attendance**

Mayor David Coss (Chair RCLC), Mayor Alice Lucero, County Commissioner Councilor Fran Berting, Commissioner Alfredo Montoya, and Andrew Gonzales (Secretary/Treasurer), Commissioner Steve Girrens

JLH Media team members Darien Cabral, Jennifer Padilla, Lisa Neal and Elizabeth Cooke.

**Confirmation of Quorum**

Chair Mayor Coss confirmed a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes**

The coalition approved the November meeting minutes.

**Action Item**

Brian Bosshardt addressed the coalition stating that \$72,000 of the original \$100,000 DOE grant had been awarded to the RCLC. MVM, the former administration of the Coalition, had made mistakes in grant reporting resulting in less money being received. Brian chalked it up to a "learning experience." Brian requested a meeting with JLH Media about indirect costs and invoices associated with the grant to ensure that this does not happen again. Commissioner Girrens stated that when applying for grants, the Coalition should make sure it has a clear understanding of what is required to remain in compliance with awarded funding.

Councilor Fran Berting referenced that an Energy Communities Alliance Peer Exchange meeting was scheduled in Washington, D.C. on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and stated that the Energy Communities Alliance would reimburse travel costs for one Coalition member to attend the meeting.

Darien Cabral expressed the need for the Coalition to discuss clean-up issues in relation to recent press and the passage of a City Resolution by the City of Santa Fe regarding clean-up of Technical Area 54-G.

Darien stated that he had met with Commissioner Montoya on Rio Arriba economic development issues. Darien spoke of the need to focus economic development emphasis in areas other than Los Alamos and Santa Fe.

Darien mentioned that the approval of the lease to Ealasad by the City of Española marks significant precedence of a high-tech LANL spin-off business coming into to Española and Rio Arriba County. The RDC worked hard on bringing this business into Española, but credit is also due to the hard work and support of Mayor Lucero, Rio Arriba County and the Regional Coalition under Cabral. The Coalition was even able to get a representative from Congressman Udall's Office to the Española City Council meeting when the lease was discussed.

The need to involve Tribal governments in the work of the Coalition was discussed by Darien, and the potential economic advantages of creating joint venture partnerships with Tribal entities were also discussed. Tribes can bring special marketing and financial incentives to development projects.

Darien recognized a representative from San Ildefonso Pueblo who was present at the meeting. Darien mentioned that he had encountered San Ildefonso Governor Terry Aguilar at another meeting and spoke about getting together with the Governor to address the Pueblo joining the Coalition.

Darien spoke about the RediNet project being coordinated by the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District that is providing high-speed internet to northern New Mexico communities through fiber optic. Darien mentioned that San Ildefonso just passed a Resolution to support RediNet and is in agreement to allow fiber optic to cross Pueblo lands. This will provide a major link that had been missing from the RediNet network. The link crossing San Ildefonso lands will likely require \$2 million of funding in addition to the roughly \$11 million already spent for the current build out. Darien mentioned that proximity to the Laboratory, high-speed internet and the presence of Indian Tribes will make northern New Mexico a unique area in the world for specialized economic development projects.

Cabral stated that he is developing a SharePoint website for the Coalition members. The website will facilitate the sharing of documents and information, will be interactive, and will allow the members and committees to collaborate with one another online.

### **Committees**

The Coalition discussed implementing committees—small working groups with expertise in specific areas. Committee membership could include employees of Los Alamos National Lab, members of the public, technical and environmental experts, etc. who would advise the Coalition and keep members abreast of pertinent issues. Darien stated that specific coalition members could volunteer to head-up committees and vet committee composition, but would not necessarily have to attend meetings. Coalition Board members could assign topics of study, receive reports, ask questions and receive recommendations from committees that could then be forwarded to the entire Coalition by the Coalition Board member who headed the committee.

Councilor Berting expressed the need for the role of the committees to be clear and was concerned that their work would overlap. Cabral explained that committees would aid in understanding very complex issues and help with decision-making. Chairman Coss noted that steps should be taken to ensure the public understands the issues affecting the region. He questioned whether the Open Meetings Act would pertain to the Coalition's committees. Bosshardt responded that the committees would not be subject to Open Meetings Act legislation and that public notice of committee meetings would not be required.

Commissioner Montoya spoke in support of creating committees, noting that issues dealt with by the Coalition are very complex and that incorporating individuals with expertise would only benefit the Coalition's efforts. Mayor Lucero also spoke favorably of creating committees.

The Coalition made a motion to approve the formation of committees in the following areas: Education; Environmental Restoration; and Economic Development. The motion was seconded and approved.

Mayor Coss noted that when he was first working in politics that the term "public relations" would never be used and he found it a strange term to be used in this arena.

### **Executive Director Report**

Darien noted that he thought of Los Alamos as the "head" of northern New Mexico, and Rio Arriba and Taos Counties as the "heart", and joked that he didn't know what Santa Fe was. He stated that there are major issues

surrounding the loss of LANL contracting jobs due to changes in federal procurement policy that make it hard for New Mexico businesses to compete with national companies on a level playing field. He stated that he is closely following the issue with RDC and the LANL Major Subcontractor Consortium and that a full report would be made to the Coalition at the January meeting.

Jennifer Padilla reported to the Coalition saying that she is working on creating email lists and is making strides in maintaining and revamping the RCLC website. The plan is to make the website an additional media outreach tool. There have been technical glitches in transferring website protocol to JLH Media from Los Alamos County that are being resolved.

Lisa Neal reported that she is contacting local media to make sure they are aware of the Coalition's mission and progress on issues affecting the region. Two press releases have been released, the first concerning the partnership of Darien Cabral and JLH Media and their joint appointment as the Director Team of the Coalition, and the second related to economic development initiatives in Espanola that will create jobs and hopefully attract further development in the area, including the Ealasad lease and plans for a northern New Mexico Food Hub project designed to support regional agriculture. Articles about or mentioning the Coalition were published in the Los Alamos Monitor and the Albuquerque Journal. In addition, Mayor Lucero was featured on a radio interview regarding Ealasad and the Food Hub projects on KSFR, Santa Fe. JLH Media will continue to reach out to the media to make sure they are aware of the Coalition's efforts.

Darien noted that he is has been impressed with JLH Media. He referenced the press releases and media attention in just the first month of the new team working with the Coalition. He also spoke about goals of economic development and food security in Espanola. He noted that area Pueblos and other entities are planning regional food hubs and his desire to establish better communication with Tribal entities in the area.

### **Congressional Delegation**

The Coalition discussed the 2013 omnibus budget bill.

A representative from Senator Udall's office stated that a letter had been sent from the Coalition asking for additional clean up money. The representative stated that the funding for the Los Alamos Manhattan Project Park Project was not included in the final Omnibus Appropriations Bill and discussed public land projects. She noted Senator Udall's understanding of the importance of the bill.

Darian noted that a packet of additional information on this issue would be made available on the Coalition's website.

## **Presentation on Ealasad by Eric Vasquez, Regional Development Corporation**

Mayor Lucero recognized the work of the RDC and its positive impact on the City of Espanola. Eric thanked Mayor Lucero, noting that the RDC is targeting tech and green businesses specifically, and encouraging business growth in these industries.

Vasquez presented a PowerPoint presentation on Ealasad, a company that has developed the technology to produce phenylethanol (rose oil) through a bioengineering process using poplar trees. Ealasad is undergoing an approval process with the City of Espanola to lease the 90-acre Prince and Carter Ranch and has received preliminary votes from the City Council approving the lease. The company is expected to create 3 to 5 jobs in the first year of development and as many as 50 jobs once in full-production.

Darien noted that the City and the County are working together to bring Ealasad to Espanola. The City/County collaboration is setting precedent and is largely due to the efforts of Commissioner Montoya, Rio Arriba County Economic Development Director, Chris Madrid and Mayor Lucero. Vasquez stated that LANL would be involved in the tech side of the company. Ealasad came from efforts of the newly formed New Mexico Consortium at LANL that involves the public, private and academic sectors in development and research and new technology based business development. Mayor Lucero stated that the local production of goods would boost the economy.

## **Accelerate Presentation by Kathy Keith, RDC**

Kathy Keith addressed the Coalition regarding the Regional Development Corporation (RDC) Accelerate program, explaining that the purpose of the Program was to develop the workforce of Northern New Mexico. She referenced the need for a trained workforce in industries throughout the state and the program's success in increasing college graduation rates. The program helps students attain the skills they need to find jobs beginning at the time of enrollment. Keith noted that many first-year college students are not prepared for college-level courses, particularly in math, and that a Math Camp program had been created to quickly prepare students for college-level work.

Keith explained that Accelerate works in conjunction with university professors and assists non-traditional students by providing them with coaches to help with daily assignments and to keep students accountable for attending class. Students are advised of what is expected of them in the work place and helped to acquire the skills they need to be competitive in the job market. Keith noted the success of the program and that additional funding had been provided to Accelerate in 2012. In 2013, \$635,000 was awarded to the program and a 2014 application has

been filed to extend funding. The program is focused on four-year degrees. Keith requested that RCLC support continued funding for the program. A motion was made and seconded to support the program. Darien asked specifically what RCLC could do that would be most effective. It was agreed that a letter would be submitted on behalf of the program by the RCLC.

### **RediNet Presentation by Duncan Sill**

Duncan Sill from the North Central New Mexico Economic development District presented a PowerPoint presentation on RediNet. Project goals are to develop telecommunication infrastructure and provide high-speed broadband access to Northern New Mexico. He noted the many people and entities involved in the project and its potential for increased economic development in the region, including within Tribal territories. RediNet was created through regional partnerships and is a publicly owned and operated entity. A board of directors, in conjunction with representatives from Tribal Governments, has been appointed to oversee the program.

Sill explained that businesses make choices on where to locate based on access to high-speed Internet and that RediNet's goal is to increase economic development in Northern New Mexico by providing affordable high-speed access through fiber optic cable. Plans for further infrastructure are in place.

Darien stated that Redinet is a great asset for the Coalition in terms of economic development efforts. Sill stated that RediNet has begun working with federal agencies and will continue to work with regional partners. Once RediNet is complete northern New Mexico will be the only one in the world with proximity to a world-class national laboratory, access to high-speed internet and access to Tribes and the incentives that they can bring to business

### **DOE 3706 TRU Clean-up Project Report - Don Cox**

Don Cox reported on the 3706 TRU Campaign and the successful cleanup of surface waste at Technical Area 54-G - a joint cleanup effort of the federal government and the State of New Mexico. Cleanup efforts began in 2011 and have doubled in size each year creating many jobs. The project is currently ahead of schedule and has received local and national attention for its progress. A total of 4000 storage drums of waste have been removed and shipped out of the area.

Commissioner Montoya referenced the many sides of the contamination issue and the need for public input. Chairman Coss stated that the Coalition continues to push for cleanup efforts in the region. Don noted that continuing cleanup efforts would yield more jobs and help sustain the local economy.

The Coalition briefly discussed issues pertaining to Area 54-G and the need to resolve issues concerning possible contamination and the cleanup of the

underground waste deposited there. Secretary/Treasurer Gonzales noted that the Town of Taos had issued a resolution similar to the one issued by the City of Santa Fe calling for the cleanup of Area 54-G. Chairman Coss noted that the Coalition's relationship with the federal government and local communities would benefit cleanup efforts.

Councilor Berting stated the Coalition's need for further information on the type of waste buried at Area 54-G. Specifically, the Coalition needs to know whether it is safer to remove waste from the area or, in the interest of public safety, if it is better to leave the waste where it is. Mayor Lucero called for a presentation at the next meeting on what is buried at Area 54-G and clean-up options.

### **Public Comment**

Jay Coghlan of Nuclear Watch NM stated that LANL's nuclear waste cleanup is behind schedule and should be addressed by the Coalition. He expressed concern about Area 54-G and the need for proactive cleanup measures.

Scott Kovac of Nuclear Watch NM stated that the Open Meetings Act should apply to the Coalition's committees and that a member of the public should be included in each committee. He noted that minutes should be taken at committee meetings and made available to the public.

Darien stated that LANL waste cleanup is an issue that affects everyone and that getting accurate information about the issue is key. He noted that the public should have easy access to information on cleanup efforts. He stated that so far as the new Director of RCLC he has attended a number of presentations and meetings, including a LANL sponsored community leaders breakfast, the Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Task Force presentation and has been impressed with the efforts of DOE and the Laboratory to share information with the public and provide opportunities for public oversight and input on environmental issues.

Mayor Coss thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 11:45.