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 – Ohkay Owingeh – Pueblo of Jemez

Taos County Chambers
105 Albright Street
Taos, NM 87571

October 9, 2015
9:00a-11:00a

Meeting Minutes

Table of Contents

Attendance ................................................................. 1
Call to Order .................................................................. 1
Confirmation of Quorum ................................................. 1
Approval of Agenda ...................................................... 2
Approval of Meeting Minutes ........................................ 2
Accelerate Program Presentation ................................. 4
Closed Session ............................................................. 6

Attendance
Chair, Commissioner Barney Trujillo, Rio Arriba County; Fabian Trujillo, proxy for City of
Santa Fe; Brian Bosshardt, proxy for Los Alamos County; Mayor Alice Lucero, City of
Española; Commissioner Henry Roybal, Santa Fe County; Commissioner Mark Gallegos,
Taos County; Governor Raymond Loretto, Pueblo of Jemez.

A. Call to Order – Chair Trujillo
Chair Trujillo called the meeting to order at 9:24 a.m.

B. Confirmation of Quorum – Chair Trujillo
Executive Director Andrea Romero took attendance and Chair Trujillo confirmed there was
a quorum.

C. Approval of Agenda – Chair Trujillo
Chair Trujillo asked the Board to review and approve the agenda as presented.
Mayor Alice Lucero moved to approve the agenda.
Governor Raymond Loretto seconded the motion to approve the agenda.
Chair Trujillo called for a vote to approve the agenda.
The Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the agenda.

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Chair Trujillo
Chair Trujillo asked the board to review and approve the meeting minutes as presented for the RCLC Board meeting that was held on September 11, 2015.
Fabian Trujillo moved to approve the meeting minutes.
Mayor Alice Lucero seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes.
Chair Trujillo called for a vote to approve the minutes.
The Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the meeting minutes.

E. Discussion/Action Items
1. Introduction by Doug Hintze, Manager, Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office
Chair Trujillo stated that the next item on the agenda was an introduction from Doug Hintze, the new Manager of the Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA).

Mr. Hintze previously served as the Assistant Manager for Mission Support and the Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Site (DOE-SR) beginning in September of 2012. Mr. Hintze gave RCLC board members a brief overview of his history working for the Department of Energy (DOE) and his experience managing TRU level waste remediation activities. He expressed that his three priorities as the new EM-LA manager were to run a safe, transparent, and efficient cleanup operation.

Mr. Hintze stated that over the past six to eight months they’ve been taking over the project management scope of work from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and will focus on environmental cleanup moving forward. He continued that a plan was in place for EM-LA to have their own contract going forward beginning at the end of FY17. During the bridge contract period they have already identified the scope of work they will be focusing on.

2. Presentation from Carla Rachkowski of Accelerate Program
Chair Trujillo thanked Mr. Hintze for his introduction and said that the board was looking forward to working with him. The next item on the agenda was a presentation from Carla Rachkowski of the Accelerate Technical Training and Job Placement Program.

Carla thanked the board for allowing her to speak at their meeting. The Accelerate Program is a program of the Regional Development Corporation in collaboration with six community colleges in northern New Mexico. It has been funded for the past five years by the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Environmental Management. Their goals are to stimulate economic growth, increase college graduation rates, workforce training and job placement. They strive to graduate more technical career students in NM in order to aid economic development. They are especially keeping an eye on LANL’s estimated 36% attrition rate over the next five years.

The Accelerate Program was launched as a pilot project in 2011 through a partnership with the New Mexico Regional Development Corporation and six northern New Mexico
colleges including UNM Taos, Northern New Mexico College, UNM Los Alamos, Santa Fe Community College, Luna Community College, and Highlands University. Their focus is on technical career students, specifically, preparing them for career and educational advancement and placing them in jobs. The current average graduation rate is 14% for two-year technical degree students in northern New Mexico. Some of the school's graduation rates are actually closer to only 7%. The program has been extremely successful, with an independent study finding that Accelerate has delivered a 20% increase in graduation rates over non-participating students. In addition, 44% of Accelerate students who interned with regional employers were offered jobs by those employers. The Accelerate Program is in the final seven months of a five-year DOE-EM grant award. Accelerate is working now to diversify their program funding.

They also focus on preparing students to succeed in the workforce. They provide career readiness training as part of the project and hope to help them find jobs in their fields of study. They have had 664 students go through the program, and 374 students in a separate component of the program finish the basic math requirements before they can begin college level mathematics. The average age of a student in the Accelerate Program is 28 years old. They have career advisors in place at each of the participating campuses that recruit students into the Accelerate program and then proactively work with them on any issue that gets in the way of schoolwork. This is a big issue for non-traditional students who are working full-time, trying to raise families, and have other things that can interfere with the completion of schoolwork. They function as part mentor and part advisor, basically doing whatever they can to help program students get through school. The program also offers resume writing classes, leadership training, and Office 101 courses.

The program partners with regional employers to place students in internships and students are paid stipends for their work. Accelerate students showed a 20% increase in persistence, time to degree, and completion rates. They are currently looking at different foundations and have hired a grant researcher and writer in an attempt to diversify their funding.

Commissioner Mark Gallegos inquired about high school students participating in the program in anticipation of enrolling in college. Carla stated that they are currently focusing on two-year degree students. She stated that she hopes in the future that they can expand the program to promote awareness of the program to high school students so that they can consider participation in the program as they look toward their career preparation.

3. Intergovernmental Meeting with the U.S. Department of Energy Invitation. Approval of ED and/or Board travel

Chair Trujillo thanked Carla for her presentation and stated that the next agenda item was approval of Executive Director and/or Board travel to the Intergovernmental Meeting with the U.S. Department of Energy taking place in New Orleans from November 18-20. Chair Trujillo asked the Board to review and approve the travel for Andrea Romero as presented. Mayor Alice Lucero moved to approve Andrea Romero’s travel and recommended that any other board members attempt to attend as well. She also stated that she would like to attend, but moved to at least approve the Executive Director travel. Brian Bosshardt seconded the motion to approve the Executive Director travel. Chair Trujillo called for a vote to approve the travel.
The Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the travel for Andrea Romero and any other interested board members. Governor Raymond Loretto stated that he would be attending to represent the Pueblo of Jemez and that his cost of travel would be covered by Jemez. Brian Bosshardt reminded the board that the ECA would cover the cost of travel for one representative from the RCLC and that Los Alamos County would be represented by Kristin Henderson. Chair Trujillo stated that Rio Arriba County would cover his cost of travel if he were able to attend. Commissioner Mark Gallegos requested a calendar of potential travel meetings for the upcoming year so the board could better plan their travel in advance of meetings. Andrea Romero said a calendar would be compiled.

F. Board Closed Session – Personnel Matter: Discussion Regarding Limited Personnel Matter(s) – Review of JLH Media’s Provision of Executive Director Services and Agreement AGR14-01. (Session Closed Pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1 (H) (2))

G. Adjournment
At the conclusion of the closed session Chair Trujillo asked the board for a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mayor Alice Lucero moved to end the closed session. Governor Raymond Loretto seconded the motion to end the closed session. Chair Trujillo called for a vote to end the closed session and reopen the meeting. The Board voted unanimously in favor of ending the closed session and Chair Trujillo stated that the record should show that no action was taken during the closed session.

Governor Raymond Loretto requested changing the next RCLC meeting location for November 13 as Jemez Pueblo has a scheduled Feast Day on November 12. Chair Trujillo said Rio Arriba County could host the November 13 meeting and Governor Loretto said Jemez could host in December.

Chair Trujillo adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Attest:

________________________
Commissioner Barney Trujillo, Chair

________________________
Andrea Romero, Executive Director