RCLC Director’s Report
Submitted to the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities Board on March 1, 2019

STATE AUDITOR COMPLIANCE:

Bank Accounts:
Bank Accounts have been opened at New Mexico Bank & Trust and are now ready to move RCLC funds into RCLC specific bank accounts.

Auditor:
The OSA has reviewed and approved our auditor request, final contracts have been submitted and the audits should begin in mid-March, with a goal of completing by the end of May.

PARTNERS & GOVT. RELATIONS:

- Attended the Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board (NNMCAB) meeting on January 30 at Ohkay Owingeh conference center. Talked with staff about ways to collaborate more on joint issues.

- Attended Buckman Direct Diversion board meeting on February 7 to hear DOE-EM presentation and the questions, comments and concerns from the BDD board members.

- Attended legislative committee meetings to support and promote SB 11 and to follow other issues that might affect RCLC communities.

- Brief meeting with Doug Hintze from DOE-EM regarding the RCLC grant status and IG investigation.

- Attended DNFSB board meeting in Albuquerque on February 21. Read a statement originally crafted to be on behalf of concerned board members.

- Met with the new NMED Secretary, James Kenney at his office on February 25, with Councilor Peter Ives. Discussed general ways our local government organization and the state could collaborate, and stay informed on what the other is doing. Secretary Kenney tentatively accepted an invitation for NMED to present an update on pertinent issues to the RCLC in the near future. He also asked us to confirm our regular meeting schedule so as to be able to send NMED staff to observe. He asked for the RCLC to inform NMED on any policy positions that we may develop.
OTHER RCLC ACTIONS:

Tribal Liaison:
The RCLC Management team is in the process of drafting an RFP to fill our vacant tribal liaison position. We expect it to be issued within the month.

REPORT OF RCLC RETREAT

On January 26, 2019, the RCLC held an all-day retreat, mediated by contractors from RCAC, the rural communities’ alliance. Twenty-six people in total signed in and participated in the retreat. The participants were from various communities in northern New Mexico (Taos, Los Alamos, Espanola, San Ildefonso, and Santa Fe). Represented were the members of the public, RCLC Board members, Los Alamos Department of Energy employees and contractors.

Participants were directed through various activities to achieve three main goals. This included the following:

- Reviewing and amending revisions to the current Joint Powers Agreement (JPA),
- Goal Discussion, entailing reviewing and working to improve, educate and communicate the RCLC’s mission, and updating the short and long-term goals of the RCLC, and
- Discussion of a possible name change/rebranding for the organization.

GOAL DISCUSSION:

Participants were placed into random groups with the purpose of developing suggested goals for the RCLC, as listed below, divided into appropriate category in no particular order:

Mission & Enhancing Organization Impact Proposed Goals:

- Strive to invite all impacted Pueblos to become members of the Coalition
- Clarifying the mission and scope of the coalition
- Engage LANL, DOE and appropriate stakeholders on issues affecting member communities, and advocate on behalf of member communities and the greater region. This includes but is not limited to pushing for increased cleanup funding for legacy waste, stewardship, and ensuring that site activities protect human, community and environmental health
- Clarify how the RCLC supports economic development and establish goals to support or identify economic development activities/efforts. This includes exploring the possibility of developing a partnership or MOU with partner organizations such as the RDC and MSC on areas of common interest.

Outreach & Transparency Proposed Goals:

- Respective government members of the RCLC to inform their constituencies on the work/progress of the RCLC
- RCLC through the E.D. should work to make the coalition more visible as to the doings of the coalition through social media – show action happening as it is happening. For example, the possibility of using Facebook live for meetings was suggested.
• Clarify potential conflict of interest of members/director of the RCLC. AN option would be to possibly publish a “Possible Conflict Disclosure Form” of all board members and staff, similar to that employed by municipal governments disclosing other boards and employers.
• Re-establish the credibility/trust of the constituents and the partners. Provide trip reports of the coalition for transparency- Report who, what, when, cost, why and results.

**Operations Proposed Goals:**

• Amendments to the JPA be completed this year
• Complete resolution of financial findings from the OSA
• Review insurance needs for the coalition. *RCLC members are covered by their governments, but does the organization require insurance? The CPLC, the current contractor has insurance for their own operations.*
• Reviewing the logo suggestions
• Open position on advisory committees to the board for members of the public and local business owners. Initial discussion was of creating new board positions, but was legally problematic as the board is made up of independent government entities.
• Consider appointing a representative of the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos to the Board. *One issue is not all pueblos are ENIPC members.*
• Consider a bylaws change for officer election dates to allow newly elected officials appointed to the RCLC to vote for the officers of the coalition and participate in budget development – change the date of the officers’ election to January.
• Clarify and/or develop metrics to determine success or failures of the coalition. *Possibly employee “Results Based Accountability” as recommended by Councillor Peter Ives*
• Remodel current website. Include news and updated information, with regular updates.

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (JPA) AMENDMENT DISCUSSION:**
The current Joint Powers Agreement was reviewed by the Santa Fe County and Los Alamos County Attorney’s offices. The Santa Fe County Manager educated the group on the proposed revisions that were made. After this exercise, each group added potential changes for the JPA are detailed and have been incorporated into the discussion draft of the JPA presented at today’s meeting. A complete detailed list of each group’s recommendations is not included here due to length, but will be provided separately.

**POSSIBLE NAME CHANGE/REBRANDING**
After an energetic review of possible name alternatives and logo suggestions, the retreat attendees were given the opportunity to vote using the “dot method for their preference. The overwhelming majority opted to support keeping the current name.

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**FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:**
**Website and social media:**
Based on feedback received by public participants at the retreat, RCLC management has begun asked for a proposal from a contractor on rebuilding the website to be more user friendly, and to maintain a more consistent social media presence. We should be moving forward by late April.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**
As mentioned in an email distributed to members last week, there is a ECA-ECOS jointly sponsored discussion on the proposed changes to the definition of “High-Level Waste”. This issue could affect LANL, our surrounding communities, and the state as a whole as it will impact WIPP. The conference is May 1-2. I recommend that interested board members join me in attending this round-table, and to use the trip to schedule additional meetings with congressional delegation members, and possibly appropriate DOE staff. I also recommend that the board review the issue. RCLC staff will provide a briefing memo to all board members.