

DRAFT
Southern Colorado Economic Development District
Meeting Agenda
Board of Directors
ZOOM meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
10 a.m. – Noon

1. **Call to Order**Chair Terry Hart
2. **Introductions**Eric Gubelman

Please note that Terry Hart has remained on the board after being appointed to be Pueblo County Commissioner Chris Wiseman’s delegate. New board members include: Lake county - **Marla Akridge** (Lake county EDC), Las Animas county - **Jodi Amato** (Las Animas county assessor), Fremont county - **Diana Armstrong** (Special Projects, FEDCO) and **Debbie Bell** (Fremont county BOCC), Huerfano county - **Carlton Croft** (Huerfano county Director of Economic Development and Tourism) and **Mary Jo Tesitor** (business owner), Custer county - **Kevin Day** (Custer county BOCC), Crowley county - **Roy Elliot** (Crowley county BOCC), Kiowa county - **Mike Lening** (Kiowa county BOCC), and Otero county - **Rob Obquist** (Otero county BOCC).

2. **Minutes of the December 18, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting**..... Chair Hart
3. **Election and Seating of Officers** Chair Hart

The Executive Committee met this month to consider Board officer nominations. The recommended slate is:

Chair--Terry Hart
Vice Chair--Donald Oswald
Secretary--Rusty Granzella
Treasurer--Jane Fraser

Rusty had been nominated for Chair, but declined. Jane was nominated for Treasurer, and Caroline Trani agreed to step down as Secretary because the committee wanted to keep Upper Arkansas representation the committee, and Rusty was willing to serve in that role--moving over from Treasurer to Secretary. The committee thought that keeping Treasurer seat in the Pueblo area would facilitate check signing.

Additional nominations from the floor may now be accepted preceding a vote.

4. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update**..... Michael Yermen
Attached you will summary slides of where we are at in CEDS process. Short version: We are on track.

5. **Financial Report**..... Shauna Boyd

This report will be sent separately on Monday.

6. **Presentation of audit** Jennifer Pitzer, MGPM, PC

7. **Allegiance Coal grant agreement**Eric Gubelman

Attached is a copy of the grant proposal made from SCEDD to write a grant on behalf of Las Animas to assist Allegiance Coal, and other unknown parties to benefit from a publicly-owned railroad spur that would increase production of the mine, increase employment, and take most of the transport of the coal off the public roads. The cost of the grant would be paid for Allegiance Coal, and they would provide the required match at no cost to the county

SCEDD will exercise a subcontractor agreement with Shelly Dunham to write much of the grant. Shelly has experience in working with an Illinois community that owned a rail spur, and her specialized knowledge will be necessary to write a competitive grant. Although Las Animas is not technically a party to this grant writing assignment, the project will only work if Allegiance and Las Animas are in synch over the details (see item 1v in draft). For services provided, SCEDD will likely retain between \$10k and \$15k of the \$33k contract.

Action recommended: Motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement on behalf of SCEDD with Allegiance Coal on terms substantially similar to the attached draft.

8. **Request to begin work on EDA Broadband technical assistance grant**.....Eric Gubelman

The pending passage of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan will likely greatly increase money available from the Denver region, and at match rates of 20 percent instead of 50 percent. For the last several months, staff has been exploring the role that SCEDD will play post-CEDS in the promotion, planning, finding funds, and execution of broadband projects in the region. We have been collaborating with SECOM and San Isabel Electric Association to imagine that. We expect that the EDA would strongly consider a three-year plan to provide funds for Broadband Coordinator and support staff.

Action recommended: Motion to authorize staff to begin work on an EDA grant to fund technical assistance for Broadband support. Further, staff will work under the advice and direction of a committee composed of _____, and that the board shall be kept informed and that no grant shall be submitted without final approval by a majority of the board.

9. **Request to begin work on EDA grant in support of seed capital Angel group in SCEDD Region and Colorado Springs**
.....Eric Gubelman and Mark Madic (Southern Colorado Innovation Link)

This is a request to explore a co-application with Pueblo Community College and Southern Colorado Angels to provide operational support for three years to a seed fund group to

deploy local investors' capital in early-stage tech and intellectual property startups. This is part of a SCEDD strategic focus to improve access to capital in southern Colorado. ***Please see board packet for explanation and background.***

Action recommended: Motion to authorize staff to begin work on an EDA grant in collaboration with Pueblo Community College and the Southern Colorado Angels group. Further, staff will work under the advice and direction of a committee composed of _____, and that the board shall be kept informed and that no grant shall be submitted without final approval by a majority of the board.

10. **Reports**.....Eric Gubelman

In the board packet you will find the following:

- A. Social media updateMiriam Neff
- B. Executive Director "What is Going On" emailsEric Gubelman
- C. Postponement of two items held over from December meeting.....Eric Gubelman
- D. January and February 2021 SCEDD Newsletters.....For Information

11. **Other Business**

12. **Executive Session**.....Chair

Chair requests that the board meet in Executive Session to discuss an evaluation and compensation for the Executive Director, who will have his one-year anniversary with SCEDD on May 20.

13. **Return to regular session and adjourn**