



**Southern Colorado Economic Development District**

121 West City Center Drive, Suite 200, Room 200B  
Pueblo CO 81003 ● (719) 545-8680

**Minutes for March 10, 2021 SCEDD Board of Directors Meeting**

**1. Call to Order.....Chair Terry Hart**

March 10, 2021 10:01 am

**Attendance:** Donald Oswald, Mike Lening, Terry Hart, Caroline Trani, Carlton Croft, Rusty Granzella, Diana Armstrong, Mary Jo Tesitor, Wendell Pryor, Kevin Keilbach, Sammie George, Kim MacDonnell, Rob Obquist, Danelle Berg, Debbie Bell, Jane Fraser, Nina Vetter, Tom Grasmick, Ron Cook, Dan Centa, Luis Lopez, Jodi Amato

Staff: Bob Kennemer, Miriam Neff, Brent Frazee, Shauna Boyd, Michael Yerman, Eric Gubelman

Proxy: Terry Hart, proxy for Charles Bogle and Kevin Day

Guests: Cheryl Sanchez (Baca and Prowers county ED), Jennifer Pitzer (CPA, audit presentation)

**2. Minutes of the December 18, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting..... Chair Hart**  
Caroline Trani, motion to approve December 2020 minutes; Danelle Berg, second, all approve

**3. Election and Seating of Officers ..... Chair Hart**

- The election of Terry Hart as Chair  
Wendell Pryor, motion to approve; Ron Cook, second; all approve
- The election of Donald Oswald as Vice Chair  
Tom Grasmick, motion to approve; Caroline Trani, second; all approve
- The election of Rusty Granzella as Secretary  
Kevin Keilbach, motion to approve; Tom Grasmick, second; all approve
- The election of Jane Fraser as Treasurer  
Caroline Trani, motion to approve; Ron Cook, second; all approve

**4. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update..... Michael Yermen**  
Board received Michael Yerman’s presentation outline, project worksheet document, and report in advance of the meeting.

No action required.

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

Financial reports sent to the board in advance of the meeting.

Rusty Granzella, motion to approve financial reports; Jane Fraser, second; all approve



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

Audit materials sent to the board in advance of the meeting.

Jane Fraser, motion to approve audit; Wendell Pryor, second; all approve

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

SCEDD proposes 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.

**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.**

Wendell Pryor, motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreement on behalf of SCEDD; Tom Grasmick, second; all approve

**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, and that the board shall be kept informed and that no grant shall be submitted without final approval by a majority of the board.**

Wendell Pryor, motion to authorize staff to begin work on EDA broadband technical assistance grant; Danelle Berg, second; all approve

Ad hoc committee to work with Executive Director and SCEDD staff, to represent the regions within SCEDD, was established

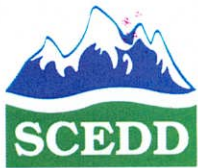
Walt Bolden (nominated by Commissioner Lopez)

Danelle Berg

Charles Bogle (nominated by Wendell Pryor), with Wendell Pryor as an alternate

Kevin Keilbach

Nina Vetter



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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.

**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, and that the board shall be kept informed and that no grant shall be submitted without final approval by a majority of the board.**

Danelle Berg, motion to authorize staff to being work on EDA grant in collaboration with PCC and Southern Colorado Angels; Caroline Trani, second; all approve

Ad hoc committee to work with SCEDD Executive Director and staff:

- Rusty Granzella
- Sammie George
- Mary Jo Tesitor
- Diana Armstrong

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

In the board packet you will find the following:

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

No action required

11. **Other Business**

No additional 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.



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Action taken: Postponed to executive committee meeting to be scheduled.

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

Wendell Pryor, motion to adjourn; Danelle Berg, second; all approve 12:05 pm