

**14 July 09**  
**Upper Rio Grande Economic Development Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Boogie's Restaurant Del Norte, CO**

The meeting was called to order by President T.J. Brown.

There were no changes to the agenda.

The minutes were approved on a motion from Suzanne Benton and a second from Bonnie Asplin.

The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion from Bob Hagadorn and a second from Vern Rominger.

Suzanne Benton said the RAC is still in need of volunteers from Rio Grande County. This is to help administer the 15% of the Federal Funds the County receives that is then given back to the Forest Service.

Donna Wehe from SBDC is establishing an Advisory Council that represents all the Counties she is involved with. Alamosa Community Development Council is on board and now she needed a rep for Rio Grande County. Mike Hurst agreed to fill the initial term.

Shon Davis then presented the proposal for sustainable and effective organization that deals with Alamosa Economic Development. They will work with a Chamber format and a dues program. After the salmonella problem there was a noticeable pullback in dues-funded organizations. The Chamber struggled with "what was their impact". These concerns were felt by many organizations causing the idea to bring together all alphabet organizations to form Alamosa County Economic Development. This is formed from ACDC (development), the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce (marketing), and SBDC (education).

The plan is to get the marketing piece of this up as quickly as possible. The current consideration is a \$5000 membership for banks and the hospital and \$2000 for private businesses. These memberships would place the respective organization on the Board. The two colleges will not have to pay for representation and smaller businesses can group or pool to have a seat on the board with a representative from their pool. This platform has come from months of weekly meetings.

The new organization will be located in the Alamosa Depot which will provide a quick and convenient gathering when a prospective client needs to sit down with people who represent a plethora of the organizations that are necessary and/or desired for relocation, funding, and all the steps to be done to run an effective and successful business.

The City of Alamosa has bought in for \$20,000. Combined with the other memberships they intend to hire an Executive Director. The plan is in a flow chart format. It has been well received and they hope to see results quickly. It also has a possible application to the entire valley.

The SBDC is hoping to have a councilor in every county. The money flow to each organization involved is currently being worked on. Because of Tabor the governmental

organizations cannot commit to over one year financially but the new organization is hoping for a general consensus from the City and County.

Town reports;

Monte Vista's Chamber is hoping to hire an administration person, which will free up their director to work on marketing. The City is going to hire a Main Street Director to help organize all the different organizations. The City is meeting with the State to learn why they must chlorinate and if there is not an empirical reason they may fight the mandate. Don introduced Jay Cochran who is the new Recreation Director for the City.

The Del Norte Chamber moving forward with getting the Caboose repaired and restored. The Rio Grande Hospital has a couple new doctors and is preparing for their annual BBQ fund raiser. The Del Norte Rotary has received a Presidential Award from Rotary International.

South Fork has the Free Ice Cream Social coming up on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July. The Feeling Good Café is now open on Hwy 149. The Kitchens in July event was a big success. They are holding the "Dancing under the Stars" dinner/dance and raffle on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August. The South Fork Vision Council is working on funding for the Wharton Bridge.

Rio Grande County paved Cty Rd 15 from Alder Creek to Bear Creek. They are gearing up for expected tax protests this year. The Commissioners are also going to meet with CDOT about the Little Wing project. Suzanne is preparing the grant for the second half of the CDOT airport funding. The O&G regulations have been approved. The new Health Agency is formed and will proceed forward.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Don Van Wormer and a second by Marty Asplin.