



...CONNECTING THE DOTS...

NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Serving San Juan, McKinley, and Cibola counties for almost 40 years

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REVITALIZING THE REGION

“COG’S BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM IS PLANTING SEEDS OF DEVELOPMENT”

Spending \$1 Million dollars can be harder than it looks—especially when your building a brand new program up from the ground. This has been some of the experience since 2009 when the COG was awarded funding to lead the Northwest New Mexico Brownfields Coalition Assessment Program.

The Brownfields program focuses getting underutilized properties back into re-use by offering public and private developers free environmental assessments on those properties. Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments help assess environmental risk of a property and if any cleanup is needed. Brownfields projects need to have a re-use whether it is economic, housing, or greenspace development to enter the program. There has to be an end goal for that property but Brownfields offers a way for communities and developers to get there.

Recently, the COG attended an open house for CARE 66’s (a Gallup-based non-profit organization) “Lexington Project” that seeks to re-use the historic Lexington Hotel on Route 66. The final rehabilitation of these facility will allow CARE 66 to offer:

Ground Floor:

- transitional living for people who are homeless;
- Preservation of historic lobby with WPA era paintings by Carl Von Hassler;

Second Floor:

- Single rooms, providing permanent supportive housing for individuals
- New resident kitchen, laundry, and bathroom facilities.

CARE 66 received about \$90,000 in assessment funding from the COG, which qualified

them for a large cleanup grant to remove asbestos and other hazardous materials.

“It’s great to see the re-use—it really makes all the work worth it and shows that this program helps turn eyesores into assets”, said Evan Williams, Project Manager. The Brownfields program is heading into its third year and currently has 14 other sites. If you would like information please contact the COG or check out:

<http://www.nwnmcog.com/brownfields.html>



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NM RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM COMES TO GALLUP

NEWMARC MEETS DURING FORUM

The City of Gallup played host to the 2011 NM Rural Economic Development Forum April 27-29 at the Howard Johnson Inn.

The 2011 NM Rural Economic Forum resumed after a 1-year hiatus. Due to the downturn in the federal and state economies in 2010, efforts for San Juan County to host the Forum in 2010 were cancelled.

Attendees were treated to an opening reception on April 27. During the full day session of April 28, Region 1 participants from north-west New Mexico all meet to

discuss and provide input into the new State of New Mexico Strategic Plan. .

The NM Strategic Plan identifies community needs including projects which have gaps in funding.

Additionally, a leadership forum and regional SWOT analysis were completed on Day 1.

Day 2 of the 2011 NM Rural Economic Forum focused on linking local projects with local, state, and federal funding partners. A community development

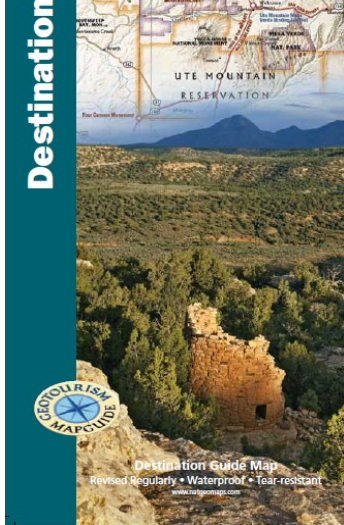
project funders panel was convened and included participation from organizations such as USDA, HUD, the Loan Fund, and Farm to Table.

[Continued, Page 5]





**Four Corners Region
Trail of the Ancients**



Trail of the Ancients Byway selected for Federal Grant

TOTA to develop “Gateway Interpretive Kiosks”

The Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway was recently notified that its association was selected for a \$15,000 grant by the National Scenic Byway Project (NSBP) to develop ‘Gateway Interpretive Kiosks’.

“Congratulations go to our intrepid grant-writer and tireless cheerleader [COG Planner] Bob Kuipers for helping us land this one!”, said Tom Kennedy, TOTA Board Member.

This project will add gateway interpretive kiosks, at the east Interstate-40 Visitor Center in Grants, NM and the west Interstate-40 Visitor Center in Manuelito, NM. This project along with preceding projects, will contribute toward marketing and promoting the entire three-county corridor, and provide interpretive guidance to visitors, so they can make informed travel choices, and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the historic, archaeological and cultural sites and attractions.

The TOTA Byway Association will be convening in the not too distant future to discuss how the project will unfold.

The Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway has been in development since 2005; it is supported by a broad Association constituency of both public and private stakeholders from the counties (San Juan, Cibola, McKinley) and Native Nations (Navajo, Zuni, Acoma, Laguna) of northwest New Mexico. A Corridor Management Plan for the TOTA Scenic Byway was completed in 2008.

The NM TOTA is collaborating with the states of Arizona, Utah, and Colorado toward a nationally designated Four-Corners region 4-state corridor, including working with National Geographic to develop a National Geographic Four Corners Region Trail of the Ancients ‘Destination Map’. The Destination Map is expected to greatly elevate the profile of the Four Corners Region as a premier tourist and visitor destination.



Northwest New Mexico Visitors Center, Grants, NM

MCKINLEY COUNTY ROAD FORUM II

“GETTING FROM RIGHT-OF-WAY TO GROUNDBREAKING”

After May’s highly successful County Road Forum, the McKinley County Commissioners received input that a technical assistance day and follow-up forum was needed. The County requested COG’s service in organizing and facilitating Road Forum II, which is now part of series. The COG produced a County Road Resource Guide to help community and Chapter leaders meet their road improvement goals and wade through some of the jurisdictional and bureaucratic hurdles.

These Forums are helpful to inform Commissioners of priority projects and helpful to the communities in getting projects ready for construction.

Held at the Best Western Inn & Suites in Gallup, COG staff walked through an education program that assisted 56 participants in using the Resource Guide and filling out the Road Application. In the afternoon, Technical Teams and Peer Coaches reviewed Road Applications and Road Projects for communities.



State Transportation Commission—2011 Schedule:

- September 15 (Las Cruces)
- October 20 (Clayton)
- November 17 (Fort Sumner,)

Our Commissioners:

Butch Matthews.

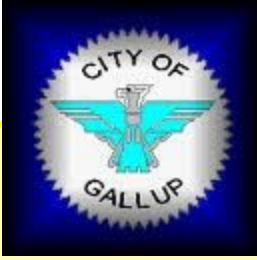
District 5 is the President and CEO of M&R Trucking Company in Farmington. He is also a board member of the New Mexico Carrier’s Association.



Jackson Gibson,

District 6 is the president of J.G. & Associates in Thoreau. He was first appointed to the Transportation Commission in 2008.





The City of Gallup becomes a 'Certified Community'

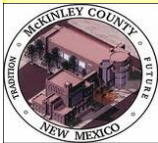
The New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD) presented the city of Gallup with Certified Communities Initiative (CCI) designation during the New Mexico Rural Alliance's Rural Economic Development Forum in Gallup. NMEDD Deputy Secretary Barbara Brazil presented the certificate to Mayor Jackie McKinney.

"Gallup is in a good position to create jobs at the community level," said Secretary-designate of Economic Development Jon Barela. "This designation has many benefits and will help encourage economic growth in the area"

The Certified Community Initiative was formed in 2003 to encourage and support New Mexico communities in their efforts to create new jobs. The initiative emphasized the importance of recruitment, retention and expansion and start up activities. CCI communities may can be municipalities, counties, federally recognized Indian Tribes and unincorporated municipalities. Communities are required to recertify every three years.

CCI communities receive \$4,000 per year for two years for special projects such as; work-force studies, grant writers, training expenses and economic development impact studies.

Other notable communities to receive CCI designation include Cibola County, City of Aztec, City of Bloomfield, City of Farmington, McKinley County and San Juan County.



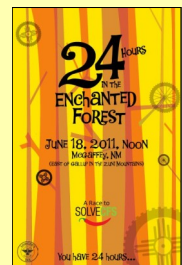
Zuni Mountain Trails Partnership:

Hilso Trailhead Dedication & RAC Proposals for McKinley & Cibola



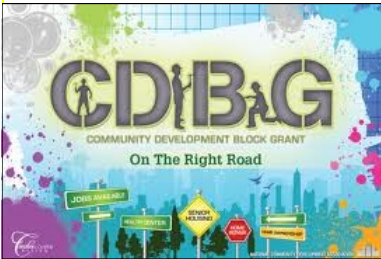
The Council of Governments has been helping lead the Zuni Mountains Trail Partnership between Cibola and McKinley counties as regional economic development strategy. Recent highlights include:

- In November 2010, McKinley County joins with Cibola County to submit a grant to Northern NM Resource Advisory Committee for \$150,000 of Secure Rural Schools-Title II monies to provide for NEPA services needed on the proposed trail system. Funding was awarded and McKinley County will be awarding a contract this May and work will move from west to east.
- **May 23 – May 25** – ZMTP and its partners have contracted with International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Trail Solutions to provide community training and review of on-the-ground routes on the eastern side of the Zuni Mountains. A report is available of IMBA recommendations.
- **June 4 – Hilso Trailhead & McGaffey Trails Dedication hosted 110 people and a celebration of the past achievements and kick-off to next level.**
 - The Hilso Trailhead/McGaffey Trails Dedication Event was the culmination of years of hard work and a celebration of a collective effort that resulted in this major achievement. So the event had Matthew Reidy, District Ranger as our Master of Ceremonies (MC) who will discuss the events leading up to this special day and give thanks and recognition to the collective and individual efforts that made it happen. The symbolic result of the a ribbon-cutting ceremony – declaring and dedicating this trailhead and these trails for public enjoyment and use.
 - The second part of the agenda was to publicly launch a new phase of the ZMTP and fortify community involvement and support for the months and years ahead. Matt Reidy explained what the ZMTP Master Trails Plan is all about, where it's at in draft form, and how input needs to flow. He also announced that the USFS desires to continue the ZMTP and add more milestones and strategic partners including Cibola County and Future Foundations/Grants YCC to extend work and focus to the whole mountain range. There was a signing ceremony of the ZMTP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- **June 2011:**
 - Northern Area Resource Advisory Committee awarded another proposal for \$44,221 for NEPA work and to provide funding for the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to perform trail maintenance;
 - The 2nd Annual "24 Hours in the Enchanted Forest" was held in McGaffey area. This event is New Mexico's first and only 24 hour mountain bike race. It drew 350 participants, plus spectators. **Video:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDMr2ChSYWg&feature=related>
- **August 2011:**
 - AGB finalizing Adventure Guides and MapGuides to promote assets, including the Zuni Mountains to the Four Corners and Southwestern markets.
 - Tom Mayer, Abundant Adventures, finalizes east side mountain trailheads and trail corridors.
 - COG finalizes third RAC application for Cibola County (\$75,000) for NEPA services;



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

A key source of funding for community infrastructure projects



The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), funded by the US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by the NM Local Government Division-Community Development Bureau is a key regional partner for member governments in northwest New Mexico providing millions of dollars in construction and planning funds to address critical infrastructure needs.

Under the tutelage of Senior Planner Evan Williams, the COG planning team (Associate Planners Michael Sage and Bob Kuipers) has established a strong track record in navigating the CDBG funding cycle. With a greater understanding of the CDBG program, and with the local member government leadership, CDBG applications produced by COG are competing favorably in the statewide competition.

Since 2010, CDBG construction applications produced by COG have resulted in over \$2 million (\$2,298,500) in much needed funding for our local member governments.

CDBG CONSTRUCTION CYCLE—2012

- Threshold Compliance (Dec. 16, 2011)
- LMI Surveys Due (Dec. 30, 2011)
- **APPLICATION DEADLINE (Jan. 16, 2012)**
- Application review completed (Mar. 16, 2012)

CDBG PLANNING GRANTS—2012

For 2011, LGD has allocated \$500,000 for CDBG planning grants. This represents a significant reduction from 2010 when \$1.3 million was allocated. CDBG planning grants are limited to \$50,000. Planning grant applications are accepted year-round.

ELMER CHAVEZ

District 1 Representative
(Term Exp. 1/1/2013)
NM Community
Development Council

Serving San Juan, McKinley,
and Cibola counties



CDBG Updates—Reuse of an Environmental Review:

DFA/LGD has concluded that it will accept an ER that is not older than five (5) years, with the following conditions:

1. In order to request the use of an existing ER, the application submitted must be for the same project area.
2. There has been no significant change in the area within the last five years.
3. If the project direct or indirectly affects a listed or eligible for listing historic property that is more than 45 years old, or it is affected within a listed historic district, then the 5-year ER allowance will not apply.
4. There has been no affect to the laws and authorities conducted by the initial ER that would initiate correspondence with the appropriate regulatory agency and a response from the agency.
5. The date DFA/LGD signed the 'authority to use grant funds' is the last date of the five years.
6. The ER has met all DFA/LGD requirements of a complete ER as referenced in the CDBG Implementation Manual.

Cibola County	2010	\$500,000	Seboyeta Wastewater Lagoons
City of Gallup	2010	\$375,000	Sky City—Phase II
City of Grants	2010	\$445,000	Johnson St -Street & Drainage Improvements
McKinley County	2010	\$450,000	Thoreau WSD—Wastewater Improvements
Village of Milan	2010	\$200,000	Complete Multi-Purpose Center
San Juan County	2011	\$328,500	Renovate Bloomfield Public Health Office



Bloomfield Public Health Office to be expanded with CDBG funds

The expansion of the Bloomfield Public Health Office, San Juan County's 2011 CDBG construction application, on April 2011 was awarded \$328,500 in CDBG funds.

The 1,306 sq. ft. expansion will add 2 exams rooms, 5 offices, and a conference/training center; and, will help to address the increased demand for public health care across San Juan County.

Since its construction in 1998, the number of clients receiving care at the clinic has more than doubled.

San Juan County's application represented the sole submission of eligible entities from northwest New Mexico.

San Juan County will contribute \$32,850 in cash for a required 10% match. Mike Stark, San Juan County, will serve as Project Manager.



NM Rural Economic Forum *(continued)*

"...enabling communities to plant seeds of innovation and entrepreneurship"

[Continued from Page 1]

Furthermore, Day 2 of the Forum offered support to entrepreneurs by convening a technical assistance workshop with participation by USDA, WESST, SBA, ACCION, and NM Community Capital.

The New Mexico Association of Regional Councils (NewMARC) held a lunch and meeting prior to the Forum kickoff. The NewMARC agenda included presentations from NM Local Government Division as well as updates from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO).

The 2011 NM Rural Economic Development Forum culminated with a guided tour of successful economic projects around the city of Grants including CD Squared Enterprises Green, the Church Rock Industrial Park, and Church Rock Business Incubator and Church Rock Warehouse & Production site.

The NM Rural Alliance is currently accepting applications from communities interested in hosting the 2012 NM Rural Economic Development Forum.



Hubert Quintana, NewMARC President, and Executive Director, Southern NM Economic Development District.

Milan ECO wrapping up Phase II

ECO Project weatherizes over 90 homes and 10 businesses in Milan.

Phase I of the Milan ECO Project succeeded in weatherizing approximately 55 homes and 10 business in the Village of Milan.

With the success of the initial phase, Phase II of the project was launched with the intent of weatherizing an additional 40 homes in northern Milan.

In addition to weatherization ser-

vices, over 40 homes received an 'ECO pack' consisting of power strips, CFL light bulbs, and weatherization materials on best practices—all intended to further decrease energy consumption.

COG and Green Horizon will now monitor 10 homes to gauge effectiveness of weatherization services. A special thanks to all local partners and leaders including the Village of Milan, Tohatchi Area Opportunity Services (TAOS), Continental Divide Electric Coop, and Diamond G Hardware Store.



Ken Hughes, NM EMNRD; Jeff Kiely, NWNMCOG; Jason Jones, Green Horizon; Marcella Sandoval, Milan; Mac

TAOS a Key Partner in Milan ECO Success

Without the unwavering support of Patrick Keptner and the Tohatchi Area Opportunity and Services (TAOS) organization, the Milan ECO Project would not be as successful as it was.

Chad Ballew and Gary Gerrard with (TAOS) provided by the majority of the labor required to successfully weatherize over 90 residential and 10 commercial structure.

Along with providing the bulk of labor, the TAOS organization was an active member of the Milan ECO Project Leadership Team (PLT) providing valuable updates to local residents, village and elected officials on project updates including completed weatherization.

On behalf of the Milan ECO project, NWNMCOG would like to extend a sincere gratitude of thanks to the TAOS organization

for their participation and professionalism.

TAOS is a non-profit organization located in Tohatchi, NM. Originally founded as a School For Me in 1975 and later renamed as Tohatchi Special Education & Training Center, Inc. (TSETC). In October 2000, TSETC changed its name to TAOS to reflect the new direction of the organization which was significant in the organizational attitude and community approach.

Program Contact:

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PO Box 49
Tohatchi, NM 87325
Ph: (505)733-2027
patkeptner@yahoo.com



Chad Ballew (TAOS) and Gary Gerrard (TAOS) speak with Ken Hughes (EMNRD) on Milan ECO.



**NORTHWEST
NEW MEXICO
COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**

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“Advancing Northwest New Mexico
by serving local governments
through regional partnership,
since 1972.”

www.nwnmcog.com

The COG is now on the internet, and trying to make this a useful tool for members. Please contact us with advice on how to make it user-friendly & an interactive regional resource.

COG Calendar — Important Dates:

Meeting	Date	Time	Place
NM Legislature Special Session	Sept. 6	9 am	Santa Fe
NW RPO Tech Committee	Sept. 14	~	San Juan County
NM Rural Advisory Committee Presentations	Sept. 21	9 am	Albuquerque
CDBG Application Workshop	October 5-6	8 am	Las Cruces
NADO Annual Training Conference	October 7-12	8 am	Miami, FL
NW RPO Tech Committee	Oct. 12	~	TBD
NM Infrastructure Conference	Oct. 25-27	8 am	Albuquerque, NM
NBA NM Brownfields Workshop	Nov. 8	9 am	MRCOG - Albuquerque
NW RPO Tech Committee	Nov. 9	-	TBD

Notes from the Director

August 2011—Greetings, Northwest New Mexico!

The storms of recession and global change continue to rage around us. But for the time being, the COG “made it through” and we’re still standing. Our budget picture has improved, and our partnerships continue to grow stronger by the day.

I’ve had the honor to represent our region and the state as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and was just re-elected to my third term, serving there with my brother-in-crime, fellow COG Director Hubert Quintana of the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District. We’ve been able to stay abreast of developments (and devolutions) in Washington, and at the national level, the COGs are standing strong. Leaders from both sides of the aisle are able to see the unique values of regionalism: efficiency of scale; cooperative efforts; cross-disciplinary initiatives; and regional leadership that makes a difference.

Now, if we can just get a bite on the line! We’re currently managing over 30 separate funding streams into the COG organization – most of them fairly small, and some of them highly restrictive to specific purposes. For example, we continue to administer a 3-year, \$1 million stimulus grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct environmental assessments on contaminated “brownfields” properties that can be cleaned up and then used for economic development. This past year, we spent down

less than one-tenth of the overall budget, but we built up a strong program of identified properties, and this year we’ll be putting our four scientific services contractors to work big-time on getting them assessed at the Phase 1 and (in some cases) the Phase 2 level.

This year we hope that some of our strategic partnerships with state and federal agencies will begin to yield fruit in the form of added resources into the COG organization – so that we can continue and expand our regional planning and technical assistance role at the nexus of the development work. We are excited by recent discussions with Terry Brunner, Liz Kistin and Evert Odham of USDA-Rural Development in New Mexico, as well as with the Governor’s office, the Economic Development Department, the Tourism Department, and as always, the Department of Finance & Administration. In particular, it’s a delight having Sam Ojinaga back in the saddle. He was hospitalized for quite awhile this past winter, and he’s now serving very capably as acting Director of the Local Government Division. Welcome back, Sam!

It’s also been good see our friend Mark Lautman around the neighborhood. He did some of his first economic development work in good ol’ Grants, New Mexico back in the day, and has become one of the foremost economic developers in the Southwest. He’s lending a seasoned voice to the conversation, and a strong shoulder to the work, in each of our three county areas.

I’m hoping to be able to staff up a little this Fall, to provide some relief and assistance to the hard-working “heart of the batting order” here at the COG: Senior Planner Evan Williams; and Planners Michael Sage and Bob Kuipers. This should enable us to keep our current momentum of work, while deepening and widening what we’re able to do. Our member governments are standing strong with us – led by long-time COG champions McKinley County and Gallup.

Look for a couple of things coming up, which we encourage your participation in: the annual New Mexico Infrastructure Finance Conference, being held in Isleta on October 25th to 27th; and a special statewide “sustainable communities” training being co-sponsored by your COG and our 6 fellow COGs throughout the State on November 8th, being delivered by the National Brownfields Association at the big conference room at Mid-Region COG in downtown Albuquerque.

To all of our friends and partners, thanks for sticking by us and for turning to us when you’ve needed us – and vice versa! We’re looking forward to rounding out a very productive summer and building up a head of steam into the Fall.

Your brother in the work,

Jeff

Jeff Kiely,
Executive Director

