



# ...CONNECTING THE DOTS...

## NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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

Staff Summary Report: **November 1, 2009 — June 22, 2010**  
 Produced by: **The Staff of the Council of Governments**

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- City of Aztec
- City of Bloomfield
- City of Farmington
- City of Gallup
- City of Grants
- Village of Milan

Affiliates

- Northwest New Mexico Regional Solid Waste Authority

## “O Captain, My Captain: Her 25 Year Legacy”

The COG staff wanted to use a portion of this publication to reflect on the career of its fearless leader and Executive Director Patty Lundstrom. For 25 years, Patty Lundstrom provided regional leadership through her hard work that resulted in our combined competitiveness, strategic infrastructure improvements, and national recognition.

In August 2007, Ms. Lundstrom was given the honor of being the keynote speaker at our National Association of Developing Organizations (NADO) Conference to present the future of COG’s—using our region’s experience. She described a larger collaborative of entities in region working together to build a strong economy and bring prosperity to all citizens. She envisioned an expanded partnership with COG’s acting as the super-connector facilitating the regional conversations not only amongst our current member governments, but working cooperatively with the tribes, colleges, hospitals, private

sector businesses, and other non-profit and civic organizations to foster real competitiveness and systemic changes. Putting COG at the center to create the linkages to align our CEDS planning and economic development targets with workforce training programs and with relevant education, which would position our region to compete globally and provide jobs to keep our local people local.

In her vision, she talked about the COGs bridging the gaps between funding “silos” to build complete projects and providing interdisciplinary planning processes to create sustainable and liveable communities that everyone would want to live, work, visit, play, and retire. She also believed that the Four Corners region would be crucial for Northwest NM’s future success. Linking all four COGs into a Four Corners Commission modeled after Mississippi Delta Region or Appalachian Regional Commis-

sion to receive and utilize Federal investments for strategic projects and promote programs built on best practices and local applicability.

To understand the inspiration of Patty’s vision—we need to understand the COGs history. She described four major transitions in COGs development in her career:

1. **MACOG ERA** —the COG begun (circa 1972) as a planning district that served Gallup, McKinley County, Zuni, Navajo, and Gallup-McKinley Board of Education (D-1). Shortly after Ms. Lundstrom graduated for NMSU, she was put in charge of the McKinley Area Council of Governments. Under her direction with assistance from Chairman Doc Livingston, she solicited new members from Cibola and San Juan counties. After years of hard work and tenacity, she made the COG whole with membership from all incorporated counties and municipalities. *(continued on PG2)*

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## CDBG: “Securing Strategic Investments in NWNM”

The Northwest NM Council of Governments staff worked on several applications to the Community Development Council to secure the US Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) “Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)” funding.

The COG staff prepared applications on behalf of five projects—all of which were funded by the Council. Special thanks to Elmer Chaves, our regional representative on the Council, who helped advocate for our projects and secure needed funding. We also learned a valuable lesson in submitting phased project amounts for our projects.

The COG would like to thank Michael

**CDBG Awards:**

- **Cibola County—Seboyeta’s Wastewater System:** \$500,000
- **City of Grants– Johnson Street Improvements:** \$445,000
- **Village of Milan-Multi-purpose Center Project:** \$200,000
- **McKinley County– Thoreau Wastewater Project:** \$450,000
- **City of Gallup—Phase II Sky City Improvements:** \$375,000



The Village of Milan and Elmer Chavez celebrate together after award of funding.

Sage, Bob Kuipers, and Evan Williams for their hard work in getting the job done this CDBG season. Let us know how we can help in getting the money into the ground and monitoring the CDBG requirements for these projects.

...Thanks for Your Legacy...

The current and past COG staff members wanted to say thank you and share in the highlights of your impressive and significant career as the COG's Executive Director. We look to your continued leadership in the region as a State Legislator.

Current Staff includes:

- Jeff Kiely
- Evan Williams
- Michael Sage
- Robert Kuipers
- Clancy Donnelly
- Bebe Sarmiento
- Theresa Lee
- Teresa Mecale
- Martina Whitmore



#### THE NEXT ERA:

The COG Board has named Jeffrey Kiely, the Interim Executive Director of the COG, and the team has come together during a period being coined nationally as our Great Recession. Financial constraints are being felt throughout the region and nation, but in this chaos the COG enters a new ERA of re-invention, re-definition, and positioning our organization to be a regional leader and meet the challenge of becoming the COG of the future that Ms. Lundstrom described in her 2007 NADO address.

## O Captain, My Captain (*continued*) —“25 Years...”

(continued from Page 1)

2. **FIGHTING BACK ERA**—In the early 90s, the COG took the lead in the fight against alcohol abuse. The NWNM Fighting Back program worked to reduce the demand for alcohol and other drugs in the three-county area, a 15,000 sq mile region with large Native American population. In 1990, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism recorded that McKinley County had the highest composite index of alcohol-related problems of all 3, 106 counties in the US. The COG's leadership on this issue resulted in Robert Wood Johnson Foundation investing \$4,569,033 to support this project between 1990-1997, development of NCI detox treatment center in Gallup, 10 local Fighting Back Associations, trained 8 community organizers, closing of drive-up package stores, a united walk on the Capitol, special local-option DWI Liquor Excise Tax, and a spiritually-based healing and training program. Under this unique project, Ms. Lundstrom was able to recruit a young man by the name of Jeff Kiely, who added new spirit and capacities to the work of the COG.

3. **CDC ERA**—In the late 90's, the COG received several reports on the region's extreme asset inequity and overall poverty of our region. A report provided by the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) become the centerpiece for the development of the NWNM Community Development Corporation (CDC). The COG again took innovation to the next level by creating a sister agency, non-profit organization that could implement COG's planning work and offer client-driven services. The CDC was successful in gaining the attention and investment from private foundations, State, and Federal sources.

The CDC developed tools to address asset inequity, access to capital issues, and develop micro-enterprises. These non-traditional

tools included the Enterprise Loan Fund, Artisan Micro-enterprise Loan Fund, USFS Loan Fund, the State's first "Individual Development Account" (IDA) program, Financial Literacy classes, Asset-specific Education classes, unique partnerships with other providers, and business technical assistance. Under the COG's structure this organization and its programs were successful, but after being spun-out it lost momentum.

4. **LEGISLATIVE ERA**—In 2000, the COG Board made the decision to allow Ms. Lundstrom to run for the House of Representatives. After winning her seat, the COG gained a new core competency in advancing our work and gaining a new insight on accessing the State Legislative process. This new dual relationship helped advance projects, policies, and programs for our region. The COG staff was invited to participate on several Statewide Task Forces to tackle major regional issues including Payday Lending, Individual Development Accounts, Uranium Legacy Cleanup, Native Arts Authenticity, Sustainable Transportation funding, etc.

After 25 years at the rein of the Northwest NM Council of Governments, Patty Lundstrom resigned her post as Executive Director effective March 2010. A casualty of the Hatch Act, Ms. Lundstrom opted to remain a NM State Legislator and on June 8th was resoundingly re-elected by her constituency. In her last address to the COG Board of Directors, Ms. Lundstrom issued the following statement: "there is not a day I haven't enjoyed nor a day that I haven't looked forward to" being your Executive Director. Ms. Lundstrom leaves behind a massive legacy and list of accomplishments, which have led to the NWNMCOG becoming one of the nation's most influential and dy-

namic organizations. During her tenure at the COG, she was instrumental in many strategic initiatives including:

**Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project:** chairing the Steering Committee for the last 17 years, testifying and gaining Congressional project authorization, and garnering millions of State dollars to provide the local match for this pivotal project.

**Fighting Back**—COG's unique leadership in this healthy communities approach to combat alcohol abuse in NWNM, which is continued today in the Farmington Public Inebriate Response Taskforce.

**NWNM Community Development Corporation:** working to reduce the divide between the asset rich and asset poor in NWNM by developing the CDC, creating financial literacy programs, developing innovative tools like IDAs, and regulating the payday loan industry.

**Environmental Programs:** addressing environmental concerns by securing one of only ten EPA grants in the nation to develop the NWNM "Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)" program, worked to develop strategies to gain National attention and fund uranium legacy site cleanup, and being the first ever \$1M EPA Brownfields investment in the country.

**Trail of the Ancients-NM:** getting the State to dedicate a scenic byway that encompassed the majority of region that could act as a backbone for tourism. Also, in tourism expansion—she spearheaded the Adventure Gallup & Beyond initiative to market regional outdoor assets as a premier destination.

## COG Partners with Native American communities in EDA's "NAEDIS" project: Native American Economic Development Investment Strategy



NAEDIS Timeframe: May 1, 2008 – April 30, 2010

### ORIGINS

NAEDIS originated as a concept resulting from consultations with EDA-Austin Regional Director Pedro Garza regarding economic development in 'Indian Country'. EDA Regional staff has encountered unique obstacles and difficulties in trying to work with tribal agencies on EDA project development and funding.

The COG Executive and Deputy Directors explored with Mr. Garza the possibility of a special collaborative planning project, whereby the Northwest New Mexico COG would serve as a planning partner, technical assistant and liaison to EDA and other investment resources. The idea would be to assist tribal economic development agencies to identify and prioritize economic development projects, help bring those projects to "investability" status, assemble them in a financing portfolio, and submit them to EDA and partnering funders for potential investment.

At length, the EDA Austin Regional Office approved the application and awarded \$100,000 effective May 2008 through April 2009, for which the COG committed a \$33,333 match, resulting in a total project budget of \$133,333 (i.e., reflecting a 75/25 split of grant to matching dollars).

In parallel with the special EDA grant, Executive Director Lundstrom facilitated the passage of matching legislative grants totaling \$61,000 to add resources to the project, i.e., nearly double the matching funds required by the grant.

One component of the legislative grant was intended to focus on a labor study process, based on a model relating labor capacities to market projections, as proposed by well-known New Mexico economic developer Mark Lautman.

The Economic Development Office of the City of Santa Fe likewise sought to pilot such a labor study, to include hiring of a professional demographer with specific expertise in market-related labor data analysis and a potential partnership between the Northwest COG and Santa Fe in the design and implementation of such a study. The COG would take the lead on working with tribal representatives to customize survey and data analysis needs and processes for the tribal communities. Unfortunately, Santa Fé opted to invest in alternative strategies and this partnership didn't materialize.

As an alternative to the partnership with Santa Fé, the COG forged its own relationship with the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions and New Mexico TechNet to locally implement ACT-certified "WorkKeys" skills testing in partnering communities, to serve as a basis for community-wide assessment of workforce capacities while providing immediate data feedback to the test-takers and, in aggregate, to their community leaders.

### STATUS

**Staffing.** As the project evolved, primary responsibility for project implementation was assigned to existing COG planning staff, with minor amounts reserved for local consultants for integration into the broader regional plan (CEDS, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy). Although the project was substantially matched by over \$60,000 in State legislative appropriations, there was still insufficient budget to commit personnel full-time to the initiative.

**Tribal Partnerships.** Consultation was initiated and sustained with elected and staff leadership at the Pueblo of Laguna and Pueblo of Acoma (lying mostly in Cibola County), the Pueblo of Zuni (in McKinley County), and Navajo Nation agencies including three "Local Governance-certified" Chapter governments of the Navajo Nation (Baahaali, Sheepsprings and Newcomb), the Navajo Nation's Regional Business Development Offices (RBDOS) in Gallup and Shiprock, and the Pueblo of Jemez.

**External Partnerships.** The COG assembled a wide-ranging network of external agencies as active and/or potential partners in the NAEDIS initiative, including the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, New Mexico Creates, New Mexico Museum Foundation, New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, New Mexico TechNet, New Mexico Economic Development Department, New Mexico Community Capital, Impact New Mexico (enterprise facilitation), the Governor-appointed Native American Arts Authenticity Task Force, the New Mexico State Legislature, the Global Center for Cultural Entrepreneurship, the Corporation for Enterprise Development, Oweesta, the Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial Association, Chuska Regional Development Corporation, and the Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway Association.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(1) Working relationships were established with the numerous tribal and external partners in the NAEDIS initiative. The strength and productivity of these relationships vary across the spectrum, from preliminary/tentative consultations to full-blown partnerships in identifying, developing and financing projects. This partnership network, still in its early stages of development, was not fully tapped, awaiting the relationship-building phases of the project, but it provides a good foundation for moving forward in future phases of NAEDIS.

Of particular note was the partnership with New Mexico TechNet, which is the private entity on contract with the State's Labor department ("Department of Workforce Solutions) and certified by ACT to administer the WorkKeys testing program.

(2) A preliminary portfolio of tribal projects was assembled. These, too, are in varying stages of maturity and "investability," with most of the projects in a developmental stage ranging from "Grade E" (an idea, not yet developed into a full project concept) to "Grade A" (fully developed, vetted, partially financed, and investable).

The "Acoma Steel" project was prepared and submitted to EDA in the form of a public works funding application, but the application was rejected. This project nevertheless represents one of the strongest entries in the NAEDIS portfolio, and its investability will continue to be worked on.

The "Laguna Mesita Facility" project is rapidly maturing into "investable project" stage, and it is the centerpiece of Regional Director Garza's site visit to Cibola County on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010.



### PROSPECT

The Northwest New Mexico COG is ready for "Phase II" of the Native American Economic Development Investment Strategy (NAEDIS) initiative. In many key respects, "it's only just begun," and there is a strong foundation for building on the lessons learned, the relationships established, the projects identified and the planning processes refined during NAEDIS-I.

(continued on Page 8: Regional EDA Director visits Region)



# City of BLOOMFIELD New Mexico

## Bloomfield: Moving in the Right Direction

- **3rd Street Project**
- **Total investment:**  
\$700,000.00
- **Sources:**  
CDBG/ARRA: \$500,000  
State CO funding: \$200,000
- Project will benefit a low-to-moderate income community in Bloomfield, NM, and potentially develop a Safe Route to School pilot here.

The COG began working on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street at a possible CDBG project in 2008 by partnering with the City of Bloomfield to do a door-to-door income survey to ensure that the project area met the low- to moderate-income requirement. As a result of this work, the City was able to submit a CDBG application and received \$500,000 in ARRA/CDBG money. Additionally, because this money needed a match, the City was able to keep a \$200,000 capital outlay appropriation from the state.

Construction began on this project in March and includes new water and sewer lines, curb, gutter, sidewalks and road reconstruction. The project should be completed

by the end of September. This project also presents a great opportunity to partner with the Bloomfield School District and the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization to begin a Safe Routes to School Program here. The pilot school is Central Elementary and our Kick-off meeting is June 30.

### Looking Forward:

- **Construction Started:**  
March 2010
- **Scheduled to Complete:**  
September 2010
- **Safe Route to School Meeting:** June 30, 2010



## The Wheels on the Bus Go.... "Connecting the Scenic Byway to Real Dollars"

### Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway News

The COG RPO Planner is a member of the Trail of the Ancients (TOTA) Scenic Byway Association. Historically, the COG led this byway project including development of a corridor management plan, and application for federal designation, to create a national four-corners TOTA byway corridor with participating states Arizona, Colorado, and Utah (Colorado and Utah are already certified as national byway corridors).

The Association held meetings March 1 in Laguna and June 8 in Farmington during the past six months. The RPO Planner submitted a \$50,000 marketing proposal in March for 2010 funding to develop signage, a website, and brochures.

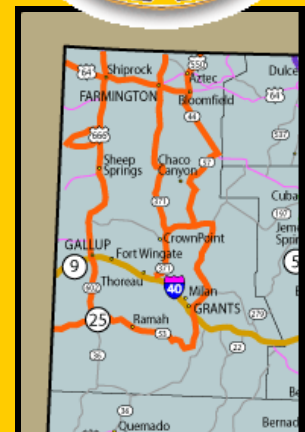
The RPO Planner and the TOTA Association President presented the proposal to the N.M. Scenic Byway Council on April 12, and of 14 applications submitted statewide, five were forwarded to the FWA National Byway Administration for funding consideration, including our proposal.

At the June 8 TOTA Association meeting we learned from our Colorado constituents, that they have gained approval from National Geographic magazine to conduct a Geo-Tourism Map Guide project for the four corners region.

This Geo-Tourism project promotes a more holistic experience of local culture – to allow visitors to experience a region at a much deeper level; it maps out places of interest, events, amenities, and includes a website supported and promoted by National Geographic.

Our Colorado partners have already secured \$100K in matching support from the Albuquerque B.L.M. office. This project will likely have a **very significant impact upon increasing international tourism to our region**, and we are excited to participate in it.

There will be a meeting with Nat-Geo. Magazine staff and representatives from the four states in Cortez, Colorado on July 14 – 15. It is interesting how tourism opportunities on many fronts are coming together on behalf of our region including archeological, cultural, historical, scenic, recreational (*incl. adventure tourism & trails*), event, and artistic attractions – all with a common theme of **authenticity**; a theme the international community is interested in, and the Geo-Tourism mapping will promote.



For more info on Geo Tourism – check out:

[http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/sustainable/pdf/geotourism\\_mapguide.pdf](http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/sustainable/pdf/geotourism_mapguide.pdf)

## McKinley EPA CARE Level II Grant: Na'nizhozhi Waste Stream Reduction Project



Within the COG's environmental planning mission [triggered by its two-year CARE grant from EPA], COG executive and planning staff continues to take on the "macro" issues of the region, including (a) serving as liaison and coordinator for Brownfields assessment and mitigation funding for redevelopment sites in the region, (b) uranium mining legacy and prospective resumption, and (c) working out new collaborative strategies to balance "Energy, Economy and the Environment" in the San Juan Basin.

In January, EPA informed the COG and its partners that our CARE level 2 grant application was awarded funding of \$288,898. COG staff provided grantwriting and TA for the development of the CARE II waste stream reduction project for McKinley County. This project includes components for recycling, renewable energy projects, and green technology projects that contribute toward waste stream reduction.

The fiscal agent for CARE Level II is Connections, Inc. (led by Larry Winn, the Executive Director),

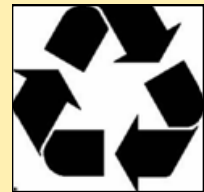
This announcement coincides well with the development and Earth Day grand opening of the new McKinley County Recycling Center at the Solid Waste Authority transfer station off Hasler Valley Road in Gallup, NM.

An emphasis in this CARE II project, is to leverage the opportunity for small towns and rural counties to successfully participate in recycling and environmental stewardship and to become a model that can be replicated elsewhere. In this regard part of this project includes development of an Environmental Advocacy Center, that will provide staff supported research toward developing sustainable waste stream reduction initiatives (recycling, alternative energy, green technology), allowing our small communities and rural populations to participate in environmental stewardship economic opportunities.

An attachment entitled "CARE II News" can be provided for more detail on this achievement and the CARE level II project.

Another interesting development related to the CARE Level II program, is the interest expressed by the C&D Squared Home Manufacturing company, setting up a facility in the Gallup area to make use of and provide room for a bio-diesel production facility that would power their equipment. This manufacturing company alone could easily consume all the fuel we could produce from current waste oil streams available in the Gallup area, if bio-fuel production was expanded, we could potentially sell it outside our immediate region. The development of this bio fuel production opportunity, along with the Recycling Center, already meets two of the objectives cited in our CARE level II proposal.

Connections, Inc. / CARE Level II  
Larry Winn, Executive Director  
Connections, inc.  
(505) 863-3377



## NWNM Brownfields Update: RFP for Environmental Assessment RFP Process Closed

The COG received \$1M for the NWNM Brownfields Coalition to perform environmental assessments on contaminated and/or underutilized properties for the purpose of reuse for economic, housing, and/or greenspace development. The COG finished its RFP process in May

2010—vetting five competitive firms for assessment and cleanup planning services. The COG has chosen to contract with the top 3 firms. The COG Board will review and approve these contracts triggering the start of this program.

If you have any sites that you would like to submit potential sites and/or need more information—

please contact:  
Project Manager:  
Evan Williams at  
(505) 722-4327





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

### Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

*McKinley County received \$299,600 from the Department of Energy "Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant" program and has contracted with the COG to create a comprehensive energy plan, coordinate activities, and create and implement an audit and retrofit program for all County facilities. The COG has just recently contracted with a local firm, Green Horizon, to coordinate services and overall program requirements.*



### SPOTLIGHT ON NWNM Regional Solid Waste Authority.

The Solid Waste Authority has joined the COG as an affiliate member. COG assisted with the following activities:

- Finalized a comprehensive Recycling Plan;
- Supported the creation of regional recycling drop-off centers in Gallup and Milan with opening ceremony on Earth Day.
- Applied for \$350,000 for a tire shredder;
- Worked to save a Legislative appropriation for \$179,000.
- Currently, working on an EPA application for a vertical baler and other infrastructure to support a hub & spoke recycling program at Thoreau, NM

## COG Starts Energy Efficiency Program

The Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (COG) has entered into a new period of innovation and reinvention. To that end, the COG has partnered with McKinley County to create additional capacity to support governmental energy efficiency planning, facility audits, and retrofitting programs. The work is supported by ARRA/Stimulus funding under the US Department of Energy's "Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant" program.

The COG recently contracted with Jason Jones, Principal of Green Horizon, LLC, a locally-based energy innovation and efficiency company that will serve as the COG's quality assurance and program manager for Energy Efficiency Services, which will initially include serving as

McKinley County's "Green Team" leader and coordinator of the County's Audit & Retrofit Program on nearly 40 governmental facilities. The COG and Green Horizon are working to finalize a request-for-qualifications (RFQ) to attract a turn-key energy efficiency company to perform audits and recommend zero-cost retrofits for facilities.

In the spirit of regionalization and creating economies-of-scale for regional initiatives, the COG is looking to utilize Jason's expertise as broadly and effectively as possible. In this vein, we would be amenable to adding other facilities to our audit list, if other agencies would like to join the initiative and contribute funding to the project.

Under such contracts, the COG and its contractor would be responsible on your

behalf for the RFQ procurement process, organizing site visits, monitoring and reviewing audits and recommended retrofits, analysis of financial strategies, and retrofit installation. This would provide your organization with a quality audit and proper oversight of the entire process.

Please feel free to contact Jason Jones (505) 593-3744 or Evan Williams (505) 722-4327 regarding this opportunity.

#### Looking Forward:

- Finalizing request for qualifications for a turn-key energy efficiency services firm—July 2010
- Adding other governmental agencies, partners, and facilities to our list—August 2010
- Securing contractor, obtaining energy data, and launching program—September 2010

## PROFILE: Northwest NM Regional Solid Waste Authority

### Northwest New Mexico Regional Solid Waste Authority

The SWA joined the COG in May 2010 as an affiliate member. The SWA Board has contributed member dues in return for general services. The COG is excited about recruiting its first affiliate member. Work to date includes:

**Regional Recycling Facilities.** A major accomplishment of the SWA was the opening of regional drop-off recycling centers at the Gallup and Milan Transfer Stations on Earth Day—April 2010. COG staff helped support the planning and with markets for recyclables. Both counties held ceremonies and opening day festivities to kick-off their

availability and use. They are currently open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 8AM—4:30PM at 107 Hasler Valley Rd in Gallup and State Rd 568 in Milan. Materials collected are (1) clean aluminum cans; (2) common steel cans (labels removed); (3) corrugated cardboard; (4) office paper (minus glue, staples, etc.) (5) newspapers (6) magazines (7) phone books (8) most E-waste (some limitations)

**Hub & Spoke.** The SWA is working with NM Recycling Coalition and other partners to develop and expand the recycling program to involve a hub & spoke concept to allow for storage, separation, and better baling equipment at the Red Rocks landfill.

**Executive Director:**  
Billy Moore

**Members:**  
Village of Milan:  
• Larry Carver, Chairman;

City of Grants:  
• Josie Blea, Member

City of Gallup:  
• Lance Allgood, Member  
• Jay Azua, Member

McKinley County:  
• Kit South, Member  
• Tom Trujillo, Vice-Chair

Cibola County:  
• Tony Gallegos

## Seboyeta Bridge ARRA Investment Spurs Wind Farm

Governor Bill Richardson and Congressman Harry Teague announced that \$250,000 in federal stimulus money will be used for infrastructure to help create jobs in Cibola County.

A bridge on County Road 1, which leads to the new wind farm coming to Cibola County which was washed out in 2007, can now be reconstructed properly with \$250,000 of federal stimulus money. The New Mexico Department of Transportation will use the money to install a 10-foot-wide culvert and a new bridge at a crossing Seboyeta, in northeast Cibola County.

'I have been applying everywhere, state, federal, every place I could think to try to get the money to fix the bridge', Edward Michael,

Chairman on the Cibola County Commission. 'Finally, I was able to meet with Patty Lundstrom in Farmington, she got me in contact with Congressman Harry Teague'.

'This investment is a great opportunity for Cibola County to create jobs and contribute to the clean-energy industry we're building for New Mexico', Richardson said in a prepared statement.

Teague said in a prepared statement, 'Cibola County will be able to welcome a wind energy project that will bring much needed new jobs to the area while helping to secure an energy independent future for America'.

NextEra, the parent company of the new wind farm coming into Cibola County is installing another bridge in Seboyeta at a cost of \$1 million, which is funded entirely on its own, Michael said.

Pre-construction work will begin this fall on NextEra Energy LLC's Red Mesa windfarm. The estimated \$215 million, 102.4-megawatt (MW) windfarm will be located in Cibola County, near Seboyeta.



## Red Mesa Wind Farm Cibola County, NM

### Highlights Include:

**Jobs: 120 construction jobs; 10 high-paying jobs during operation;**

**Investment: \$215 million;**

**Energy Produced: 102.4 megawatt**

**Date to Go Operational: 2011**

**Location: 5,000 private acres 60 miles north of Grants, NM**

## Zuni Mountains Trails Partnership—"Master Planning the Jewel of the Southwest"



The Zuni Mountain Trail Partnership proposes to create and implement a trails network for the Zuni

Mountains of the Cibola National Forest – that is supported and endorsed by the United States Forest Service, National Park Service, Zuni Pueblo and surrounding communities. Our goal is to create a non-motorized, multi-use system throughout the Zuni Mountains and beyond with potential connections to community trail systems in the Gallup, Grants, Milan, Breadsprings, Zuni, Fort Wingate, Bluewater, and Ramah areas, as well as, nationally prominent trail systems, trade routes, monuments, and parks, such as the historic Zuni-Acoma Trail, the Chain of Craters, the Hogbacks, McGaffey Lake, Ojo Redondo Campground, Quaking Aspen Trailhead and System, El Malpais National Monument, El Morro National Monument, Mount Taylor, Mount Sedgwick, and the Continental Divide Trail System.

This project has the potential of creating many miles of multi-use, singletrack trail. The Zuni Mountain Trail Partnership has begun to expand the membership and identify stakeholders in the region. Public input and grassroots participation will be vital to the development of a master plan that is suitable to all citizens. The ZMTP is currently working on a public participation plan that will be inclusive.

A draft Community Vision for recreation has been developed by the Partnership representatives:

The Zuni Mountains are a premier recreational destination with an integrated network of single track trails connected with trailheads that provide access. The Zuni Mountains offer riding experiences for the whole family for all levels of riders, from novice to extreme. Outfitters offer an array of services for recreational visitors from guided tours and full service resort facilities to primitive campsites which offer real solitude. Visitors depend on quality services from the surrounding gateway communities that have responded with increased recreation related businesses -- guide services, bike sales, repair and service, lodging, camping, and RV supplies.

The Zuni Mountain Trail Partnership coordinates volunteers and youth corps members for trails and forest health projects. Dedicated local, state, federal and grant funding supports these activities. This is being accomplished through a partnership of communities — Cibola and McKinley counties, state, tribal and federal governments, and affiliated interests who want to improve the quality of life and sustain the Zuni Mountains.

Some initial Goals of this project include:

- Creation of a multi-stakeholder partnership for the sustainable and environmental sound development and conservation, and restoration of the Zuni Mountains region.

- Development of a Zuni Mountains Master Plan with trail connections and linkages to surrounding communities to provide access to area assets in both Cibola and McKinley counties.
- Identification, inventory, and prioritization of sensitive areas and potential restoration projects throughout the project area. The Zuni Mountains Trail Partnership (ZMTP) estimates that at least three (3) restoration projects will be chosen as models for completion.
- Addressing tourism and economic development opportunities
- Supporting youth corps and other "green job" initiatives



### Looking Forward:

- The second of two kick-off meetings is scheduled for Thursday, June 24, 2010 at Future Foundations Family Center in Grants.
- To join the ZMTP email list and for more information go to:

<http://www.zunimountaintrailpartnership.com/>

## EDA Regional Director Pedro Garza Visits: Cibola County

On Cinco de Mayo 2010, the EDA Regional Director Pedro Garza, left the Gulf Coast oil spill and economic crisis to join COG staff on a tour and to receive several presentations in Cibola County, NM. The COG would like to recognize Associate Planner Michael Sage, for coordination of this special appearance and Bebe Sarmiento, Executive Secretary for her relentless follow through in getting "the man to the region".

COG staff meet with Mr. Garza on a list on talking points and key themes, including:

- **Economic Separation** – Vast economic disparities spanning high-income oil, gas, and power industry jobs and revenues, on the one hand, to a disproportionately large poverty sector, on the other.
- **Native American Presence** -- 50% of the land and population base are Native American, with tribal communities characterized by broad-scale poverty, matched only by their largely untapped potential for positive change and growth.
- **Balancing Energy, Economy & the Environment** – The challenge of rebalancing the equation involving energy, the economy, and

the environment, especially as highlighted by the substantial power production activity in San Juan County as well as historic and prospective mining activity in one of the nation's most prolific uranium mineral belts.

- **Workforce Development Capacities** – A large available workforce represented by pockets of high unemployment and a range of skill bases. Problems in educational attainment and related social issues tend to limit the skills of a sizable proportion of the available workforce, although the region's industrial history has produced an important workforce cohort with strong industrial skill sets.
- **Job Dislocation** – Job losses approaching 3,000, primarily from industrial sectors including mining, oil and gas production, energy generation, and defense-related manufacturing.
- **Green Economy/Alternative Energy** – A strong institutional capacity in both the public and private sectors, paired with a unique geographic advantage, which can help the region transform into becoming a major player in the nation's and region's green economy.



Meeting with EDA Regional Director Pedro Garza with COG, State, and Cibola County partners, leaders, and officials.

COG staff also facilitated several meetings to detail Cibola County projects including:

1. **Cibola County Hospital Office Expansion**
2. **Grants Learning & Resource Center**
3. **Pueblo of Laguna Mesita Facility Improvement Project.**

COG staff then toured Mr. Garza through Cibola County to showcase its resources, assets, and potential projects in the area. Mr. Garza left impressed of the community cohesion and leadership, as well as, the progress in the Native American Economic Development Investment Strategy (NAEDIS) program. He felt like the District had good potential in leveraging some EDA funding into projects presented. COG staff is continuing to finalize and help support the development of EDA applications for these projects.

## Quick Topics / Important Updates

### TIGER 2 (ARRA National Infrastructure Investment Program) Funds:

- Pre-application: June 15 – July 16 (pre-appl. must demonstrate appropriate availability of matching funds, and NEPA initiated) (available at [www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/TIGERII](http://www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/TIGERII))
- Application: July 30 – Aug. 23 (available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov))
- Announcement of awards: no sooner than Sept. 15
- \$600 million nationally as part of FY2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act (PL 111-117); \$140 million reserved for rural areas – minimum grant is \$1 million. Generally a 20% match, but rural areas may qualify for no match – however grants with matching \$ are more competitive.

**Sustainable / Livable Communities Initiative:** A multi agency approach to community development initiated collaboratively through the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Dept. of Housing & Urban Dev. (HUD), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in order to promote, more holistic – multi partner (agency) planning efforts, at the local government level. The concept is to utilize multi-agency approach to create liveable communities and advance "quality of place" economic development.

### Report on FHWA / BIA Functional Classification "Committee"

- Impetus for exploring functional classification is the disparity of funding opportunities available to Tribes for their road systems, as they do not qualify as adequate federal collectors.
- Working Group ("committee") may propose New Mexico as a pilot test for potential applications elsewhere in the nation, as attempting national change of these functional classification systems is unrealistic.
- Stronger collaboration between the FHWA and BIA-IRR systems will be necessary to accomplish piloting reclassification opportunities for rural and tribal communities in New Mexico – as both systems have different formulas for road construction.

### Sustainable Transportation Financing: House Memorial #9 Committee held their first meetings May 3 and 18:

- They are examining other models for generating transportation funding locally and regionally – particularly one from Salt Lake City, Utah.
- They are seeking to raise \$25K from the private sector to be matched by \$25K from NM-DOT, in order to implement a statewide survey through Research & Polling, Inc. to build awareness and gauge public support for transportation investment. They hope to finalize the survey in June, for implementation during the summer, so that the results can be available for the next legislative session.



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

[www.nwnmcog.com](http://www.nwnmcog.com)

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

**COG Calendar — Important Dates:**

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>
COG Board meeting	June 23	10AM	Gallup Cultural Center
COG Fiscal Year End	June 30		
4th of July—COG Closed	July 4		
NW RPO Meeting	July 14	10AM	Cibola County TBA
COG Joint/Executive Committee Meeting	July 28	TBA	Bloomfield
NW RPO Meeting	August 11	10AM	Acoma TBA
NADO Annual Training Conference	Aug 28-31		San Diego, CA
NMML Annual Conference	Sept 1-3		Taos
Labor Day—COG Closed	Sept 6th		
COG Annual Luncheon & Board Meeting	Sept 8th	10AM	Gallup
NWRPO Meeting	Sept 8th	10AM	Gallup,

**Notes from the Director**

**Advancing the COG Code**

In March 2010, our longtime COG Director, boss, and friend made her decision to continue her career as one of the most influential State Legislators to have ever walked the halls of the Roundhouse. Patty Lundstrom felt that her position, rank, and experience in the State Legislature could continue to make positive impacts for the citizens of her District and all of NWNM. Her entire career has been dedicated to that end, and we look forward to her continued support in providing planning and resources for the region.

The COG Board has showcased its support and faith in my work and leadership by naming me as the Interim Deputy Director. I have dedicated over 20 years to the COG or-

ganization, its mission, and to the region. I have always been excited by the COG’s potential to be the mechanism to advance the region through collaboration. I believe that the COG is entering a new era and facing new challenges to be relevant in our leadership of the region. I look forward to meeting these challenges with my team and the Board’s direction.

The COG team is as strong as I have every seen it with all staff wanting to work together, meet challenges, overcome obstacles, and forge ahead with value-added work for our region. The COG organization has always depended on its team of workers to “get the job done and done right”. I will continue to foster our team ap-

proach and will look to utilize all talents to the best of their potential.

At our first staff meeting after the transition—I laid out the Code of the COG as guiding principles for all of us moving forward:

1. Be loyal to the COG and Patty’s legacy;
2. Move our work from reactive to proactive;
3. Set common & individual goals;
4. Be tough on issues, not people;
5. Focus and manage work;
6. Think regional, act regional;

*~Jeff Kiely*



**Mr. Kiely mentors young protégé Charles Miller, COG intern**

**NOTE from the Editors:**

*Jeffrey Kiely has been in the region for over 30 years and raised his family mostly in Gallup, NM. He took over as interim Executive Director in March 2010 and has 15 years experience as the COG’s Deputy Director. Mr. Kiely is a NADO Board of Directors and brings an innovative approach to collaboration and moving the regional conversation.*