

Economic Development Council

Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2017 • 9:00 AM • Doubletree by Hilton • 1175 West Route 66 • Flagstaff , AZ

Attendees	Present/Absent	Number of Absences for 2017
Jodie Filardo, Chairman	Present	1
Paul Watson, Vice-Chairman	Present	0
Rich Bowen, Chair-At-Large	Present	1
Karalea Cox, Immediate Past Chair	Absent	3
Jesse Thompson, Appointed	Present	0

Guests: Casey Rooney, City of Cottonwood

Staff: Teri Drew, Regional Director
Julia Sawyer, Executive Assistant

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Jodie Filardo called the meeting to order at 8:58 am. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2017

Chairman Filardo asked for questions or comments on the minutes from February 2, 2017. Hearing none, she called for a motion to approve. **Richard Bowen made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2017, seconded by Jesse Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.**

III. Chairman's Report

➔ Membership Discussion

Chairman Filardo began her report with notice of 3 resignations to consider: John Rueter of the Town of Tusayan, Dr. Susan Johnstad of NAU, and Karalea Cox of Apache County, private sector and Past Chair of the Executive Committee. Regional Director Teri Drew mentioned that the Membership Committee has already reviewed the resignation of John Rueter, and were anticipating the resignation of Dr. Johnstad, but the resignation of Ms. Cox just came in this week. Chairman Filardo asked for a motion to accept these 3 resignations. Ms. Drew highlighted the reasons for the resignations upon the request of the Committee: Councilman Rueter has retired from the Town Council of Tusayan; Dr. Johnstad had been relocated to the Phoenix Area campus of NAU, and this has posed

difficulties in attending the meetings; and Ms. Cox has noted that her work obligations make it difficult for her to attend the meetings. **Supervisor Jesse Thompson moved to accept the resignations presented, seconded by Richard Bowen. The motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Filardo then noted that there are 2 membership renewal applications for consideration. Ms. Drew reported that the renewals that will be considered by the EDC are for Richard Bowen, At-Large member and member of the Executive Committee, and Becki Christensen, Apache County private sector. Ms. Drew pointed out that Ms. Christensen has opted to change her sector representation from Public as she is only representing the Springerville Chamber of Commerce on a limited basis, having taken leave for a time from her responsibilities at the Chamber.

Ms. Drew also reported that new membership considerations are Eric Duthie, a former member of the EDC, to replace John Rueter, At-Large member of the Town of Tusayan; and Michelle Conway, currently Vice-Chairman of the Tourism Committee and marketing director for the Sedona Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Drew noted that Ms. Conway has agreed to apply for a seat on the EDC in anticipation of the resignation of Dr. Johnstad, per the policy of the Executive Committee that the Chairman of the Tourism Committee must be a member of the EDC. As Vice-Chairman, she would then be able to rotate into the Chairman seat.

Ms. Drew noted that at times applicants will remain on a waiting list if they do not fit the criteria for an open seat, and so the application submitted by Molly Spangler last fall will continue to be held until a more applicable seat opens for her in either Coconino or Yavapai County. Ms. Drew stated that the membership considerations will be presented during the EDC meeting by the Chairman of the Membership Committee, Carol Curtis.

Ms. Drew also mentioned that the resignation of Ms. Cox opens up a seat on the Executive Committee. She mentioned that it may be done by appointment, or it is possible that Casey Rooney may be returned to the role of Immediate Past Chair. Ms. Drew noted that the Bylaws do not address a situation such as this. She suggested that the Chairman would have the authority to appoint someone to that seat. Chairman Filardo noted that her preference would be to fill the vacancy with someone from Apache County. Ms. Drew noted that it is preferable to have representation from all 4 counties, and with Ms. Cox's resignation, there is no longer representation for Apache County on the Executive Committee. She then noted the current EDC members from Apache County – Steve West of Springerville, Paul Ramsey of St. Johns, and Becki Christensen of Springerville. Ms. Drew suggested that she would be happy to reach out to some of the active members on the Tourism Committee to see if they would be interested as well, if the Executive Committee wished. She remarked that she has made efforts and will continue to reach out to leadership in Apache County, as well as to Regional Council members, for candidates to fill the Apache County seats vacated by Mae Horseman, Tami Ryall and Karalea Cox. Chairman Filardo suggested Bill Greenwood, and Ms. Drew suggested someone from the White Mountain Stewardship. She then suggested that Chairman Filardo can choose to hold the Executive Committee vacancy until an Apache County applicant is identified. Chairman Filardo asked Ms. Drew to continue reaching out to folks in Apache County, with preference to a former member of the EDC that would be able to contribute experience as an Executive Committee member. She noted gratitude to Casey Rooney for his willingness to step up several times in the past as a former Chairman to fill the Past Chair vacancy, and she will hold that possibility again should an Apache County candidate not be available.

➤ **Meeting Location Discussion**

Chairman Filardo turned to Ms. Drew to open the discussion about recent questions raised about the cost of the meeting spaces utilized for EDC members. The question had been raised regarding food costs for providing lunch for members that attend the 6 meetings per year. Ms. Drew noted that the cost of food for each meeting was approximately \$20 per person, and the contracted rooms are approximately \$250. The offer to find meeting space in Coconino County at no cost had been brought up by Supervisor Babbott at a previous meeting. It had also been suggested by Paul Watson that Navajo County was having some financial difficulty and he questioned the reasonableness of spending so much on meetings. Ms. Drew made the case that there are several members who travel to the EDC meetings at their own expense, and to not offer lunch as a way to express value for their time to members who expend their own time and money to attend and participate could generate ill will. She noted that the EDA funding is for support to the Board, including meeting places and food. Ms. Drew reported the options that had been researched, noting that the costs per meeting without food would be comparative due to the cost of the room rental increasing without a food order. She remarked on an agreement with Little America in the past to donate the unused portion of food that is ordered and paid for to needy folks in the area. She suggested possible cost savings by offering a boxed lunch, which would save about \$2 per person, or a savings by not offering lunch to the speakers who attend and present to the Council. Discussion followed regarding other cost-saving options, such as the potential of reducing the meetings to 4 per year, one in each of the counties represented. Ms. Drew remarked that there would be several things to consider, noting that many members would not be able to make longer travel, interrupting the possibility of achieving a quorum, and that membership may decrease. It is not a budgetary issue, and consideration should be given to each member's time and their mileage to and from the meeting to be considered as "in-kind" donations. Other thoughts were shared regarding the length of day for a quarterly meeting. It was determined that the discussion would be open to the Board to discuss. Ms. Drew noted also that we are already contracted for the rest of 2017 with Little America. She also mentioned that the October meeting is also contracted with Little America, but plans are to hold the October meetings in Show Low as a prelude to the Tourism Forum that week. She suggested that Chairman Filardo ask the Council today for a show of hands to determine how many have intentions of attending the October meeting and the Forum in order to determine whether to cancel the contract with Little America or to keep it. More discussion followed regarding the advantages as well as the challenges of moving around for the meetings. Also discussed were technological advantages to meet via computer for those who can't travel to the meetings. Ms. Drew stated that the main issue would be the ability to maintain a quorum, and to be ADA compliant.

IV. Director's Report

Chairman Filardo turned the meeting over to Ms. Drew for the Director's report.

➤ **Program Update**

➤ **Scope of Work Draft Review & Approval**

Ms. Drew shared copies the draft Scope of Work, noting that only a few items have been changed. She remarked that we have received our invitation to apply for the Partnership Planning Grant through EDA, and will be doing so in the coming weeks. Ms. Drew noted that the primary focus on the Scope of Work this year is to prioritize projects and research for the 3 counties affected by pending closure of major employment sources, namely the Navajo Generating Station and the Peabody Mine operations, and the Cholla Power Plant, affecting Apache, Coconino and Navajo Counties with job losses and the need to train for new skills and expand business development. Our responsibility as a District is to respond to economic conditions within the District, which is the message of the 3rd

paragraph of the Scope of Work – asking the EDC to come together and prioritize projects in these areas that will have a greater economic impact.

She also included in the Scope of Work the concept of partnering with the NACOG Transportation Division and the ADOT for additional funding and technical resources in achieving the goals of the Scope of Work, such as the project in Cottonwood, which includes road improvements.

Ms. Drew noted that the Scope of Work is extracted from the approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to achieve the goals laid out there, in accordance with what is feasible to achieve within each year. Ms. Drew reported that she had spoken with Jacob Macias, the EDA representative from Seattle, regarding the new availability of a \$30 million funding opportunity similar to last year's POWER grant for 4 specific areas in the Seattle Region – 1 in district in Seattle and Apache, Coconino and Navajo Counties. Yavapai County may be eligible as well if a supply chain to the coal-dependent areas can be demonstrated. Ms. Drew posed the idea of submitting a regional grant to support economic efforts in all 3 counties, to which Mr. Macias had replied that there would have to be a Memorandum of Understanding between all communities involved, a host community or agency. Some discussion followed regarding activity on behalf of these counties planning and funding of projects, noting the activity of Coconino County to obtain funding. Paul Watson remarked his concern is to revitalize the existing business infrastructure in Navajo County. More discussion followed regarding how to approach the federal government with local issues. It was mentioned that other large employers, such as Griffith Enterprises, are closing too, and how to include them too. More discussion followed regarding EDA limitations, and what other funding sources are available to bridge the gap. Chairman Filardo suggested a group to gather to discuss regional resources and collaboration. Ms. Drew noted that a meeting is scheduled for Monday, 6/5/17 in Show Low to bring some of these discussions to light with members from REAL AZ Corridor, the EDC Executive Committee and NACOG leadership. More discussion followed regarding labor and space availability, particularly in the Navajo Nation.

➔ **Consider changes to EDC Bylaws**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was deferred to the EDC general meeting.

➔ **Four Corners Opportunity**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was deferred to the EDC general meeting.

V. Member Comments

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was passed.

VI. Public Comments

Chairman Filardo called for comments from the Public, there were none.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Filardo called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Executive Committee, **so moved by Rich Bowen, seconded by Supervisor Thompson. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 AM.**