

Economic Development Council

Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2018 • 10:00 AM • Little America • 2515 E. Butler Ave. • Flagstaff, AZ

Presiding Officer – Jodie Filardo, Chairman

Attendees	Present/Absent	Number of Absences in 2018
Jodie Filardo, Chairman	Present	2
Paul Watson, Vice-Chairman	Present	0
Rich Bowen, Chair-At-Large	Present	0
Jesse Thompson, Executive	Absent	1
Sharon Adams	Present (phone)	0
Art Babbott	Present	0
Wendy Bridges	Present	0
Becki Christensen	Present	0
Michelle Conway	Absent	1
Carol Curtis	Present	0
Eric Duthie	Present	0
Coral Evans	Absent	3
Paul Ferris	Present	0
Bruce Greco	Absent	1
Linda Hatch	Present	0
Richard Heath	Present	0
Keith Johnson	Absent	1
Kimberly Johnson	Absent	1
Steve North	Present	1
Lora Lee Nye	Present	1
Julie Pastrick	Present	1
Kelly Patton	Absent	2
Norman Perry	Present	0
Paul Ramsey	Present	1
Casey Rooney	Present	0
Ed Steinback	Absent	2
Jim Wurgler	Present	0

*Excused Absence

Guests: Kristen Busby, Urban Land Institute
Maya Azzi, Local First Arizona Foundation
John Coomer, Town of Chino Valley Economic Development/Project Manager
Cecelia Grittman, Town of Chino Valley Town Manager
Mayor Darryl Croft, Town of Chino Valley
Tony Alba, Community Development Director, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside
Ginger Johnson, Greater Prescott Regional Economic Partnership (GPREP)

Staff: Teri Drew, NACOG Regional Director
Julia Sawyer, NACOG Executive Assistant
Sara Gonzalez, NACOG-EWD Fiscal Manager
Loreen Vargo, NACOG Administrative Specialist

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Jodie Filardo called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM and called for introductions around the table. A quorum was present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Filardo asked Paul Watson to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes – April 5, 2018

Chairman Filardo asked for questions or comments on the Minutes from April 5, 2018. There were none. Chairman Filardo called for a **motion to approve, so moved by Paul Ferris and seconded by Linda Hatch**. Having no further discussion, Chairman Filardo called for a vote; **the motion carried unanimously**.

IV. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Filardo opened her report by noting what a pleasure it has been to serve as Chairman of the Economic Development Council for the last 2 years, and she yielded her time to the remainder of the Agenda, turning the meeting over to Regional Director Teri Drew for the Director’s Report.

V. Director’s Report

Ms. Drew began by noting that Chairman Filardo will continue serving the Executive Committee as Immediate Past Chair.

➤ **Program Update**

Ms. Drew began her report by announcing that NACOG – EWD has recently purchased a license with Dun & Bradstreet Hoovers software program; a data provider for business profiling and analysis to aid in business retention and expansion. Ms. Drew briefly described the benefit of having this information at their fingertips, and she offered the information to the EDC for data analysis on businesses in their areas.

Ms. Drew reported on the Arizona Career Readiness Credential (ACRC) Program of the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity. This program was developed as part of the Governor’s 5 Goal Councils, headed by Trevor Stokes. Ms. Drew urged the Council to seek out the program as it comes to their areas, and gave a brief overview of ACRC. She noted that NACOG-EWD will be the designated Yavapai County site for ACRC, which is a free online program, and is available across the NACOG Region through each county’s workforce development offices.

Ms. Drew reported on her appointment to the United States Workforce Association (USWA) as a representative and Chairman of the Arizona Workforce Association. She noted that her participation with this “astute” group of workforce development professionals across the country helps drive the CEDS goals to collaborate with workforce development at the local, regional, state and national level.

Ms. Drew reported that NACOG’s invitation to apply for the EDA Planning Grant for 2018-2019 was received with a very short timeline for completion, but they were able to meet the deadline for application submittal. Ms. Drew noted that the NACOG Economic Development District (EDD) will continue funding at \$75,000 plus \$49,808 in matching funds from the EDD Community Assessments. She also noted that we will retain our designation as a distressed district, and by that designation the District communities may apply for economic development projects with a much lower required matching fund rate. Ms. Drew concluded the Program Update and asked for questions and comments.

Carol Curtis requested from the Chairman an opportunity to comment regarding Ms. Drew’s national representation on USWA and the positive impact it will have on our workforce regions in the state.

➤ **District Continuation Resolution No. 18-06 Approval**

Ms. Drew reported that, because of the EDA grant application’s short deadline, some of the required documents, such as the Scope of Work and Resolutions, were sent in draft. That included the District Continuation Resolution No. 18-06, which resolves the intention of the Economic Development District to continue and to commit matching funds to the EDA Planning Grant. The Resolution requires consideration for approval at today’s meeting. Chairman Filardo called for a **motion to support and approve Resolution 18-06, so moved by Eric Duthie and seconded by Linda Hatch**. Chairman Filardo called for discussion; hearing none, called for a vote. **The motion carried unanimously**. Ms. Drew thanked the Council for the time and effort they each contribute to the Economic Development Council, which lends to the success of the District. She noted that the final step in this process will be concluded at Regional Council later this month.

➤ **PY 2019 Scope of Work Approval**

Ms. Drew then distributed the Draft Scope of Work for 2018-19, noting that some changes were made from the draft that everyone received via email. Ms. Drew described the process of developing the Scope of Work, noting that the goals and objectives will always be written in a broad fashion so as to not tie our hands into specifics, since this is a very diverse District. She described the points of the Scope of Work, which are drawn directly from the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) – the Districts 5-year plan, each year taking different points from the Focus Areas for projected goals. Ms. Drew offered a side note regarding recent news from the State of Utah, which is developing a CEDS through 2050. Ms. Drew noted that by doing so they can develop the state as a distribution hub, allowing for infrastructure improvements over a longer period of time.

The points for the 2018-2019 EDC Scope of Work are as follows:

Administration – Includes plans to: Develop the 2019-2020 Scope of Work; lead discussion on assessment goals for 2020; identify a CEDS 2020-2025 Committee in order to start the development process in 2019; and to host listening forums from all partners or potential partners. Chairman Filardo asked for questions or comments from the Council regarding Administration. A question was asked regarding the function and goals of the partners that will be involved in the CEDS development. Ms. Drew replied that economic development is a huge arena that takes in roads and infrastructure, tourism, education, and the Commerce Authority, and it’s important to know what their plans are for the next 5 years so that we can align our plan accordingly. It was noted that if we don’t work collectively on the front line, our voices are not heard.

Focus Area #1 Grow the Region's Business Opportunities – Ms. Drew noted that we will continue the support of the coal communities in Arizona, noting that now it is finally reaching national news. There will be more focus on dislocated worker opportunities, both in the coal industry as well as other industries across the District. Partnerships with state and regional tourism organizations will be strengthened.

Focus Area #2 – Explore and Expand Energy Resources – Ms. Drew highlighted the goals regarding the economic incentives, including tax credits for alternate and renewable energy sources. She asked for questions and comments; Supervisor Art Babbott commented regarding positive progress on the recently approved project for developing forest biomass industry in Coconino County and across the District. Other comments followed regarding forest biomass business focus increasing in the District.

Focus Area #3 – Align Workforce and Economic Development Priorities – Ms. Drew noted that all of the workforce areas in Northern Arizona are represented on this Council and expressed thanks to Paul Watson and Carol Curtis for their time and energy in workforce development. Ms. Drew remarked that she modified Goal #13 from stating “non-traditional” labor to Northern Arizona labor market in order to focus on all populations. She asked for comments, there were none.

Focus Area #4 – Promote Natural Resource Assets as an Economic Driver – Ms. Drew noted 2 goals, to include education providers assistance with service industry skills training; and to develop and support new markets and technologies in natural resources.

Focus Area #5 – Develop Economic Foundations and Infrastructure – Ms. Drew highlighted providing technical assistance to distressed areas to identify resilient economic strategies and collaboration with state and regional partnerships regarding broadband and communications infrastructure within the EDD. There were no comments following.

Focus Area #6 – Focus on fire relief opportunities and funding – Ms. Drew emphasized the support of fire relief opportunities, noting an active fire currently in the Region. She asked Paul Watson to elaborate. Mr. Watson spoke briefly about the 377 Fire, which was caused by equipment dragging on the highway causing sparks to fly, and noted 55% containment as of this morning. He noted that Navajo County is in the worst drought conditions ever seen for this time of year. Ms. Drew remarked that flooding typically follows wildfires. It was noted that in addition to forest fires, grass fires are also causing much damage in non-forested areas.

Ms. Drew concluded the recommendation for the 2018-19 EDC Scope of Work and turned to Chairman Filardo for a call to action. Chairman Filardo called for discussion. A definition for relief resources was requested, and Ms. Drew noted that EDA has funds for economic adjustment to an area that needs resources for any relief. Supervisor Babbott recommended some language adjustment to reflect the reality that the best point of impact is on the preventative mode rather than the reactive mode. He also noted that he would add language pertaining to flooding. He offered to develop language to improve Focus Area #6. Chairman Filardo thanked him and asked him to develop something now for approval.

Other comments followed regarding the appreciation of the forest service stepping up and closing some of the forest areas prior to Memorial Day as a preventative measure. It was suggested that the Council send a letter of appreciation to the Forest Service. Ms. Drew remarked that she would be happy to draft a letter on behalf of the EDC.

Lora Lee Nye remarked on Focus Area #2, noting that a Texas waddles manufacturing company is interested in moving to Yavapai County because of the large supply of junipers. Waddles are mesh tubes filled with biochar and other biomass products and are used to stay and remove contamination in water. She reported other uses

for the juniper biomass that are or will be utilized in the near future, including playground chips for the Chino Valley and Prescott Valley Head Start locations.

Casey Rooney suggested an edit on Focus Area #2, goal #12, to modify “remove barriers”. He felt that the statement is too general, as some barriers may be beneficial. At Chairman Filardo’s request Mr. Rooney agreed to revise the statement for approval today.

Chairman Filardo tabled the approval of the Scope of Work until Supervisor Babbott and Mr. Rooney presented their revisions. She turned the meeting back over to Ms. Drew to present the Tourism Committee report. Ms. Drew paused to complement Supervisor Babbott on his presentation of the Coconino County Proof of Concept project to Regional Council, and the consequential consent vote for the project.

➤ **Tourism Committee Update**

Ms. Drew noted that the Chairman of the Tourism Committee, Michelle Conway, couldn’t be here to report today, and that she is reporting on Ms. Conway’s behalf. Ms. Drew complemented Ms. Conway’s leadership as the new Chairman, noting that following her appointment, many members left to move to other areas. Ms. Conway waited to appoint a Vice Chairman in order to familiarize herself with several new members to the Committee. Ms. Conway has recommended Becki Christensen as Vice Chairman. Ms. Drew noted Ms. Christensen’s long-standing membership on the Tourism Committee, and her extensive tourism-related education, experience and knowledge, and recommended Ms. Christensen’s appointment as Vice Chairman of the Tourism Committee. Chairman Filardo asked Ms. Christensen if she had any comments. Ms. Christensen confirmed her many years of work with tourism, both as an owner of a tourism business and with her involvement in the local Chamber of Commerce for the last 20 years. She noted the importance of tourism in her area in Apache County, noting that these areas need tourism dollars to bring them through the winter economically. Chairman Filardo called for a **motion to approve Becki Christensen’s appointment as Vice Chairman of the Tourism Committee; so moved by Paul Ferris and seconded by Wendy Bridges. The motion carried unanimously.** Chairman Filardo congratulated Ms. Christensen.

Ms. Drew concluded her report.

VI. Election of 2018-19 Officers

Chairman Filardo turned the meeting over to Paul Ferris, Chairman of the Elections Committee. Mr. Ferris thanked Chairman Filardo for her service to the EDC. Mr. Ferris noted the elections process found in Article 4 of the EDC Bylaws, and identified the Elections Committee; himself, Bruce Greco, Linda Hatch and Michelle Conway. The Elections Committee met via teleconference on March 13, 2018 and nominated the following officers:

- **Chairman – Paul Watson**
- **Vice-Chairman – Rich Bowen**
- **Chair-At-Large – Paul Ramsey**

Mr. Ferris reported that the slate of Officers was presented before the EDC at the April 5, 2018 meeting, at which time nominations from the floor were opened; there were no other nominations. Mr. Ferris called for a **motion to approve the slate of Officers for Program Year 2018-2019; so moved by Norman Perry, seconded by Lora Lee Nye. The motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Ferris noted that the slate of Officers is confirmed. A round of applause followed.

Ms. Drew presented on behalf of the EDC an engraved gavel to Chairman Filardo in recognition of her leadership of the EDC from 2016 – 2018. Chairman Filardo thanked the EDC.

Chairman Filardo turned the meeting over to Supervisor Babbott to present the suggested language for Focus Area #6 of the Scope of Work. Supervisor Babbott read the following modification:

Most of the EDD is prone to catastrophic wildfires, post-fire flooding and drought. The EDD will continue to prioritize the cultivation of forest industries for both economic development and job creation opportunities as well as being a vital component of moving regional restoration initiatives forward across the District.

Goal: Provide leadership which supports regional forest restoration initiatives.

19. To cultivate and support the development of viable forest industries which serve to mitigate the threats of catastrophic wildfire and post-fire flooding.

Paul Watson recommended adding a description to create a healthier forest. He noted that this is how to get all partners on board toward that goal. Supervisor Babbott noted that he referred to regional restoration initiatives, and is happy to call it “*creating healthy forests through regional restoration*”. Supervisor Babbott will email the new language to Julia Sawyer to edit into the document.

Chairman Filardo asked Mr. Rooney to read his suggested edit for Focus area #2, and goal #12. Mr. Rooney submitted the following:

Encourage local communities to remove barriers when and where appropriate to encourage the implementation of renewable energy.

Chairman Filardo asked Mr. Rooney to please re-read for the record Focus Area 2 #12, which he did. Chairman Filardo also asked Supervisor Babbott to re-read the Focus Area #6 recommended language, which he did as well.

Chairman Filardo asked if everyone was clear regarding modifications to the 2018-19 Scope of Work document, and called for a **motion to approve the 2018-2019 Scope of Work as amended; so moved by Norman Perry and seconded by Rich Bowen. The motion carried unanimously.** Chairman Filardo thanked Supervisor Babbott and Mr. Rooney for their amendments.

Chairman Filardo turned the meeting over to John Coomer, the Town of Chino Valley Economic Development/Project Manager, Mayor Darryl Croft and Town Manager Cecelia Grittman to bring a presentation on the Chino Valley Old Home Manor Project. Mr. Coomer passed around a handout demonstrating the project so far.

VII. Town of Chino Valley Old Home Manor Project Update

Mr. Coomer noted that he is new to his position with Chino Valley, but has lived in the community for over 2 decades. Mr. Coomer, with Mayor Darryl Croft and Town Manager Cecelia Grittman, recognized EDC member and long-time resident and former Council member of Chino Valley, Linda Hatch.

Mr. Coomer shared a power point presentation, giving the history of the piece of land called Old Home Manor, purchased by the Town in 1980, and, through partnerships with NACOG, Arizona Commerce Authority and APS, much has been accomplished in its development over the past few years. Mr. Coomer gave a brief history of the project and demonstrated the phases of work that have been done thus far. He noted that all utilities are now available in the 880 acres east of Hwy 89, with the exception of natural gas; Mr. Coomer noted that the Town will be meeting next week to discuss the addition of natural gas. He shared an overview of the 2014 plan for development.

Mr. Coomer highlighted the current “residents” of the Old Home Manor Industrial Park, which include Yavapai College, Chino Equestrian Center, Chino Valley Model Aviators, and two Chino Valley shooting facilities – one operated by the Prescott Sportsman Club and the other operated as a practice range for law enforcement training.

Mr. Coomer shared the Master Plan progress and the next steps planned, including community/workforce profiles. He noted a workforce population of roughly 6,000 within the Town limits. He noted that he is working closely with local commercial property brokers and agents to attract them to the Industrial Park. The Town's goal is to remove or reduce perceived competition and turn it into a partnership with real estate professionals in business attraction.

Mr. Coomer remarked on the need for infrastructure improvements leading into Old Home Manor, noting that Road 4 North will be main road into Old Home Manor. The Town's intention to straighten the road and improve signage at the entrance.

Mr. Coomer reported on his intention to finish compiling an "incentive inventory" of resources available, with the help of partners at local area state and fed levels, noting that this is an area perhaps NACOG can assist with. He closed his presentation by noting that Chino Valley is open to any ethical and legal structures for long-term leases, including options for property purchase to develop. He noted the need for strong workforce partnerships and complemented the strong elected officials of the Town. Mr. Coomer asked for questions and comments. Discussion followed regarding work with others with similar project developers. Linda Hatch remarked on how this originally started with the EDA Seattle Region representative a few years ago, and complemented Ms. Drew and the Town of Chino Valley for sticking with the project. Some discussion followed regarding the logistics of acquiring and paying for natural gas infrastructure due to an old franchise agreement with UniSource.

Ms. Drew congratulated the Town for their progress and the work that has gone into the project thus far after the EDA grant, and invited the Town to return for future progress reports, noting that the EDC is here to help. Mr. Coomer thanked NACOG for all they have done to assist the Town and all the Region's communities.

Chairman Filardo thanked Mr. Coomer for his presentation and turned the meeting over to Kristen Busby to introduce her presentation.

VIII. ULI Arizona Technical Assistance Program Presentation (AzTAP)

Kristen Busby, Director of Urban Land Institute (ULI) Arizona, introduced her organization via power point presentation. She demonstrated the history of ULI, which has been a local non-profit organization for more than 80 years. The mission of ULI is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. Ms. Busby noted a membership of over 1,000 members in Arizona, and over 40,000 global members, including 76 nations and 6 continents. She also shared various events that are available to attend in Arizona.

Ms. Busby introduced the technical assistance program that provides strategic advice to communities and nonprofits on complex land use and development issues; the ULI Arizona Technical Assistance Panels (AzTAP). This program assists communities with sound advice on the development of all or part of the community, based on the needs identified by the target community. Ms. Busby described the process as follows:

- AzTAP receives a request application from potential host community and schedules an initial meeting to vet the issue
- Development of scope, schedule & budget; panel recruitment
- Pre-AzTAP preparation, travel venue, logistics planning
- Technical Assistance Panel event
- Summary documentation and deliverables

Ms. Busby noted that each community is unique – with site-specific development projects. The Host Community responsibilities include:

- prepare briefing book, appropriate maps and materials;
- Provide staff to plan and attend AzTAP

The host community selects a venue and the meeting is scheduled, typically for a full day. The Panel tours the site upon arrival and evaluates and prepares recommendations for the project and presents it at a later date in a typical Town Hall setting. The panel also provides a written comprehensive report for the community. Ms. Busby shared a list of communities that have and are participating in the Technical Assistance Panel's resource and knowledge sharing.

Ms. Busby concluded her presentation and asked for questions. A question was asked for an example project, and Ms. Busby described a project in Bisbee, Arizona.

Chairman Filardo thanked Ms. Busby for her presentation, and briefly paused the meeting for a 15 minute break.

IX. WeekendZona Presentation

Chairman Filardo introduced Maya Azzi, the Rural Program Manager for the Local First Arizona Foundation. Ms. Azzi shared a power point presentation on opportunities available to communities to host a weekend for Arizonans to explore local communities.

Ms. Azzi described the Local First Arizona Foundation; a sponsorship driven non-profit organization. The Foundation has 4 major programs, one of which is WeekendZona, which Ms. Azzi is presenting today. She noted that tourism is a huge economic driver globally, and that Arizonans are spending \$6.5 billion annually in California. The goal of WeekendZona is to get Arizonans to shift 10% of their tourism dollars back into their home state every year, particularly into the small and rural communities.

WeekendZona is a program of semi-curated weekend getaway packages that encourage people to explore the smaller rural communities instead of just driving through. Local First Arizona has a following of over 200,000 via social media, the web and newsletters, as well as statewide media partners that assist in selling these packages. Kimber Lanning, founder and CEO of Local First Arizona started the WeekendZona program a couple of years ago, and Ms. Azzi is responsible for facilitating 4 of these packages per year. Ms. Azzi shared some statistics about the typical audience for these getaways, noting that a primary focus is to garner interest in the Foundation and their mission.

Ms. Azzi shared the key elements to the program:

1. Community Partnerships – a vital component to success is a community that wants to draw people in. The goal is to do 2 getaways in Northern Arizona each year and 2 in Southern Arizona.
 - Itinerary building – the community's assets determine the itinerary
 - Meal vouchers – developing pleasant meals for participants during the weekend
 - Thank you bags – offers from around the community for participants to experience and enjoy
2. Fun! Ms. Azzi ensures plenty of fun for participants.

Ms. Azzi demonstrated a typical agenda for the weekend, which offers curated experiences as well as free time to explore on your own. Following the event, a survey goes out to the participants to measure the successes and to seek suggestions for improvements. She shared photos of some of the weekend events. Ms. Azzi noted that there are sponsorship opportunities for WeekendZona events, noting that WeekendZona won the Governor's Tourism Award for Creative Collaborative Marketing for the event held in Cottonwood. Ms. Azzi concluded her presentation and asked for questions and comments. Casey Rooney provided a testimonial of a successful WeekendZona held in Cottonwood early on in the program. Ms. Azzi noted that she recently made a presentation of WeekendZona for the Arizona Office of Tourism. Discussion followed regarding the positive impact of this program, and various questions and comments followed regarding logistics of implementing the program. Ms. Azzi highlighted some of the upcoming events. Positive discussion followed.

Chairman Filardo thanked Ms. Azzi for her presentation.

X. Member Comments

Chairman Filardo began Member Comments with Steve North. Mr. North noted a feasibility study in progress regarding the development of a High Altitude Training Facility in partnership with a private entity. He also noted that Summit Healthcare Hospital is in process of expansion. Good morning Arizona program will be in Show Low June 29, 2018. Mr. North remarked that there is a Goodwill store being built as well as Starbucks stand-alone store. Others are expected soon as well.

Prescott Valley Vice Mayor Lora Lee Nye reported that Prescott Valley is celebrating their 40th anniversary as a corporation. She also reported that the Race Track is being purchased and racing will resume next year. The Quad City area of Prescott Valley, Prescott, Dewey and Chino Valley has agreed to hold a mutual weekend highlighting each community with special events. A committee is being formed to develop the events, and Vice Mayor Nye noted that this is the most regional activity ever, remarking that she is proud of the Quad City area.

Rich Heath reported on new programs at Northern Arizona University, Prescott Valley Campus. Governor Ducey has approved two no-cost programs – the first is a teacher's academy, and the other is the emergency certification for individuals with work experience to go back into the classroom. He remarked on the number of teaching positions that are open in the area, and noted that the teaching academy will assist young people interested in elementary education with the first 2 years at a reasonable tuition partnership with Yavapai College, and the last 2 years of study being funded at and by NAU. Mr. Heath also announced that former EDC member and Tourism Committee Chair Dr. Susan Johnstad, founder of NAU PV, will be moving to Virginia Technical University in Richmond VA.

Chairman Filardo asked Guest Ginger Johnson if she had anything to report. Ms. Johnson reported that the Greater Prescott Regional Economic Partnership (GPREP) is going strong, with 30 stakeholders in support of the organization. She noted that she is looking forward to working regionally with all the economic development partners to create opportunities for jobs. She noted some recent successes.

Wendy Bridges reported that Prescott was awarded a grant to build a connector road in the Airport Industrial Area. She reported a complete overhaul of the City's economic development website. She also reported a new economic development magazine for the City of Prescott, noting that Teri Drew of NACOG contributed a full page of information to the magazine. The online edition is available and will go to print soon and will be a valuable tool to attract business prospects to the area with a comprehensive look at what is available in the City of Prescott. Ms. Bridges anticipates 2 big announcements pending for the next meeting of the EDC.

Paul Ferris reported on behalf of the City of Winslow on extensive work with the Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority on a transportation plan and a grant application for FTA 5311 funds. They have received a preliminary award letter for that grant. The City is in process of hiring a Transit Manager, and developing a partnership with another regional agency. Mr. Ferris noted that the City is aggressively working on infrastructure improvements on the 1,000+ acre industrial land area south of town.

Linda Hatch yielded her comments to the group from Chino Valley.

Norman Perry reported a quiet 12-month period for issuing industrial development bonds, however Yavapai County met a target of \$800 million in bonds through this last year.

Teri Drew reported she had nothing else for the good of the order.

Chairman Filardo commented on Clarkdale extending out to voters for \$6 million for street bonds – a new venture for the Town. She also reported that the feasibility study for a commercial street from Broadway to the cement plant is being completed. This is to activate the industrial area that is zoned but not accessible. She noted that Clarkdale is building homes that are either zero or low net energy homes, and these houses are being sold before they are built. Finally, Chairman Filardo reported that the Town of Clarkdale has completed the first United Verde Soil Program project, a voluntary remediation program with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. She noted that Clarkdale was at one time a smelter town, leaving behind noxious particles in the ground. The affected soil has been extracted and replaced, and re-landscaped. The Town Park was the first project to go through this process, which will be opening on July 4 for the Independence Day festivities. The park will be closed following the holiday to allow the grass to renew prior to reopening.

Paul Watson reported that Navajo and Apache County's for Assistance to Coal Communities Grant is moving along with a preliminary report that is in the finalization process. He noted that most of the Focus Areas in the report align directly with the Focus Areas in the EDC Scope of Work that was approved today. Vice Chairman Watson also noted that Navajo County is also developing a Strategic Action Plan for the project. He also noted that most of the hospital expansion that was reported by Steve North is related to outpatient services. His final comment was a thank you to Chairman Jodie Filardo for her leadership of the EDC.

Rich Bowen reported on behalf of NAU and their partnership with Alliance Bank to create a new Economic Policy Institute. He noted that Governor Ducey has allocated funds to support this as well. Although it will be statewide, it will focus on Northern Arizona. Mr. Bowen noted he would like to bring a presentation at the next meeting of the EDC.

Paul Ramsey reported the completion of the 24th Street pavement project in the City of St. Johns. He also reported on the dock installation and aeration project of the Patterson Pond facility in cooperation grants from the Game and Fish department.

Jim Wurgler commented on the great reports around the table thus far.

Casey Rooney reported on a 192-unit apartment complex that is being built across from the hospital in Cottonwood. He also noted the Arizona Association for Economic Development Medical Tourism Symposium scheduled for June 21, 2018, which ties to housing, medical facilities and tourism. He recommended attendance at this event. He also noted that he looks forward to seeing everyone at the League of Cities on August 21 – 24, and he also reported on a new chocolate manufacturing business coming to Cottonwood.

Guest Tony Alba reported on behalf of member Keith Johnson and the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, noting first that next weekend will be the inaugural White Mountains Hot Air Balloon Festival. Last month the Town Council voted to combine the 911 dispatch center with Show Low, which may be the first step to a regional dispatch center. He noted that there will be an election to fill 2 council seats, and that home rule is also on that ballot. Mr. Alba reported that the town offices will be preparing to move into a new building by the end of July, and will also be building new chamber facilities. Finally, he reported a buyer for the Safeway Plaza within the next 4-5 weeks.

XI. Public Comments

Chairman Filardo offered time to Cecelia Grittmann of Chino Valley to speak. Ms. Grittmann noted that the Town Council has completed their Strategic Plan, and they will be developing a Strategic Plan for the Industrial Park/Commerce center as well. She noted positive moves in replacing some department heads over the last year, and are trying to ramp up their customer service and become more business friendly. She noted other projects that are in the works in Chino Valley.

Mayor Darryl Croft of Chino Valley also commented that the entire Town Council will be continuing over the next 2 years, and he noted that this is good for the Town. Positive comments followed regarding Chino Valley.

Maya Azzi commented that information about the Rural Policy Forum is up on www.azrdc.org and urged attendance at this event focused on continued sustainability in rural communities in Arizona. She noted some of the panelists that will be participating in the event. The event will be held in Wickenburg in August, and will include an Economic Development Tour as well. Early Bird registration goes through July 17.

XII. Adjournment

Chairman Filardo thanked everyone for their attendance and called for a **motion to adjourn; so moved by Linda Hatch and seconded by Paul Ferris. The meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.**

NACOG EDC Meeting Minutes – June 7, 2018
Approved:

DRAFT