

Economic Development Council

Meeting Minutes

June 3 2021 • 10:00 AM • Doubletree by Hilton, Flagstaff, Arizona
and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Presiding Officer – Richard Bowen, Chairman

Attendees	Present/Absent	Number of Absences in 2021
Richard Bowen, Chairman	Present	1
Paul Ramsey, Vice-Chairman	Present	0
Norman Perry, Chair-At-Large	Present	0
Paul Watson, Immediate Past Chair	Present	0
Art Babbott, Executive Member	Absent	1
Steve Ayers	Present	0
James Brimhall	Present	0
Becki Christensen	Absent	2
Paul Ferris	Present	0
Craig Fritsinger	Present	0
Linda Hatch	Present	0
Jeff Hays	Present	0
John Heiney	Present	0
Peiter Hjertstedt	Present	0
Keith Johnson	Present	1
Gretchen Kitchel	Present	0
Eric Marcus	Present	0
Steve North	Present	0
Lora Lee Nye	Present	0
Chris Pasterz	Present	0
Julie Pastrick	Present	0
Kelly Patton	Present	1
Alberto Peshlakai	Absent	2
John Saltonstall	Present	0
Alton Joe Shepherd	Present	1
Molly Spangler	Absent	0
Maggie Tidaback	Present	1
Keith Watkins	Absent	1

Guests: Bruce Hallin, SRP; Tara Jackson, Arizona Town Hall; Mary Chicoine, VVREO; Cameron Robb, APS; Judy Sulltrop, Senator Kelly's Office; Michele Ralston, Senator Kelly's Office; Jessica Zufolo, Magellan Advisors; Melanie Downing, Magellan Advisors; Jory Wolf, Magellan Advisors.

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

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Richard Bowen called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. He welcomed new members James Brimhall and Councilman Craig Fritsinger, representing Apache County and Coconino County, respectively. Both Mr. Brimhall and Councilman Fritsinger shared brief backgrounds about themselves.

Chairman Bowen asked Executive Assistant Julia Sawyer to call the roll; a quorum was present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairman Paul Ramsey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes – April 1, 2021

Chairman Bowen called for comments or questions regarding the April 1, 2021 meeting minutes and **a motion and second to approve; so moved by Paul Watson, seconded by Norman Perry. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Chairman's Update

Chairman Bowen announced that the host hotel has asked for guests to wear a face mask in the common areas of the hotel. He noted that a self-serve lunch buffet will follow the meeting.

Chairman Bowen announced that Paul Watson has chosen to retire and resign from the EDC. He thanked Mr. Watson for his years of service on the EDC and for his friendship. He reflected on some good memories as well as many of the economic development achievements that Mr. Watson has been involved in. Mr. Watson noted that it has been a privilege to be a part of the EDC, and it's with mixed emotions that he resigns. He noted that he looks forward to getting around the state to play at various golf courses. He finished by thanking the EDC for their support during his tenure as Chairman. Regional Director Teri Drew presented Mr. Watson with a special parting & staff gift. She thanked him for his leadership and for all the roles he has served with NACOG.

➤ **Executive Committee Appointment**

Chairman Bowen reported that with Mr. Watson's resignation comes a vacancy on the Executive Committee. He noted several candidates, and then announced that Steve North of the City of Show Low would step up to fill the Executive Committee vacancy. He thanked Mr. North for his willingness to serve. A round of applause followed.

V. Election of 2021-2022 Officers

Chairman Bowen turned the meeting over to Chris Pasterz, Elections Committee acting Chairman, to bring a report of the 2021-2022 Elections Committee and to hold elections. Mr. Pasterz began by recapping the Election Committee meeting and their recommendations for the Slate of Officers for 2021-2022 as follows:

- **Chairman – Richard Bowen**
- **Vice-Chairman – Paul Ramsey**

- **Chair-At-Large – Norman Perry**

Mr. Pasterz continued to report that this Slate of Officers was presented to the EDC at the April 1, 2021 meeting and nominations from the floor were requested. With no nominations from the floor, the nominating process was closed. Mr. Pasterz called for a **vote for approval of the Slate of Officers for recommendation to Regional Council for appointment. The vote was unanimous.** Mr. Pasterz concluded his report.

Chairman Bowen thanked the EDC and the Executive Committee and noted he looks forward to the coming year. He then turned the meeting over to Ms. Drew for the Director's Report.

VI. Director's Report

➔ District Update

Ms. Drew began her report with greetings to all attending in person and via Zoom. She thanked Ms. Sawyer for the microphone solution to everyone being able to hear on Zoom and in the room. She reported that this week the NACOG – EWD office opened to the public after well over a year of being open by appointment only, noting a big difference in the momentum of the office since. She had told the staff to expect a tsunami of visitors when they opened, and although they didn't advertise the reopening, many jobseekers were there. Ms. Drew reminded everyone that she also does workforce development in Yavapai County along with economic development across the District, and NACOG has begun a Return to Work campaign in Yavapai County on the heels of Governor Ducey's executive order reinstating the job search requirement for Unemployment Insurance (UI). She commended Governor Ducey for his actions, noting that the federally-fortified UI was working against employers trying to staff their businesses and not being able to compete with the UI benefit that thousands were receiving.

Ms. Drew expressed thanks to Senator Mark Kelly's office, noting that she has worked with Judy Sulltrop for some time in the Prescott area. Ms. Drew reported that Senator Kelly visited the EWD office in Prescott in April, as was reported in the EWD Newsletter. She noted that it was an honor to have him and to be able to engage in conversation with him, and that she has already observed and is grateful that Senator Kelly has taken action on some of the conversations they had regarding federal funding and appropriate shares to Northern Arizona and rural Northern Arizona.

Ms. Drew shared a power point with her report items to assist in following along with her, beginning with a welcome to the new members and guests. She reported that over the last year the EDC has had three major priorities:

1. Economic Development District Planning Grant – something NACOG has always done for the last several years. Ms. Drew noted that normally she would be bringing the contract to the table for approval, however the Planning Grant was for a three-year period this time, and the EDC Scope of Work was developed for three years as well. She noted the next application period will be in 2022.
2. Economic Recovery and Resilience Plan – Ms. Drew reported that NACOG was fortunate enough to connect with Arizona Town Hall to assist in the development of the Economic Recovery Plan. Ms. Drew noted that she has been grateful for the opportunity to work with Tara Jackson and the team at Arizona Town Hall, counting them as friends and colleagues. Ms. Drew noted that Ms. Jackson will bring a report on the status of the Recovery Plan later on the Agenda. Ms. Drew reported that the Plan Draft was due to be delivered this week and it was delivered on time. We are in the process of reviewing the draft and will be bringing it to the EDC for approval in August. She will defer further information to Ms. Jackson during her report.
3. Regional Broadband Planning – Ms. Drew noted that most everyone should have been touched in some way by Magellan Advisors, the contracted broadband consultant for all four counties in NACOG area. She reported that Navajo County is also contracting with Magellan Advisors and, while we are doing different things, we are blending our common efforts to create a more complete project. Magellan Advisors is

currently conducting workshops across the District with various groups of expertise, including Education, Public Works, Healthcare, Economic Development, IT/GIS, Public Safety, Fire, Chambers of Commerce and Tribal Affairs. Ms. Drew noted that the Survey is still underway and a link is available on the NACOG website. Ms. Drew stressed the importance of the Survey for providing real-time data for mapping and planning, and she encouraged widespread participation in both the office and at home, noting that there is a speed test tool embedded in the survey that provides very important data on the speeds available in the District. Ms. Drew reported that Magellan Advisors is also partnering with the Navajo Nation, an integral partner in the NACOG District. Those common strategies will also be blended with the NACOG District plan.

Ms. Drew stressed that NACOG's involvement in the Regional Broadband Strategic Planning is to be of assistance to our NACOG communities, counties and cities and will not be in competition with any local community for any funds, but the goal is to create a bigger picture that will allow us to apply for the larger grants to serve the entire district and build on what is currently going on. She noted that the experience with Magellan Advisors has been more than satisfactory, and they have been unmatched in their demonstration of knowledge and expertise in the area of broadband development.

Ms. Drew continued to update the EDC regarding EDA contracting, noting again the three-year contracting process. However, the District is still required to annually collect assessments and provide to EDA a Resolution to commit the matching funds to the EDA project. Ms. Drew reported that the assessments approved in April have all been received, and Ms. Drew expressed her thanks. She noted that the assessments of \$.09 per capita and \$500 minimum per assessed community remained the same as it has for the past several years because the new Census data has not yet been provided, however next year may be a different discussion.

Ms. Drew noted that the EDC usually engages in an annual Scope of Work, but with EDA's new three-year grant the EDC was required to prepare a three-year Scope of Work as well. There will not be another Scope of Work other than the one everyone received last year, and the EDC will focus on the 2021-22 portion for this year.

Ms. Drew reminded the EDC that EDA has developed new Investment Priorities, and she briefly reviewed them on the screen:

- Equity
- Recovery & Resilience
- Workforce Development
- Manufacturing
- Technology-based Economic Development
- Environmentally Sustainable Development
- Exports and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Ms. Drew noted that when she reports to Regional Council she reports the same items shared with the EDC, including the EDA Investment Priorities. One of the Regional Council members expressed an opinion about the investment priorities and asked how we can change them. Ms. Drew noted that we likely would not have the opportunity to impact change of priorities, however the question and solution resulted in a revision recommendation for the EDD one-page application for EDA projects to include the criteria to identify the priorities and how the proposed project aligns with them. She shared the updated application with everyone and noted to Chairman Bowen that this is an action item requiring a vote.

Chairman Bowen called for questions or comments, and called for a **motion to approve the added language asking for identification of the EDA Investment Priorities that the project aligns with.** Julie Pastrick commented that the investment priority regarding Exports and FDI was of particular interest to her. She reported that she had an opportunity to have dinner with Governor Ducey and the governor of Sonora, noting a great partnership between the two states. She noted a lot of gain in exports and manufacturing during the partnership and encouraged maintaining an influence on FDI between the states. She also noted the importance of manufacturing, sharing that the future growth of manufacturing for rural Arizona is important as well, and asked what kind of manufacturing is desired – and she is happy to help in any way she can. Ms. Drew responded that manufacturing includes even a bakery – anything that manufactures consumer goods. She noted that West Yavapai County is getting a lot of leads on manufacturers looking for locations. She noted that subsidiary supply chain business usually follows as well. Some discussion followed on manufacturing growth and job creation. **Paul Ferris made the motion to approve the amendment to the EDD Assistance Application, seconded by Eric Marcus. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Drew concluded her report.

VII. NACOG Economic Recovery & Resilience Plan Review/Approval

Chairman Bowen turned the meeting over to Tara Jackson, President and CEO of Arizona Town Hall (ATH), for her presentation on the NACOG Economic Recovery & Resilience Plan. Chairman Bowen commented that ATH is the envy of other states in their impact on driving conversation across Arizona, and for their part in the Economic Recovery planning for the NACOG District. He noted the remarkable and exceptional work of Arizona Town Hall.

Ms. Jackson thanked Chairman Bowen for the opportunity. She began by reminding the EDC that a little over a year ago, just before the pandemic hit, the EDC had just completed the 2020-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), then the pandemic hit. The role of ATH was to assist in evaluating how the CEDS fared under all the challenges of the pandemic. Ms. Jackson noted that they began to facilitate a series of seven Town Halls to address the recovery needs of the District, beginning in September and going through May, the most recent being less than a month ago with the Tribal nations. All were conducted virtually to get stakeholder input, and there were over 600 participants. Ms. Jackson reported great input throughout the series. She noted that ATH recently completed the Creating Vibrant Communities report, from which they also drew information from in addition to all of the information compiled through the NACOG Town Halls.

Ms. Jackson noted that one of the key points of agreement that came up repeatedly was the need for communication. She noted there were several reports regarding the lack of credible, accurate and consistent communication in response to economic emergencies. Inadequate broadband district-wide was also a common message. The need to develop strong relationships between public and private sector stakeholders was repeated across meetings, and the need to develop advance agreements between leadership groups ahead of time and on a regular basis. Ms. Jackson noted that the groups also noted that the Town Hall opportunity was appreciated and should be considered for the future. She also noted that tourism came up repeatedly. Tribal community relationship strengthening was also stressed.

Ms. Jackson then shared that as a result of the process, there will be some recommendations for updating the CEDS and potential specific action items for consideration. She paused for questions. Ms. Drew commented that she had not had time to review the draft prior to today, and hesitated to send the unedited draft out to the EDC for review at this time. There were no comments. Chairman Bowen thanked everyone from ATH for their work and he looks forward to seeing the final draft. He complimented what he has seen so far, and noted that this will be the foundation to seeking out grants for recovery. Ms. Jackson asked ATH Board Chair Pat Norris to make some comments. Ms. Norris noted that the experience and opportunity to engage throughout the region was remarkable, and that there were common points of agreement throughout. She commented that, in spite of everything that

everyone went through during the pandemic, it was evident that everyone is ready to “roll up their sleeves” and get to work toward solutions to recovery. She noted that NACOG’s leadership in this effort is the catalyst.

Eric Marcus commented that he was impressed with the process and thanked the NACOG staff for getting the message out, noting very high attendance at the meetings. He noted it will aid in an enhanced report. Chairman Bowen thanked everyone.

VIII. SRP Water/Forest Health Initiatives

Chairman Bowen turned the meeting over to Gretchen Kitchel and Bruce Hallin to bring a presentation from Salt River Project (SRP). Ms. Kitchel did a brief introduction of Bruce Hallin, SRP Director of Water Supply.

Mr. Hallin gave a brief overview of SRP’s water system and shared a power point presentation on some of the water system projects SRP is involved in. He noted that when he first started working for SRP they were delivering approximately 1.1 million acre feet (AF) of water, now they are delivering approximately 750,000 AF. He noted the benefits being that there isn’t as much ground water being used to supplement the supply, and there is more carry-over in the reservoirs.

Mr. Hallin shared information regarding Arizona’s watersheds – the two watersheds that feed the SRP system are the Verde River Watershed and the Salt River Watershed. The watersheds cover about 13,000 square miles and service a 400 square mile service territory. He noted the East Clear Creek Watershed was acquired by SRP a few years ago and is the primary water source for Payson and some of the smaller towns in that area. He noted seven SRP water reservoir systems with total conservation storage capacity of 2,295,754 AF. A challenge they face with storage is sediment accumulation. Over 25 ft. of sediment has accumulated in the Horseshoe Dam Reservoir. They are working with the Bureau of Reclamation to come up with a solution to sediment control. He described some of the difficulties with addressing the challenges associated with sediment control. Some discussion followed regarding some of the projects being undertaken by SRP and other areas.

Mr. Hallin described the next steps and milestones regarding the sediment mitigation, encouraging everyone to get involved. He noted that he will share information through Ms. Kitchel. He noted that climate change creates higher highs and lower lows, and they are seeing extreme changes in lows and highs over the last five years. He highlighted some work on storing more water at the Roosevelt Dam to help improve the resiliency of the water supply. He also noted that SRP is investigating other ways to expand delivery.

Mr. Hallin then spoke about forest watershed health. He noted that the SRP watersheds are all on federal land, creating a natural partnership. He noted some of the projects that they are working on with federal agencies. He spoke about the 6 megafires since the year 2000 in Northern Arizona that affected the Salt and Verde watersheds, noting that this year is a big concern for a major fire. He noted that the Verde system is ripe for a mega fire as they have not yet had one. The consequences of wildfire include reservoir capacity loss, flood damage to infrastructure and water quality degradation. He highlighted several forest restoration benefits, including the reduced risk of wildfire.

Mr. Hallin shared highlights of SRP’s partnership with the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) Request for Proposals (RFP), which was jointly developed with SRP, Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation and the State of Arizona. It is the largest single RFP in the U.S. with 605,000 – 818,000 acres, and is the first 20-year stewardship contract. He noted that the RFP is scheduled to award this month. Mr. Hallin noted an opportunity for SRP customers to contribute to a Healthy Forest Initiative fund through their monthly power bill, matched by SRP. He concluded his presentation asking for questions. Much supportive discussion followed regarding SRP’s initiatives on watershed and forest restoration, and how the EDC can help with their support of the projects. Lora Lee Nye shared some of the progresses being made by the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition.

IX. Magellan Advisors – Funding Discussion

Chairman Bowen called on Jessica Zufolo from Magellan Advisors to bring a presentation on broadband funding opportunities. Ms. Zufolo thanked everyone for the opportunity and noted that she was limited on time, but would highlight the funding opportunities available.

Ms. Zufolo is the Vice President of Rural Broadband for Magellan Advisors and shared some of her experience in federal government funding. She began by highlighting the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 that was enacted on March 11, 2021. The ARPA is the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and would provide

- \$350 billion in new funds to states, territories, tribes, counties and municipalities,
- \$10 billion for coronavirus capital projects and
- \$1.5 billion over two years for revenue sharing counties, i.e., public lands counties. The ARPA funds are match-free and considered a good fit for the NACOG District. Ms. Zufolo also touched on the ARPA funds for projects on tribal nations.

The \$10 billion ARPA Capital Projects Fund can be used for capital construction projects to support connectivity expansion in response to the pandemic. Applications will be accepted for review in the summer of 2021. Ms. Zufolo highlighted how the NACOG broadband project is ideal for this type of funding, as well as other infrastructure projects such as water and sewer infrastructure. She shared some of the ARPA project guidelines.

Ms. Zufolo stressed the need for grant applicants to develop a defensible narrative that illustrates how the lack of middle mile broadband access has stifled economic development, job creation and other economic pillars due to the pandemic. The narratives and documentation must demonstrate:

- How the pandemic caused economic harm, made worse due to a lack of affordable broadband access
- Documentation must include percentages of households in poverty
- Percentages of individuals experiencing food insecurity
- Increase in the number of homeless adults and children since the start of the pandemic
- Percentage of unemployment and increases since the beginning of the pandemic
- High school drop-out rates
- Percentage of households without safe drinking water or broadband access
- Percentage of deaths caused by COVID-19
- Any other economic indicator of economic or social equity and growth

ARPA funds must be incurred and obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended to cover obligations and all work must be completed by December 31, 2026. The Treasury portal is now open to register and request Recovery Funds. The deadline for counties and local governments to submit their first Interim Report to the U.S. Treasury is August 31st, which would detail how the funds will be used. Budgetary documentation is included in the interim report.

Permissible expense include a non-exclusive list of eligible uses for funding as long as they address the negative impacts of the pandemic. ARPA funds cannot be used as a match for other federal funding opportunities but can be used as match for state grants and can be transferred to non-profits. Ms. Zufolo shared a few more requirements of the funding opportunity.

Ms. Zufolo also highlighted the EDA \$3 billion infrastructure funding opportunity for middle mile broadband projects. 25% of the funding can be dedicated to tourism-based industries. She also briefly shared some other funding opportunities and information, and noted that the NOFO for the EDA program has not yet been released. Ms. Zufolo also noted the \$288 million rural broadband infrastructure grant program through NTIA, which application window closes August 17th, awards to be issued on November 15, 2021. She noted that Magellan Advisors will map out

availability of NTIA that does not cross with RDOG funding. The power point information will be made available following the meeting. Melanie Downing offered to answer questions, there were none. Chairman Bowen encouraged members to take advantage of the services Magellan Advisors have to offer.

X. VVREO Broadband Initiative Presentation

Chairman Bowen introduce Mary Chicoine to bring a presentation on the Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization's (VVREO) Broadband project and EDD Assistance Application. Ms. Chicoine is the Executive Director for VVREO and she noted that they have been engaged in broadband planning in the Verde Valley for several years. VVREO's Vision and Mission:

VVREO is a regional collaborative resource building sustainable economic prosperity. VVREO provides access to resources for regional business creation, attraction, retention and expansion.

Ms. Chicoine noted that VVREO created an Economic Development Strategic Plan, which included the top two priorities of Housing and Broadband. She described their planning process, noting that they began to move deeper toward the goal of completing the middle mile plan for the Verde Valley. She shared the vision, mission and goals of the project. The project is broken into five phases: 1) Project Definition and Grant Preparation; 2) Conceptual Design and Pre-engineering; 3) Detailed Design and Engineering; 4) Construction; and 5) Ongoing Operation and Maintenance. Ms. Chicoine shared the progress thus far and their next steps. She paused for questions. Ms. Drew noted that this is an action item for approval today, and that everyone received the EDD assistance application for review ahead of the meeting. The project cost is \$456,500 with estimated match of \$91,300 and anticipates 223 full-time and 54 part-time jobs created as a result. Chairman Bowen called for questions and comments. Paul Watson asked if this project is just for the engineering. Ms. Chicoine responded that it's for the conceptual design and pre-engineering. Chairman Bowen called for a **motion to approve the VVREO EDD Assistance Application for EDA funding; so moved by Paul Ramsey, seconded by Eric Marcus. The motion carried unanimously.** Ms. Chicoine thanked everyone for their support.

Chairman Bowen recessed the meeting for lunch.

XI. Membership Committee Report

Following lunch, Chairman Bowen called for Paul Ferris to bring the report of the Membership Committee. Mr. Ferris reported that the Membership Committee met on May 26, 2021, at which time the Committee reviewed the following:

The resignation of Tim Suan, At-Large member of the City of Page. Mr. Suan has accepted a position as Deputy Town Manager of Wickenburg and has moved from the area; his term expires in February 2022.

Mr. Ferris reported that the Committee reviewed and evaluated two membership applications for candidates eligible for Mr. Suan's seat. He read the section of the Bylaws that pertains to At-Large member appointments and concluded that the best possible representation for the vacancy would be Mr. Gregg Martinez, Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Page. Mr. Ferris asked Chairman Bowen to call for a **motion and second to approve the application of Gregg Martinez to complete the term of Tim Suan and make the recommendation to Regional Council for appointment. So moved by Norman Perry, seconded by Chris Pasterz. The motion carried unanimously.**

XII. Tourism Committee Report

Chairman Bowen called on Keith Johnson to bring the report of the Tourism Committee on behalf of Tourism Committee Chairman Tony Alba. Mr. Johnson reported that the Tourism Committee met on May 20, 2021 virtually. The Committee plans to devote most of the next meeting to the development of their Scope of Work for 2021-2022

with a focus on developing their resiliency plan. Mr. Johnson also reported that the Tourism Committee is planning a September 16th Lunch & Learn webinar focusing on responsible tourism. The Committee is planning some updates to the Tourism page on the NACOG website and will complete those once the website completes the current update. With that, Mr. Johnson concluded the report. Chairman Bowen thanked him for the report. Mr. Johnson noted that a recent edition of the Arizona Office of Tourism's Tourism Tuesday newsletter featured one of the Pinetop-Lakeside staff members, Annie DeRosier, Tourism Marketing Coordinator. He encouraged everyone to read it, noting she is a valuable member of the Pinetop-Lakeside team. Chairman Bowen spoke about how important tourism is for Northern Arizona, noting that Flagstaff's tourism numbers for the month of April 2021 were higher than two years ago, a record year for Flagstaff.

XIII. Member Comments

Chairman Bowen called for Member Comments, beginning with Steve Ayers.

Mr. Ayers reported that the Town of Camp Verde has recently had investors come into Camp Verde to purchase property and equipment to expand a water business already there. Mr. Ayers shared about a "remote manufacturing" project that an individual is working on there as well. Chairman Bowen spoke about an article he recently shared about Arizona becoming the manufacturing hub of America – the article included the Prescott and Verde Valley area as being targeted.

Maggie Tidaback reported that Chino Valley continues to grow. They launched a tourism campaign recently and are pushing it out widely. The Old Home Manor development area is being appraised and hopefully land can soon be sold there. She noted several new home development areas being considered for housing opportunities.

Steve North thanked Chairman Bowen for the appointment to the Executive Committee. He then shared an update on the Sports Event Center in Show Low, a regional project that is now in Phase 3, which includes the conceptual plan and funding opportunities. Sports Facilities Advisory is the consulting group the City has contracted with and Mr. North hopes to bring the project application to the EDC for approval soon.

Norman Perry reported that the Yavapai County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) issues bonds for industrial improvements, and he noted that there is a lot of interest right now. He refrained from further information. Ms. Drew recalled when Mr. Perry first started talking about the IDA, no one was applying for funds. She noted that Mr. Perry's leadership has brought these funding opportunities to light.

Craig Fritsinger noted he wasn't prepared to bring a report but shared that a large parcel of land designated for housing in the Town of Williams is currently in escrow, and is proving to be a controversial issue.

Lora Lee Nye reported for Prescott Valley, noting that they are the largest and the newest community in Yavapai County, and there is always something to report. She shared news of a new Amazon Distribution Center in Prescott Valley ready to begin operations. She also reported that two new restaurants, Popeye's Chicken and an upscale Asian sushi bar restaurant will be opening soon. Last week the Parks and Recreation Department opened their second Splash Pad. Ms. Nye reported a new trail that opened as well. Two large monuments are going to be erected in Prescott Valley, funded through a trust. She noted that a new injection well was installed. Ms. Nye concluded that a contract has been signed for a new YMCA in Prescott Valley.

Linda Hatch reported that there is a lot of push back in Chino Valley regarding the 200 homes being planned. She noted that there are issues with the project other than space, such as traffic and current road conditions. She reported that the bus system doesn't cover all areas, but Uber/Lyft is starting to function in the area, which provides a good solution for seniors. Ms. Hatch noted that the roads in Chino Valley are not wide enough to accommodate the new housing planning and will have to be addressed.

Eric Marcus reported that Health Care Arizona is one of seven organizations that serves Arizona with AHCCCS, and the seven formed an organization called Home Matters to Arizona. He noted that he is a voting member for Health Choice. They have a goal to raise \$100 million for housing across the state, and have funded two projects in the NACOG region, one in Coconino and one in Navajo County.

Paul Watson noted that housing is an issue, teachers and healthcare workers have had to turn down employment opportunities due to not being able to find affordable housing. He noted that he has begun a new consulting partnership to address housing issues in the area.

Paul Ramsey reported the Saint Johns is close to completing their broadband project study, aside from a few changes that have come up. He noted that housing is also an issue for Saint Johns. Mr. Ramsey noted that the coal-fired power plant closure is also a future issue. He reported on a new business coming to the City specializing in custom meats. Mr. Ramsey closed by noting that Saint Johns has room to grow.

James Brimhall reported that he is working on connecting people to a network via social media. He also spoke briefly regarding the housing issue in the Navajo and Apache County area.

(Loss of audio)

XIV. Public Comments

Chairman Bowen called for Public Comments, there was no public comment.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.