

# **REGION**

## **Executive Committee MINUTES September 24, 2009**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Jan McCracken called the meeting to order at 12.05pm
2. **INTRODUCTIONS** – All present introduced themselves.

Executive Committee: Jan McCracken Peter Crowell Les Mergelman  
Lynn Black Paula Swenson Dick Allison Jonathan Greenspan

Board Members: Pat Means Ron Henderson Joe Saunders Bill Brougham  
Elaine Fischer Jim Peak

Staff: Paul Gray Paul Dunford Rhona Keckler Michele Gad Barbara Kinion

Visitors: Gail Marvel (representing the City of Montrose for Kathy Ellis)

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

*Motion: Paula Swenson moved to accept the agenda, and Lynn Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.*

4. **APPROVAL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES of August 27, 2009**

*Motion: Paula Swenson moved to accept the minutes of August 27, 2009 as read. Peter Crowell seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.*

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **AAA Director Report**

In Lee Bartlett 's absence Michele Gad presented the report.

1. **Programs:**

- SAMS, the state reporting program for the Area Agencies on Aging, has had 4 updates which we are incorporating.
- VOA is making good all round progress as the new senior meals provider in Montrose, Delta and San Miguel Counties.

2. **State Unit on Aging:** We are still waiting for July disbursement from state; there is a serious issue with timeliness of these payments. These delays force delays in payment to Region 10's subcontractors.

Region 10 does not have the reserves to “carry the float” for these payments, which are over \$90,000 per month. Unfortunately, there is nothing in the contract to force the state to perform in a timely manner. Lee is working with other AAAs to suggest that either the cash advance account Region 10 maintains can be increased from \$46,000 to an amount sufficient to carry payments through delays, or more desirably, prevent these delays from occurring in the first place.

3. **Delta Meal Site:** Jan McCracken noted there are many unsubstantiated rumors about the City of Delta Senior Senior Center meal site regarding food quality and coverage of operating costs following the change of meal provider from Columbine to VOA. Michele replied VOA had decided to move their administrative operations from Delta to Eckert, leaving vacant space which VOA feels they no longer should support financially.

- **BLF Director Report**

Paul Dunford reviewed the report.

1. **CDGB:** The CDGB Grant application has been approved, giving \$420,000 to lend, with the criteria that it must have job creation/retention involved. When this is disbursed, we can go back for more.

2. **BLF Conference:** Paul Dunford will not be attending the semi-annual BLF conference. It is a cost cutting move in view of the situation with county and city savings efforts.

- **GVTPR Chairperson Report**

Since Vince Rogalski was not present, the August GVTPR report was discussed by Paul Gray. There were no questions.

- **UDDTF Director Report**

Kristine Bagnara was not present. Paul Gray reviewed the situation.

1. **Funding:** UDDTF did not get approval for their Federal Grant of \$125,000 for the October 2009 through September 2010 timeframe. This was the major part of their funding. After October 1, the program will be operating on the remainder of their \$25,000 (July through June) state grant. Kristine is looking for additional grant funding to support the program, as well as an alternative location and fiscal entity. Neither Montrose County nor Montrose Memorial Hospital was interested in assuming the role of fiscal agent. To qualify for federal grants, the new parent entity must be a ‘Governmental’ agency.

- **Executive Director Report**

Paul Gray reviewed his report.

1. **Enterprise Center:** The phase 3 remodeling is on track for mid-October completion. There are 5 offices remaining in the entire building not let by November 1<sup>st</sup>. The Montrose County assessor has informed us that Region 10 will be liable for personal and real estate property tax for tax

year 2009. This decision by the assessor is a first since Region 10 was established in 1972. Despite an extensive meeting with Region 10's counsel, Mindi Conerly, the assistant county attorney remains adamant in her opinion, leaving the assessor no choice but to place us on the tax rolls. Our only recourse is to appeal for an exemption at the state level through DOLA, which Paul Gray will do. The building is currently at break-even from a cash flow standpoint.

2. **R10 Membership Assessments:** (Later in the agenda)
3. **Montrose Business Incubator Project.** The model favored by consultant Jim Greenwood, which is based on a large building with sufficient tenant income to support an incubator director, is not feasible in Montrose. Yet, Greenwood's study demonstrates a large number of small businesses (over 2,000) in the Montrose area that could potentially benefit from an incubator. There is another meeting of the Incubator Team (MEDC, Montrose City, Mesa State College, and Region 10) to discuss this conundrum, perhaps with Farmington Business Incubator Executive Director Jasper Welch.
4. **4- County Transit Coordination Project.** The LSC transportation study is virtually complete. It's recommendations are not finalized, but since they are based on national average transit usage projected from traffic counts, the results are questionable. Finalization of the study is on hold until the transit group can be established as a "Local Coordinating Council" (LCC) under new state guidelines. An MOU has been drafted and sent out for discussion. There are concerns by county attorneys about the planning and decision making roll of the LCC, feeling that it might usurp the authority of the individual county BOCCs. It is possible to facilitate this under Region 10, like the GVTPR, and this will be examined further. Lynn Black commented since an RTA seems such a distant possibility, the LCC concept could help move the regional transit agenda. Jan McCracken asked to get all information possible for County Attorneys. Region 10 will apply for a \$15,000 CDOT grant to establish the LCC.
5. **Energy Sustainability Coordinator Project:** Two groups of county/city governments and local power cooperatives have moved ahead independently. Despite our offer, Region10 was not asked to be involved in this.

- **Discussion of CY2010 Member Assessments**

Paul Gray explained that this issue is probably on many of Region 10's members' agendas. In the meeting packet, p. 16 shows the individual benefits for each county from Region 10's programs. Paul thanked all our members for all their support in the past, and hoped that support will continue.

It is possible that Region 10 could offer to reduce assessments by 5-10% and still get by, but if enough members drop out to exceed that figure, continuing our services would be very difficult. Paul explained that the assessments cover the majority of Region 10's salaries, which are not covered by any of our grants or fees. Lynn Black stated that since San Miguel County's assessments are so small, a 5% would not be critical, nor would it be to any of the other members. Jan McCracken

commented it was good there was no increase in assessments from 2009 and suggested we not discount assessments, promoting instead the extent of Region 10's services to its members. Paula Swenson commented that all members should be treated the same, requiring that they pay 'all or nothing'. Gail Marvel said Montrose City was making 17.5-20% cuts across the board, and needed to reduce all payments to outside organizations. Peter Crowell noted that there is a problem projecting the results of non-payment of assessments, since if one major member does not pay it affects services to all other members. It might be possible to have emergency meetings as necessary to try to prevent members deciding to relinquish their membership on a 1-1 basis. Paul Gray was asked to present to all entities considering dropping their membership the value of Region 10's services, possibly with other representatives from the Executive Committee. Jan asked what would happen to the AAA meal services in a community that dropped their membership. Michele Gad replied they are only mandated to serve meals one day per week. Paul Gray said he'd prefer to be making any decision about cut backs in a Board or Executive Committee meeting, after all members' decisions are known.

- **New Executive Committee member Proposal.**

***Motion: To elect Elaine Fischer (San Miguel) as a member of the Executive Committee, for action at the November meeting.***

This was moved by Peter Crowell, and seconded by Paula Swenson. It passed unanimously. (Procedural Note: This decision must be made by the full Board. The matter will be on the agenda for the November 19 Board meeting.)

## **7. NEXT MEETINGS**

- **AAA Regional Advisory Committee:** November 18, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Sneffels Conference Room
- **UDDTF Coalition:** To be announced
- **Executive Committee:** October 22, 2009, 12:00 p.m. Sneffels Conference Room
- **Board of Directors:** November 19, 2009, 12:00 Noon, Sneffels Conference Room
- **BLF Committee:** November 19, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Sneffels Conference Room

- 8. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 1.35 p.m.