

Meeting Minutes  
 Northeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NERTPO)  
 Hosted by Colfax County  
 Pappas' Sweet Shop Restaurant  
 1201 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
 Raton, NM 87740  
 March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017  
 10:00 a.m.



**Meeting Attendees**

Present/Absent	Name	Entity	Voting/Alternate
Present	Morris Madrid	San Miguel County	Alternate
Present	Landon Newton	Colfax County	Voting Member
Present	Robert Thompson	Colfax County	Alternate
Present	Scott Berry	City of Raton	Voting Member
Present	Jason Phillips	City of Raton	Alternate
Present	Rick Tafoya	Village of Angel Fire	Alternate
Present	Robert E. Aragon	Harding County	Voting Member
Present	Donna Sue Milson	Village of Roy	Voting Member
Present	Vicki Strand	City of Tucumcari	Alternate
Present	Ferron Lucero	Town of Clayton	Voting Member
Present	Tony Naranjo	Town of Clayton	Alternate
Present	Angie Gonzales	Union County	Alternate
Present	Timothy P. Dodge	City of Santa Rosa	Voting Member
Present	Sam Blea	Town of Springer	Alternate
Present	Richard Cordova	Village of Eagle Nest	Voting Member
Present	Mary Berglund	Village of Eagle Nest	Alternate
Absent	Les Montoya	San Miguel County	Voting Member
Absent	Andrew Jiron	City of Las Vegas	Voting Member
Absent	Matt Griego	City of Las Vegas	Alternate
Absent	Paula Garcia	Mora County	Voting Member
Absent	George Trujillo	Mora County	Alternate
Absent	Mindy Cahill	Village of Cimarron	Voting Member
Absent	Anita LeDoux	Village of Cimarron	Alternate
Absent	Chuck Howe	Village of Angel Fire	Voting Member
Absent	Evangeline Garrison	Harding County	Alternate
Absent	Shawn Jeffrey	Village of Mosquero	Voting Member
Absent	Mary Campbell	Village of Mosquero	Alternate
Absent	Dorothy Hazen	Village of Roy	Alternate
Absent	Anita Allen	Village of House	Voting Member
Absent	Cathy Ray	Village of House	Alternate
Absent	Larry Moore	Quay County	Voting Member
Absent	Richard Primrose	Quay County	Alternate
Absent	Cynthia Lee	Village of San Jon	Voting Member
Absent	Wade Lane	Village of San Jon	Alternate

Absent	Doug Powers	City of Tucumcari	Voting Member
Absent	Walter Hall	Union County	Voting Member
Absent	Lee Dixon	Village of Des Moines	Voting Member
Absent	Scott Warner	Village of Des Moines	Alternate
Absent	None	Village of Pecos	Voting Member
Absent	None	Village of Pecos	Alternate
Absent	Diane Brown	Village of Folsom	Voting Member
Absent	Mike Schoonover	Village of Folsom	Alternate
Absent	Mignon Saddoris	Village of Grenville	Voting Member
Absent	Lynn Wiseman	Village of Grenville	Alternate
Absent	Larry Wallin	Village of Logan	Voting Member
Absent	Russell Feerer	Village of Logan	Alternate
Absent	Charles Garcia	City of Santa Rosa	Alternate
Absent	George Dodge Jr.	Guadalupe County	Voting Member
Absent	Monica Abeyta	Guadalupe County	Alternate
Absent	Fernando Garcia	Town of Springer	Voting Member
Absent	Don Flynn	Village of Maxwell	Voting Member
Absent	Joanna Taylor	Village of Maxwell	Alternate
Absent	Laudente Quintana	Village of Wagon Mound	Voting Member
Absent	Nora Sanchez	Village of Wagon Mound	Alternate



**New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and Planners**

John Herrera – NMDOT District IV Local Government Road Fund (LGRF) Coordinator  
 Yvonne Aragon – NMDOT District IV Public Information Officer  
 Dolores Gonzales – North Central NM Economic Development District (NCNMEDD)  
 Dennis Salazar – NCNMEDD  
 Eric Ghahate – NCNMEDD  
 Vincent M. Soule – EPGOG

**Guests**

Ralph Lopez – City of Tucumcari  
 Brandy Sanchez – City of Las Vegas  
 Daniel Gurule – City of Las Vegas  
 Danica Gonzales – City of Santa Rosa  
 Glen Stevens – Colfax County  
 Tim Herfel – Village of Angel Fire, Economic Development  
 Richard Arguello – Union County Community Development Corp.  
 Ferdinand Garcia – Golden Spread  
 Vanita Menapace – Village of Mosquero  
 Jonni Valdez-Silva – Colfax County  
 Johanna Nelson – NM Economic Development Department

**I. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Richard Cordova.



## II. Pledge of Allegiance/New Mexico State Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the New Mexico State Flag was led by Landon Newton of Colfax County.

## III. Welcome

Chairman Richard Cordova welcomed everyone to the City of Raton and Colfax County. Landon Newton of Colfax County welcomed everyone to Raton and Colfax County. Gratitude was given to the sponsors of the lunch, who have done and continue to do great work for the County, and to all those attending. Mr. Newton has served for NERTPO for over four years and has enjoyed his time with the organization and all it does. Mr. Newton introduced the Colfax County staff present and spoke to the extent and quality work they all do for the County and the community. Chairman Cordova thanked the County for their assistance and support of the meeting. Individual introductions were conducted by all in attendance.

## IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Landon Newton – Colfax County  
Second: Donna Sue Milson – Village of Roy  
No opposition was voiced.  
Motion passed.

## V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – City of Las Vegas
- b. Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Village of Angel Fire

Motion to approve the minutes: Tony Naranjo – Town of Clayton  
Second: Landon Newton – Colfax County  
No opposition was voiced.  
Motion passed.

## VI. NMDOT District Four Update/ NMDOT Staff (Mr. David Trujillo-District Four Engineer and Staff)

Mr. David Trujillo could not make the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. Ms. Yvonne Aragon, Public Information Officer for NMDOT District IV, gave an update for Mr. David Trujillo. On NM 434 – there is a lot of work happening here. There is a 10ft width restriction on the road which can affect the camp ground access. An alternate route will have to be used to access the camp grounds. Other projects are going on around the district such as bridges and roads, but nothing is as major as NM 434 currently. Chairman Cordova voiced that there was a complaint in regards to the stop lights on NM 434 not working correctly. Ms. Aragon noted the complaint and stated that the red light duration will be a length one due to the total length of the project. It was warned

that all travelers of the road should adhere to the red light and stop until green, because two vehicles could meet up in between the project path and one will have to back up to give the other access. Ms. Aragon stated that she will check with it and make sure the lights are working correctly.

Ms. Aragon announced that last week was the memorial wall for those NMDOT staff members that have been killed in a tragic accident last year. Those passed due to the accident were recognized at the state legislature.

John Herrera, LGRF Coordinator for NMDOT District IV, announced the deadline for LGRF has passed and will be announced. Pay requests need to be submitted as soon as possible. The STIP Amendment changes were submitted and will be announced next month.

Chairman Cordova stated that Chuck Howe of Angel Fire had a concern about NM 434: the strips are gone. The Police Department has a concern about it as well. Mr. Herrera stated that he will look into the issue.



**VII. Presentation:** New Mexico FUNDIT (Johanna Nelson – NM Economic Development Department)

The following presentation was given by Ms. Johanna Nelson from the NM Economic Development Department:



# New Mexico Economic Development Department's Use of RISTRA: FUNDIT & LEDA

Johanna Nelson, Finance Development Specialist, New Mexico Economic Development Dept.

## FUNDIT

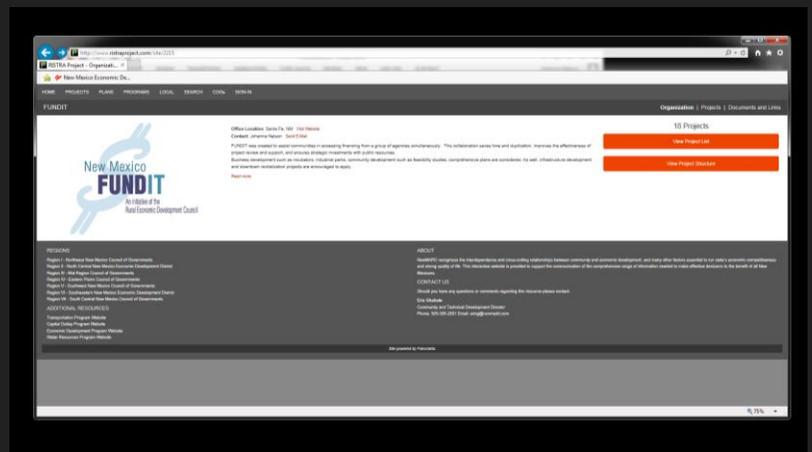
- Informal group of over 13 agencies (state and federal)
- Meet bi-monthly to discuss community economic development and infrastructure projects
- Acts as a brainstorming session or think tank to help communities find funding

# Why use RISTRA?

- Goals of FUNDIT are very similar to RISTRA, we want:
  - To empower communities with information
  - To connect communities by sharing experiences and communication
  - To connect communities to resources

# FUNDIT on RISTRA Project

- <http://www.ristraproject.com/projects?site=2215>



# Local Economic Development Act (LEDA)

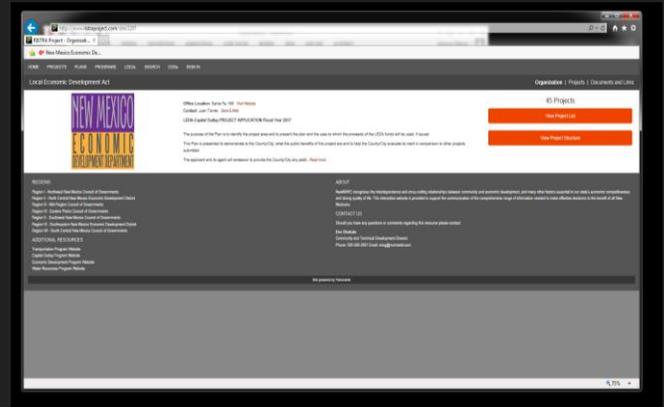
- New Mexico's "closing fund"
- LEDA using the following guidelines:
  - Due diligence process to verify minimal risk to state
  - Project must be fully-funded and shovel ready Funding through LEDA must complete project and allow company to hire
  - Must create permanent, full-time, private-sector jobs No government facilities or government job
  - Economic base business EDD target industry clusters: Aerospace & defense
  - Advanced manufacturing
  - Back office & technical support
  - Digital & emerging media
  - Energy
  - Food processing
  - Logistics, distribution & transportation
  - No retail projects with state funds.
  - Goal: 10 to 1 ratio of private investment to LEDA funds Must be demonstrated competition for the project from out of state
  - Equal consideration will be given to competing businesses
  - Project's environmental footprint will be considered
  - Not for venture capital or seed funding
  - Won't replace the traditional capital outlay process
  - Competitive wages that support New Mexico families

## LEDA Goals

- Public funds which are highly scrutinized, transparency is important
- Many players at the table, we need to be on the same page, especially those in the same region
- There are many legal documents which are requested often
- Political representatives want to quickly be able to see where the LEDA projects are happening

# LEDA on RISTRA Project

- <http://www.ristraproject.com/projects?site=2207>



Thanks!

Johanna Nelson  
Finance Development Specialist  
505-827-0264  
Johanna.nelson@state.nm.us

Due to the common goals of RISTRA and NM FUNDIT, they are working together to streamline their objectives.

It is encouraged to access RISTRA and look at all the projects currently uploaded on the website.

FUNDIT is also using RISTRA to track LEDA projects.

Utilizing RISTRA will allow all the public access to see all projects. This also allows some misinformation or beliefs to be clarified.

Ferdinand Garcia with Golden Spread asked Ms. Nelson about public transit funding opportunities. Ms. Nelson stated that there are some opportunities via FUNDIT for public transit funding. It was stated that FUNDIT does not have funding; it is based on

the different entities that are part of the group. There was a project in Gallup that was done – a rails spur type of project. Ms. Nelson said she would be the point of contact for assistance with finding funds. Projects should not be in the “idea” phase. Nonprofits may apply. All applications will be vetted prior to submissions.

Dolores Gonzales of NCNMEDD asked about how the current state fiscal atmosphere will affect NM FUNDIT. Ms. Nelson stated that it will be an interesting procedure and that NM FUNDIT plan to meet and discuss the issues that may arise.

NM FUNDIT meets six times a year, usually in Albuquerque. The next meeting will be April 25<sup>th</sup> in Santa Fe, NM. The meetings are open meetings. The meeting will be in the Bataan building.

FUNDIT and NewMARC are working together to have a matrix for the public to input info concerning potential projects and identify potential funding that may be available.

Ms. Nelson stated that the vetting procedure is a presentation similar to a sales pitch.

Meeting for FUNDIT is also a great way to network with others.

Eric Ghahate of NCNMEDD stated that due to the nature of the multilayer projects, the resources of FUNDIT and RISTRA are beneficial to the entities.

Mr. Ghahate stated that some new information that can be learned through all these resources have led to new info such as CDBG funds being used as a match against federal funding. Such new information can lead to finding better loan rates.

Ms. Nelson stated that the process is not as cut and dry as may seem, but as soon as the project is planned, the project is closely tracked.

Some projects have received funding from unsuspected sources such as some transportation projects gaining some support from the Environment Department.



**VIII. Discussion: Project Status update (Local Government Members)**

**IX. Discussion/Approval: First Quarterly Report (NERTPO Planners)**

Dolores Gonzales of NCNMEDD stated the multiple functions of the reports and how the planners report actions and time on the reports in an intricate spreadsheet.

Ms. Gonzales stated that she and Eric Ghahate have discussed how the hours have been budgeted compared to actual hours. This will lead to an amendment for the NERTPO committee to pass later in the future.

Ms. Gonzales stated that Mr. Ghahate has designed a map of funding for NMDOT to show how money is budgeted. All money from NMDOT is required match.

Mr. Ghahate stated the tediousness of reporting to a federal entity such as USDOT.

Budgeted time was typically used up in administration and there is desire to get away from that and focus on other tasks needed. All members have a say on how planners spend their time and are encouraged to give any suggestions if any are need.

Mr. Ghahate stated that RTPOs are sometimes confused as a funding source, but RTPOs are planning organizations. NMDOT is giving planners and RTPOs more say in what is best for the regions and in other aspects of the RTPO. It was encouraged that members give any input or suggestions as needed that members feel best fits the organization. All input is important to us.

Vincent Soule with EPCOG stated the difference between reporting for EPCOG since EPCOG is over two RTPOs.

Functions have had more activity than others, so an amendment will be suggested. Since EPCOG reports to two RTPOs, EPCOG will have to have both RTPOs to approve an amendment to the budgeted hours , which poses a slight problem as SERTPO does not met as regularly as NERTPO. Some hours reported have been moved around to more

appropriate tasks in an effort not to duplicate hours. Some traffic counting has been done for SERTPO, which provides a great amount of data. March marks the end of the second federal fiscal year. Audits for EPCOG came back clean for this year. Both Ms. Gonzales and Mr. Soule stood for questions. None were posed.



## X. Update from the NERTPO Planners/Program Managers

Vincent Soule gave the following report:

- Conferences:
  - NADO Rural Transportation Conference
    - Denver, CO : June 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>
    - Pricing from \$325-\$350
  - APA Planning Conference
    - May 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> in New York City
    - Nonmembers: \$1,050
  - ADA & Title VI Training in Albuquerque
    - FREE
    - April 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>
    - Planners are attending. Please attend.
- Some ADA and Title VI Plans have been submitted but not all. Please keep in contact with respective planner and NMDOT as money can be interrupted and ceased.
  - Some are excused from the ADA plan because they employ less than fifty.
    - Submit a letter for excusal with proof.
- LGRF Deadline has passed
- TAP/RTP has yet to announce awards. Will keep updated.
- NMDOT Transportation Commission Meeting in District IV
  - May 18<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas, NM
  - 8:30 AM

I was suggested that members be present to the Transportation Commission meeting in District IV to represent the NERTPO group and support NMDOT District IV. Chairman Cordova asked planners to send out an email to see how many people may attend.

The Federal budget from the President of the US was recently released. This budget outline released is dubbed the America First Budget outline. It is only a budget suggestion from the Executive Branch. There are a couple cuts that may affect NM in some areas:

- USDOT
  - Total cut of \$2.4 billion or 13% decrease
  - Federal Aviation Administration is suggested to move into the private sector with concerns to Air Traffic Control
  - Amtrak suggested to be terminated
  - Limit funding for Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Program (New Starts) to only existing full funded grants or agreements
  - Elimination of the Essential Air Service program
    - This is a subsidizing program for rural airports
    - It is suggested that those airports that utilize this program be defunded and that the communities that utilize them may go to major airports nearby instead.
    - This will affect three airports in NM:

- Clovis (\$3,184,393 loss),
- Carlsbad (\$2,410,695 loss),
- And Silver City/Hurley/Deming (3\$3,285,885 loss) airports.
  - Total cut is \$175 million
- TIGER Grant elimination
  - Rational for elimination is that applicants may apply to other grants
  - This is a \$499 million cut
- Economic Development Department is suggested to be eliminated
  - Rationale is that the department duplicates other departments
- Elimination of the Minority Business Development Agency
  - Rationale is that the agency duplicates the Small Business Development Center efforts
- In Health and Human Services:
  - Elimination of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIEAHP)
- In HUD:
  - Elimination of CDBG
    - Rational is that State and local governments should support themselves without the assistance of CDBG and that the program does not target the poor well
  - Section 4 funding elimination
    - This would affect Habitat 4 Humanity International
- Elimination of the Water and Wastewater loan and grant program
  - Rationale is that the program is duplicative of others.



Mr. Soule suggested that all members read through the whole budget as many more programs are expected to be cut. It was stated that not the entire budget is bad, but it will affect NM and our rural communities. The budget seeks to move the states, local governments, and the private sectors to be shareholders and investors within their states. It also suggests that more projects may rely on the philanthropic nature of businesses. It was clarified that these are eliminations and not consolidations, which means that funding will become significantly more competitive than it is now. It was suggested that all members read the whole budget to get the whole picture and see the rationale for each budget change, which are many.

Chairman Cordova stated that the whole outline is not completely bad and supports some changes, but the overall budget is extremely bad for rural areas such as those here in NERTPO and NM. The Chairman suggested that all members contact their elected leaders and voice their concerns about the budget outline. More research and data will be gathered about the budget outline and its effects on the NM communities.

Mr. Soule stated that this budget outline is a suggestion to congress from the president and that the final decision on the budget will lie with Congress and not the President. Mr. Soule stood for any questions. None posed.

Dolores Gonzales of NCNMEDD gave the following update:

- Ms. Gonzales introduced NCNMEDD’s new staff member, Dennis Salazar.
- Mr. Salazar was welcomed by all present and gave a background of himself:
  - Mr. Salazar worked with NCNMEDD for about a year,
  - He has recently transferred over to community development,



- He serves as a city councilman for the City of Esponola where he originates from,
- He has been councilman for about fourteen years,
- He is on the board of directors for the regional transit district as the treasurer,
- Transportation is something near and dear to him.
- All welcomed him and Mr. Salazar thanked all for the warm welcome.
- Ms. Gonzales provided a state legislature update to the members that was provided by the Northwest Council of Governments:
  - The Governor will be calling a special session because she was not satisfied with the legislature’s approach to the budget;
  - The Local Option Fuel (HB63) tax has been passed and may be pulled from the legislature website;
  - The Increased Weight Distance Tax permit fee and Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (HB202); and
  - An increase gas and fuels taxes (HB202).
- For Capital outlay:
  - Reauthorized about 126 projects,
  - Some may have changed to different agencies or requested extension,
  - SB452 – allocated about \$36 million in severance tax bonds but have suspended the Water Trust projects for a year for about \$10.1 million – this will be used to support school districts and charter schools,
- It does not look like NERTPO region was affected too much
- Transportation: multiple airports will receive some monies
- Planners attend Transportation Day at the Capitol and were shocked at the low traffic of people as what may be due to our low budget
- The session was not as active as usual
- An April letter will be sent out to entities for member assignment
- Title VI Training will be in Albuquerque
- Safety Target Workshop will be held for NMDOT on April 5<sup>th</sup>
- National Regional Transportation Conference is in Denver
  - Recommended
  - June 28<sup>th</sup> – 30h
- NCNMEDD Insider is released
- CDBG workshop was this week
  - CDBG deadline June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Ms. Gonzales stood for questions. None posed.

## **XI. New Business**

### **A. General Comments and Announcements from NERTPO Members and Public**

Landon Newton of Colfax County asked for clarity about the ADA and Title VI plans. Ms. Gonzales clarified what the spreadsheet notates which entities are compliant with federal laws concerning ADA and Title VI plans. It was stated that NMDOT is still going through plans and will contact as needed. It was suggested that Damian Segura of NMDOT be contacted in regards to the plans. Mr. Segura's contact info was distributed via email and on forms for entities to contact him as needed.

Mr. Soule stated that the form in front of the members is not a true representation of what is actually submitted to date. Some entities have submitted plans very recently and been accepted by Mr. Segura. Letters of excusal for the ADA Plan should be submitted for excusal if the entity has less than fifty employees regardless of classification. Some may have been submitted but not recorded. Please, submit them again if no response was given. Mr. Soule stated that there were issues with the City of Portales at one point for submissions, so he suggested all members CC their respective planner with their submissions so that planners may assist with any issues that may arise with submissions to NMDOT.

Ms. Gonzales concurred with Mr. Soule and stressed CCing planners in the submission of ADA and Title VI.

Chairman Cordova asked for clarity on the letter submittal for excusal from ADA plans. NERTPO planners stated that it is a requirement and that the members should submit one as some who are known to have less than fifty employees have yet to be recorded as such. It was stated that Tribal Entities are the ones who are marked exempt across the board. Yvonne Aragon of NMDOT D4 stated that the concern for the lighting and timing of the lighting in NM 434 has been addressed by NMDOT. The lights were moved and timing was reset. Chairman Cordova thanked Ms. Aragon on her expeditious effort to addressing the issue.

Chairman Cordova asked if there will be any issues with Aging and Long Term. Ms. Gonzales responded that there is not a certain amount of cuts right now but they are anticipating a 5.5% cut. Many elderly people of the State will be affected by any more cuts. NN is about 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for senior hunger and NCNMEDD is making as much effort through resourcing and networking to address the cuts that have affected the program. Ms. Gonzales stated that Congress is considering cutting the SNAP program. Seniors get about \$25 in food stamps a month which is not much. Seniors live on social security which is a fixed income of very little money. Hunger Summit will be held again this year and one of the initiatives is to do an intergenerational program to bring generations together. NM has been the top of the worst in many categories and collaborations recommended to address this. Tim Dodge of Santa Rosa asked Ms. Gonzales about the outreach of the agency on aging. Ms. Gonzales stated that there is an outreach attempt that is always attempted. Mr. Dodge stated that if contracts are not completed, the entity will have to cover the difference which is bad for the entity. Chairman Cordova stated that if the agency is cut another 5.5%, the agency in Eagle Nest that supports the local seniors will have to be shut down because the Village cannot cover that significant of a difference to maintain operations. Ms. Gonzales stated that there are efforts by other organizations to feed the seniors. Coordination is being stressed as much as possible. It was suggested that there be some sort of webinar for meeting and trainings because budget cuts will restrict travels. Travel has been cut due to budget cuts overall and may continue to be cut.

Much support for collaboration with each other was voiced by the members. Planning efficiently together will be more an effort in order to support each other.

## **B. Suggested agenda Items for upcoming meetings**

Chairman Cordova requested further training on LGRF from NMDOT.



### C. Meeting Locations:

Motion to move May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting to May 18<sup>th</sup>: Tim Dodge – City of Santa Rosa

Second: Sam Blea – Town of Springer

No opposing was voiced.

Motion carried.



- ❖ **April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Village of Eagle Nest, NM**
- ❖ **May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017: City of Las Vegas, NM**
- ❖ **June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Angel Fire, NM**
- ❖ **All others to be decided at next meeting**

## XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Donna Sue Milson – Village of Roy

Second: Tim Dodge – City of Santa Rosa

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM.