Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Meeting, held on March 28, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Chambers, Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101.

Members Present: George Wilkinson, Chair
Mike Yohn, Vice-Chair
Darius Allen, Commissioner
Jason Kelly, County Attorney
Mark Garcia, Interim Administrator
Belina Ramirez, Administrative Secretary

Call the Meeting to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

M/S Allen/Yohn motion to approve the agenda of March 28, 2012. Motion was passed unanimously.

Consent agenda Items:

Approval of General Business/Minutes

The Following Minutes were presented:
Regular Minutes- March 14, 2012

M/S Yohn/Allen motion to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2012. Motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills/Obligations

M/S Allen/Yohn motion to approve the Bills/Obligations Motion was passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Approval of Consent Agenda

2012 Commissioners Meetings and Holidays-Amendment for Christmas Eve
2012 Annual Fire Operating Plan
Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund
February Treasurer's Report

M/S Allen/Yohn motion to approve Consent Agenda
Motion was approved unanimously.

Alamosa County Land Use

Juan Altamirano was present. A request from BLM to clear up issues on Zapata Road specifically the ownership of the road. There are issues associated with the road to get funding to do some road work. They found Zapata Loop proposal which was an application to state for funding in 1992. Alamosa County became project sponsor and served as fiscal agent knowing BLM was the land being developed.

Shawn stated Zapata is a BLM recreation area. Actual development of the road has been researched. They want to fix Zapata Road to make it public accessible. They have a state engineer who also wants to fix that road. He wants to get it into the Federal Highways Program. They cannot do this because it is not an official system listed road. This appears to be an oversight. He needs some documentation stating it is not Alamosa County road but BLM to proceed with this program.

Commissioner Allen stated they want a resolution stating it is a 100% BLM road. There were some requests of how it will be open by Alamosa County. It is important as it being a recreation road. Commissioner Allen stated their biggest concern is that the concern is not being closed. This is part of the resolution. They don’t have a date of closures but only as needed for two options; one for public health and safety reason and for habitat closures. It gets a lot of visitation being the third visit here next to the Sand Dunes and Wolf Creek. They don’t have a single road closure out due to run off due to the mild winter. It is a year round destination and the want to keep it that way.

Commissioner Wilkinson stated it needs to be redesigned especially for camper trailers. It would be an asset for the community. He doesn’t want it closed for any period of time. He knows Road & Bridge goes out there and bladed the road. Shawn stated it gets bad right after it is bladed so they need a permanent solution.

Shawn stated he knows there were issues before with closures. Now they have new authority and he believes they won’t have that problem now.

Commissioner Yohn stated one condition was it would remain free. The camping area is a fee area. There never has been an authorized camping area before stated Shawn. There is now and a fee for overnight camping only, access to the area is free. There is a designated picnic area which is for everyone’s access not just overnight camping. Overnight camping has become expensive for maintenance so their fees are justified.
Mr. Kelly stated they might need more than just a resolution to state this is their road such as a Quick Claim deed. Shawn stated all they need is a resolution to meet their needs for this program.

Mr. Garcia stated if they do this will they take maintenance over the property immediately. If they don’t get funding for pavement then they will look at redesigning it. They have been cooperatively grating this stated Shawn. In event of being paved who will do snow removal or will they need to continue the cooperative sharing responsibility of road. Shawn stated he cannot really answer this because they don’t know what will come out of this. Commissioner Wilkinson stated this was an in kind from the County. Commissioner Allen stated he would like to continue helping them because this is tourism dollars that come in. It will become their responsibility for them. Commissioner Yohn stated it is in the resolution that BLM is responsible for maintenance and any responsibility. They look at this as the case anyways but this isn’t what happened. Commissioner Wilkinson stated they are not opposed to helping them maintain this road.

M/S Allen/Yohn motion to approve Resolution 2012-G-03 with addition of a provision disclaiming any interest in property- legal description Zapata Falls Road and to include legal description and map.

Motion was approved unanimously.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ALAMOSA COUNTY COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO: 2012 - G - 003

RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING MAINTAINENCE OF ZAPATA FALLS ROAD.

Commissioner Allen moved for the adoption of the following resolution. Commissioner Yohn seconded the motion.

Whereas the Alamosa County, the Bureau of Land Management, and the State of Colorado have worked cooperatively for many years to develop the Zapata Falls Recreation Area as an outdoor recreation and tourism destination; and

Whereas in 1992 the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Forest Service in partnership with Alamosa County cooperatively designed and built the Zapata Falls Road, (“Road”) under the Colorado State Parks State Trails Programs Funding; and

Whereas Alamosa County served as the designated “Project Sponsor” of said Road and has continuously maintained the Road since 1992; and

Whereas the Road is the sole access point to a major seasonal recreation area and as such has a substantial economic and social benefit to the residents Alamosa County and the entire San Luis Valley;
Whereas Alamosa County declaims any interest in the property as described in the attached legal description;

Whereas the Bureau of Land Management desires now to maintain said Road and to relieve Alamosa County of any and all responsibility regarding maintenance, and shall now be responsible for long term maintenance and management of the Zapata Falls Road.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Bureau of Land Management is the official agency responsible for long term maintenance and management of the Zapata Falls Road with the following conditions:

a. The Road shall be open and accessible to the public at all times except when the Road is undergoing regularly scheduled maintenance and/or emergency situations;
b. Access to said Road shall be free of charge at all times.

Roll call vote resulting in approval: Three in favor. None against.

DATED: March 22, 2012

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ALAMOSA COUNTY

(SEAL)

By

George Wilkinson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Melanie Woodward, Clerk of the Board

SLV Ecosystem Council

Chris Canaly was present. They are discussing the resolution they brought up at the last SLV Commissioner Regional meeting. Alamosa has taken the role of renewable energy for the valley. This will help them continue this discussion.

Wayne Caldwell CFO of Monte Vista Coop spoke. They initially started to help the six irrigators who had the rate issue with Xcel meters with their solar 10 kW PV systems. They were going to install similar PV systems themselves when they found out there was a rate issue on the demand side. They chose to help those six irrigators with this issue. They contacted some legislators here in the Valley with this. They are trying to get this to the state level, Governor Energy Office, and the PUC. The representation is not great from the valley so they realized at
that time that they needed to take role in facilitating this. They needed support of valley leaders. Their support is greatly appreciated. They are in support of this resolution.

They have been before Conejos and Rio Grande County and they have passed this resolution already. She went to Mineral County but one of the commissioners was not there so they will probably pass it at their next meeting. They have gone to Costilla and Saguache they are on board but not passed yet.

Commissioner Allen stated in the letter they provided it stated Xcel pulled of Transmission project. Tri-State is still involved in this project, Transmission projects have not come to a halt. Saguache County just passed their renewable energy project that was in yesterday’s paper.

Commissioner Wilkinson stated they have a couple of applications interested in Alamosa County now. Solar isn’t the only reason for transmission lines in the valley but if our lines go down it would be devastating to our communities.

Commissioner Allen asked about the Power Purchase Agreement. Ms. Canaly stated there is no Power Purchase Agreement in place yet. Are there limitations to the permit asked Commissioner Wilkinson? Ms. Canaly stated there are lots of conditions to the permit. They are starting a project in Nevada where they got a $750 million loan. He doesn’t know where the investment will come from for this project.

Commissioner Yohn asked when they came before SLV Commissioner Association Meeting why are they going to each county rather than the Association as a whole. It would be better from each county. Commissioner Wilkinson stated there was no resolution passed at that meeting. Commissioner Allen stated each county wanted to tweak each resolution to their needs.

Mr. Garcia asked about the letter. John Covert with the Colorado Harvesting Network stated in 2007 the legislature adopted a statute that called for community based energy development. It granted utilities a multiplier of 1 ½ credits toward their renewable energy standard by having a community based project that shows local ownership. There has not been a single project approved. It has been ineffective because they can achieve their mandate with larger projects much easier.

Juan Altamirano stated that area in the resolution they should be cautious because they are stepping in a position of what goes against what they have been developing. They did receive tax incentives from the state. We don’t get to access tax incentives because they are assessed by the state. If we were to access the tax it would be 5 times the amount they pay now.

Mr. Garcia asked about the sentence of meet standards. This is need for transmission out of the area. Ms. Canaly interpreted it as it is explained in detail in the next section. If individual farmers could start developing PV on their corners of their center pivot irrigation systems they could meet those need standards because they would be produce their own energy that they could be using. They would rather not see large solar on public lands. This is for individual farmers. This in anyway does not portray on what Alamosa is already doing.
Commissioner Wilkinson stated the farmers that put the solar on their quarters were dissatisfied with the results they got out of that. Also the school and the hospital were not satisfied with the results so why are we doing this if they are dissatisfied. Ms. Canaly stated they are trying to get the rate structure changed so they can see a better benefit. Mr. Covert stated the legislator adopted the Solar Garden Legislation. They thing they were able to accomplish was to satisfy demand customers. They believe this Solar Garden Legislation will work for the six irrigators. In Antonito they are testing this out. It will be a better project structure now than before. His role is looking for opportunities to help rural Colorado with the PUC. The current docket they are involved in is Wind Source. Customers can voluntarily pay a little more to get additional renewable generation. Xcel is trying to build this project off of a large Wind Farm near Limon. Right now there is an effort in legislation for incentives for biomass in forestry. They are nonprofit that were incorporated for this purpose for Rural Economic Development. He gets funding for an Energy foundation, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Monte Vista Coop, and Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. This will make more impact at a state level stated Mr. Caldwell.

Mr. Altamirano suggested revise the way the Resolution is written because it is subject to very broad interpretation where the board seems to take an advocacy position to what would not be congruent to what we have developed in the past and what we want to develop.

Who will be involved in this task force asked Commissioner Allen. They talked about modeling something such as through Monte Vista Coop also a group appointed by the Commissioners. Can they tweak this Resolution that would be better for Alamosa County stated Commissioner Allen?

**M/S Allen/Yohn motion to table to change resolution to make it read better for Alamosa County**

Motion was approved unanimously.

**Alamosa County Department of Human Services**

Laurie Rivera was present. Their staff is anxiously awaiting the new director. Suzi Campos has worked with Mr. Atencio on a shredding project which they shredded about 6,088 lbs. of paper. They would like to do this on an annual basis and include the other departments. Commissioner Wilkinson stated they have discussed this at staff meetings and are planning on including the other departments.

The Child Support Report was provided. Recoveries are up 78% from last year. Child Support Collections are also up 25% from last year.

Judi Velasquez is the Supervisor position overseeing Employment First, Leap, Child Care, and the new Category Adult without Children Medicaid Program. They have posted her position in-house.
In March they had a state review for Child Protection. This is the first review they have had for their program. They will probably have to do a Program Improvement Plan due to this evaluation. They have a new Supervisor and a new Case Manager in that area.

April 17th their Services Department will participate in a permanity site visit with the state and the courts which is part of the Federal Child Family and Services review for the state performance review to see how counties are doing in this area. They will be looking at what are the areas of need and improvement.

July 16th their services will go through audit/review of cases. Rio Grande and Saguache will also bring in cases so it is a regional review. Approximately 60-70 cases will be pulled for review. They will learn what areas they need for improvement.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. They would like a proclamation signed. They want to make an awareness of Child Abuse. April 18th is their Second Annual Carnival. Various other agencies are involved where booths are made for food and fun for the children.

Commissioner Allen thanked Ms. Rivera for holding down things until the new director arrived. They had a meeting on Monday with Nursing on topics such as Obesity and Teen Pregnancy. Alamosa had one of the highest child abuse rates than anywhere else. Ms. Rivera stated Alamosa has always been seen to be high. You only get that number because you report it. Alamosa County reports suspected Child Abuse and Neglect but that does not always mean cases are confirmed.

M/S Allen/Yohn motion to adopt Proclamation of April being National Child Abuse Prevention Month
Motion was approved unanimously.

Alamosa County Clerk & Recorder

Melanie Woodward was present. She has done this for the last couple of elections. It is cheaper. Do they utilize any of the equipment they purchased asked Commissioner Wilkinson? It is cheaper than renting equipment and paying for the services. It is around $4700 for rental and programming and not including the ballot printing. License and software is around $8000 a year. They are trying to change to one vendor for the entire state.

Commissioner Allen asked if this was in her budget. Yes it is stated Ms. Woodward.

M/S Allen/Yohn motion to approve Elections Systems & Software Rental & Sale of Services Agreement.
Motion was approved unanimously.

Clerk & Recorder’s Report

Starting online renewals and is working real well. Total registration for 2010 was 14216 and for 2011 was 14313. Funds for 2010 were $3,153,813 and for 2001 was $3,350,313.
Mr. Garcia asked if they have the same vendor as the Treasurer. No stated Woodward. They were not given that option because the state mandated them the vendor.

M/S Yohn/Allen motion to approve Clerk & Recorders Report
Motion was approved unanimously.

Facilities Management

Sierra Detention Systems

Andrew Atencio was present. The Warranty on parts is good until December 22, 2012 but the preventive measurements for once a year such as go through locks, clean, and fix have expired. After the 22nd the parts are on us. They can control their location from their office and so they can guide him through the process to avoid a trip.

Commissioner Wilkinson stated in the future this needs to come out of Sheriffs budget.

M/S Yohn/Allen motion to approve Silver Level for Maintenance Warranty Agreement
Motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Atencio got some prices for the fire system. They tried to just replace box but that won’t work for any of them. They need to replace the entire the whole system. Commissioner Allen stated they need to do a RFP. Yes stated Mr. Atencio.

Board/Staff Updates

Adjourn

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting of the Board of Alamosa County Commissioners was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Belina Ramirez, Administrative Secretary

Absent
Carol Osborn, Assistant Administrator

George Wilkinson, Chairman

Mike Yohn, Vice-Chair

Darius Allen, County Commissioner