Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Meeting, held on March 30, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Chambers, Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101.

Members Present: Darius Allen, George Wilkinson, Mike Yohn, Commissioner Barry Shioshita, County Administrator Jason Kelly, County Attorney Belina Ramirez, Administrative Secretary

Call the Meeting to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

M/S Wilkinson/Yohn motion to approve the agenda of March 30, 2011.
Motion was passed unanimously.

Consent agenda Items:

Approval of General Business/Minutes

The Following Minutes were presented:
Regular Minutes, March 16, 2011

M/S Wilkinson/Yohn motion to approve the Minutes of March 16, 2011.
Motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills/Obligations

M/S Wilkinson/Yohn motion to approve the Bills/Obligations
Motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Leon Moyer 19417 Ridge Dr Alamosa was present. He commented on our website having no agenda posted. Also the agenda posted in the front is from the last meeting. He also commented that we are allowed to have draft minutes available and he wished we would have these on the website.
Approval of Consent Agenda

Annual Fire Operating Plan  
Appointment to SLV Community Action Agency  
LiveWell San Luis Valley – Memorandum of Agreement  
Agreement with Respect to Pfizer Sponsored Reminder Recall Postcards for Physicians  
Otero Jr College Agreement

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

Community Resource and Housing Development Corporation

Ty Coleman was present. Some information was presented. They have been providing homes for low income families. One of their programs is their self help programs. This is to help qualify low income to build a brand new home. These homes have all the newest insulation and windows. They need their help because Congress has this program on their chopping block. If we do mailings or mass emailing to insert flyers or if there are any meetings he could attend and present this information he would appreciate our help to get the word out.

Another program is Neighborhood Stabilization Act where they buy foreclosure homes in distressed area and remodel the homes completely. They upgrade the homes to be energy efficient. If they don’t show there is a need these programs will be terminated. We do not want that because there is a need.

Commissioner Allen asked how many homes have they helped. They have been in business over 30 years with 1000 homes throughout the State of Colorado. Currently they have four families here in Alamosa building homes and two in Monte Vista. Eight homes they have purchased from Walsenburg to Center with two being in Alamosa. Commissioner Allen asked if they have talked to service organizations such as Kiwanis. He has been going to different employers and their staff. Commissioner Allen suggested going to the Mushroom Farm since they are the fourth biggest employer here. He also asked if they have gone to any loaning institutions. He also asked them to attend the SLV Commissioners Association meeting. Commissioner Wilkinson stated he was going to ask the same questions but he thinks these programs are much needed. Commissioner Yohn asked about the home opportunities. They received a 13 million dollar grant where they are to build 100 homes throughout Westminster and the valley. If we are interested in seeing one of their homes there is one located at 121 12th Street that they have remodeled. Jason Luna is the one who remodeled this home. The problem they are having is finding distressed homes. They have one person in Westminster and he is here. Commissioner Allen suggested talking with the Treasurer for a list of foreclosures.

Robert Villagomes and Janet Lopez were also present with this program.
US Fish and Wildlife

Michael Blenden manages the three wildlife areas was present. Laurie Shannon the Lead Planner was also present. They started last fall a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Alamosa, Baca, and Monte Vista refuges. This is a process that will take three years. They will be looking at Habitat Management with public uses, facilities, wildlife, and recreation uses. They acquired the Baca National Wildlife Refuge. They are in the Public Scoping meeting phase. They had their first meeting here last night. They got some good ideas. Tonight they will be at the Monte Vista Coop and Moffat tomorrow 6:30-8:30 PM. He presented some information. Part of Secretary Salazar’s Americas Great Outdoors initiative they proposed a Conservation Area to enable them to work with landowners for Conservation Easements. Their goal is protection of priority wildlife habitats such as Southwest Willow Flycatcher, Wetland Habitat, and other migratory bird habitat. It will be limited on the funding and the amount of willing landowners and the amount of habitat that needs to be protected.

Commissioner Allen asked him to talk about the three areas kind of a recap. Monte Vista Refuge has about 15000 acres ½ is wetland habitat. It is a migrant bird habitat (waterfowl and Sand Dune cranes). Alamosa migratory bird refuge is not as intensively managed but it is like Monte Vista. Baca Refuge was established in 2003 and expanded in 2004 dramatically when the US acquired Baca Ranch. It is currently 80,000 acres of entire ownership of United States. They are very heavily involved with water management and irrigation practices, vegetation manipulation through grazing, and many issues. The big issue at the Baca Refuge is oil and gas exploration proposal because they don’t own the minerals underneath Baca Refuge. They are in the process of releasing an environmental assessment concerning the exploration for those minerals. Elk is an issue for all three refuges.

Is the Buffalo Bill still incorporated in asked Commissioner Allen? Yes there is a bison herd on Nature Conservancy property to introduce them into the area. Any given day they have 3000 elk which can be problematic. They have documented pre dramatic negative impacts to the areas due to elk problems.

Commissioner Wilkinson asked about the elk count in the Alamosa and Monte Vista. It varies a lot in winter 100-200 in Alamosa and in Monte Vista. What is a good amount of elk and what is a bad amount of elk. Commissioner Wilkinson asked about the bird count. About average for the last ten years but relatively low for duck production. They used to do an annual count but they have run short with staff to do that.

The boundary of Alamosa Refuge goes along the river he would like the landowners to sell a portion of their property to make a logical fence area.

Some of the questions they are asking in this plan are: How would you like them to be integrated into the county; what kind of role can the Wildlife play; what would you like to be exposed to at the wildlife refuges; and should we work better with fire protection districts.

Commissioner Wilkinson stated they stopped doing grazing have you started again. They were required to do an extensive study due to a law suit. Now they are doing prescriptive grazing.
where their engineers go and tell them where and when to graze. They use cattle instead of sheep. It is relatively effective using cattle along with sheep along with herbicides.

Commissioner Allen they have been working with Soil Conservation to put together a weed program also with RC&D and he asked if they have been in contact with them at all. He has met with the new Weed Coordinator Elliot and attending his meetings. Commissioner Allen asked about Mosquito Control. They have a Mosquito Management Policy in place with the National Wildlife system. They don’t do mosquito control for human comfort but for documented health and safety issues. They work with the Mosquito District to monitor and document health issues.

They did some preplanning where they met with potential cooperating agencies to help with this plan. They had NRCS, Bureau of Reclamations, National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Colorado Division of Wildlife attend. The State Park Service is attending these meetings with them. At last night’s meeting they had 12-15 people attend. Commissioner Allen asked with the way the water situation is now with irrigating how would this affect them. He thinks they are going to have a fast and short runoff. The danger wildlife wise mostly bird wise would be encouraging nesting birds such as ducks with good spring conditions because they are pretty dependent on water.

Commissioner Yohn asked about the San Luis Lakes and the management there if US Fish & Wildlife could work together with the State of Colorado to clear that lake and manage some fish and wildlife. Water levels would be held at a certain level because during the drought of 2002 the Division of Wildlife said let’s take advantage of the low water level and draw the lake down and renovate the fisheries there. Unfortunately that was not entirely successful. They did enter into an agreement with all the stakeholders about how that lake would be restored. It would be on natural run off primarily because it didn’t seem fair to task the Bureau of Reclamation to pump with Reclamation water. This would be very expensive. It has been very little run off but there is a group working on ensuring run off does get to that lake. Commissioner Wilkinson stated since the state has taken over that it has gone downhill. Commissioner Yohn stated it could be a gem for the San Luis Valley. Commissioner Allen stated Steve Vandiver wrote a letter to the state.

**Alamosa County Public Health**

*Revenue Expenditure Summary*

The 9 Health Fair is Friday. Blood Chemistry Screening is $30, Men can get a PSA, Blood Cell Count (for anemia) is $15 and a new screening is Vitamin D which helps absorb calcium. Colorectal screening is $20 and PSA is $25. Volunteers here at 6 AM and open doors at 7 AM.

The Livewell grant is for breast feeding. This will probably be the last year they will get this. El Pomar is going to give them $5000. They had to quit child care quality assurance because of no funds so they might use this money for that. They got a phone call from someone asking who makes sure swimming pools are safe. She thought it would be the health inspector that does the restaurant inspections but it is not. They did some research and someone in Grand Junction sent them a ton of information but they go out only on a complaint basis. It is not mandatory.
Beverly Strnad spoke about the Reach Out and Read program. It is a National Organization to give out development age appropriate books out. They have made a reading corner in the lobby with used books. Literacy is part of development that everyone wants to encourage. The Reach Out and Read Program gives them the new books to give out but she would like to ask anyone to bring in used children’s books for the lobby. Commissioner Yohn stated maybe with the library moving they will have some kid’s books to donate.

She presented a copy of the Pfizer reminder postcards under the agreement that was approved under the Consent Agenda. They are supplying them the reminder cards along with the postage for them.

Alamosa County Home Health

They are paying Home Health Aides so much travel time and mileage. They are not consistent so she is thinking about if they give them a dollar raise and take away travel time they can save $1000 a month. They still have to give them mileage. They have several people that are quadriplegics that need to be moved in the morning and the evening. They don’t have someone in Conejos County so they have to have someone from Monte Vista go to Conejos. Mr. Shioshita would like the spreadsheets to determine. They have to be homebound to get skilled nursing services. They have 105 clients plus 9 pending. They did hire three more nurses. Whitney Shaw and Tammy Romero went to Denver last week. They are not documenting appropriately on CMS and the outcomes are being posted online.

She would like to purchase scrubs for Nurse’s Day with the County Logo. She would need about 13.

Break

Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder

County Clerk and Recorder Report

Melanie Woodward was present. Late fees they are not collecting on so it has gone down. They had their training here last week. Three of them got recertified and the rest will get recertified in the fall. Some of their computers were down so they haven’t been able to print registrations. Commissioner Allen asked how the background checks work for the liquor licenses if they go through the Sheriff’s Office. Ms. Woodward stated yes she contacts the Sheriff’s Office and they run the background check. The process runs rather well.

M/S Wilkinson/Yohn motion to accept the County Clerk and Recorders Report
Motion was approved unanimously.
Alamosa County Sheriff

Dave Stong was present. He presented his reports. The Average daily population is 117. They are spending a lot of time answering calls on security alarm. 90% are false alarms. He is working on addressing this problem by meeting with the owner of the system, the installer of the system, and the manufacturer. Commissioner Allen asked if he could get a total of calls and time to answer the calls. This also goes into dispatch so this costs us as well. Commissioner Yohn suggested if they get a call if they have the system analyzed or inspected. Commissioner Allen stated they are working on the shooting range. If they get a storage unit do they need a pad if he could check into that. Commissioner Allen asked if there was any way of taking up the space not being used and using that for trustees. It is a possibility stated Sheriff Stong but then they have prisoners not under locked security.

Alamosa County Department of Human Services

Proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Larry Henderson was present. Reggie Bicha is the new Executive Director for the state. Next month he will be making a tour, first from Arkansas Valley and on the 14th to Alamosa. He would like to meet with everyone.

The Insurance issue all of vehicles are covered with CTSI insurance but they have caseworkers or case aids that need to transport clients. They do not always have a car available so they take their own vehicle. There is a concern with the employees with their insurance. They are trying to work on that. Darius brought it up on their CAP meeting. When a vehicle is used for work their own insurance is primary but they do have governmental immunity when they are in the scope of work. The limit of liability is $150,000 per person $600,000 per occurrence. In some circumstances Colorado Property Pool will step in and act as secondary after they have exhausted their limits. CTSI stated they should pay employees mileage to cover costs such as insurance, fuel, and maintenance. He asked about how many people do that. Mr. Henderson stated primarily five case aids.

April 1st starts National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mr. Shioshita read the Proclamation as follows:

As a Nation and as a community, it is our responsibility to build a safe and nurturing society so that our young people can realize their full potential. During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we renew our commitment to preventing child abuse and rededicate ourselves to working together to ensure that all children can have a bright and hopeful future.

Whereas, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem that depends on involvement of all people throughout the community;

Whereas, child abuse and neglect not only directly harms children, but also increases the likelihood of long term physical and mental health problems, alcohol and substance abuse, continued family violence and criminal behavior. Whereas, child maltreatment occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources and don't know how to cope’
Whereas, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an involved and supportive community;

Whereas, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure that each family has the support they need in raising their children in a safe and nurturing environment;

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith-based communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community;

Therefore, we do hereby proclaim

April 2011, as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the County of Alamosa and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith-based groups, and businesses to increase their participation and commitment in our efforts to support families and protect our children from abuse and neglect, helping to ensure that each child can grow up in a secure and loving environment.

**M/S Wilkinson/Yohn motion to proclaim April 2011 National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Motion was approved unanimously.

Ongoing Workload Summary was presented as follows:

- Adult Financial: 328
- Adult Medical: 590
- Colorado Works: 152
- Family Medical: 1052
- Food Stamps: 1824
- Long Term Care: 427
- Medicare Savings Program: 250
- Total: 4623

Food Stamp Issuance was presented. It showed Alamosa County issued $500,609 with 1837 number of cases. Statewide issued $62,733,328.07 with 195,767 number of cases.

LEAP applications report for week ending 3/10/11 was presented. It showed Alamosa County total applications processed 1624 approved 1346, denied 203, 75 pending and for an average benefit for $433.06. The Statewide the total applications processed were 136,412, approved 110,582, denied 20942, pending 4888, and the average benefit was $373.25.

Investigation report for February 2011, Recovery Collection Report, and Child Support Collection Comparison were presented.

Statement of Expenditures and Statement of Revenues for December 2010 and January 2011 were presented. They were asked to change their reports format to show state and federal revenue. The Discussion of TBR is still out there.
Alamosa County Facilities Management

Request for Employee Vacancy

Andrew Atencio was present. He is requesting to replace his employee who worked for them for 22 years had another business venture come up. He would like one of the current employees to move up and hire another custodian. Tomorrow they will be working at the Old Spanish Cemetery. They also will be doing some landscaping here. Commissioner Allen read a letter of appreciation from the Sheriff’s Office for some work he did there. He was fast to respond and it took him less than 3 hours to do the work. Commissioner Yohn stated that the Annex building commented positively about him as well. He also stated they appreciated him raising the ranks within. This shows he takes care of his employees. They don’t want him to lower the great work that he is doing.

M/S Wilkinson/Yohn motion to approve request for Employee Vacancy for Facilities Management.

Motion was approved unanimously.

County Administrator Report

SdCNHA Website Launch

Marian Loser is the developer of the website. The presentation of the website was given.

GIS they had a meeting yesterday to find what position they are at.

Business Loan Fund through DRG is still relatively high. They are there for gap financing.

He is working on the highway report.

Health fair starts at 7AM.

They did two Conservation Trust projects. One work was a trail along North River Road for a path more feasible for walk/run. The other is Cattails to enhance their new driving range area. Another project potentially is purchase some portable bleachers. They could use them for the All Star Games or other city events.

The Bottoms Up project is Governor Hickenloopers Economic Strategy Development. He would encourage people to go to the Alamosa County website for the link to complete their survey.

Jail Security they are working on the punch line items to get them resolved.

Landscaping they will start between Human Services and Admin.

They did have the dodge ball event. They raised $3000. The husband of Stephanie Miner told someone he was impressed on how many attended.
Lunch

Women's Resource Center

Cheri Crowder the Director was present. This is their 28th year. They do pregnancy testings and ultrasounds to verify a positive test for women. They also provide layettes for agencies so if they have a client that has absolutely nothing for the baby to wear they provide this. They do presentations at schools for healthy relationships to get a handle on pregnancy. Clients for 2010 they had 740 females and 26 males that did their parenting classes. They had 523 females last year. They did 183 free pregnancy tests, 340 Earn while you learn class which may include mom, mother-n-law, or even boyfriend, they did 44 ultrasounds, and they do life skill classes. They had 697 hours of volunteers. They have 288 hours of volunteering starting in January. They hired a new director and a part time Administrative Assistant. The Monte Vista Office opened in June 2010 with hours of 2-5:30PM same as Alamosa but they are opened Monday-Friday. They have 2 major fundraisers where they raised $8000 of change kept in baby bottles and their Walk for Life campaign which raised $17000. She thanked the Commissioners for their support. Commissioner Allen stated that CSBG funding got cut in half. Their concern is if some of those will be in business if they pull those funds. Their program isn't just a giveaway program they have to attend classes to get points to purchase items.

La Puente

Lance Cheslock was present. He joined La Puente in 1989. The census of the shelter goes up and down. He presented some stats. For 2010 they had 643 individuals that used the shelter. The shelter is a 45 bed shelter and upstairs it is dedicated for a safe house for Tu Casa. They shelter between 26-30 people for them. They provide roughly 40,000 meals a year. Tona Ruybal is his only paid staff at the shelter. Everyone else that works there is a volunteer. They don't have a menu because they do not buy food they rely on donations. The average stay is 14 days. They try not to do any enabling there. They let anyone have a meal but if they are issues with someone they will give them a meal but not let them in the shelter.

They are sharing a grant with Tu Casa. Their Adelante Program has 15 families right now. It has close alliances with Social Services. Their PALS program began as a program for their Adelante children but when Social Services seen the positive outcomes with the kids they asked if they could take on some more children. All the kids do not qualify for Boys-N-Girls Club or daycare because of the abuse they suffered causes some behavioral problems. Today PALS program served lunch at LaPuente and were doing trash cleanup around the neighborhood.

Their Food Bank is providing over 1,000 meals a day. Right now if you go in there they have a lot of snack foods and lots of potatoes so the quality of food is not really there. Once harvest begins or at Christmas time they get a higher quality of food. With the CSBG funds they use it only to buy food. Their collaboration with Community Garden and farmers is where they try to build up the nutritional side. Muck Kilpatrick is the Director of Food Bank and he will be leaving them soon.
The Outreach Services and the Homeless Prevention program help people who are behind in rent or are facing an eviction notice or utility shut off notices. SLV Electric gives them $20,000 a year as vendor payments for utilities. They make sure they refer them to LEAP and also discuss their situation such as budgets.

They had a small grant from Colorado Health Foundation that they use to helps people with medical problems. Also they help with prescriptions. They had 7 people with AIDS, 4 people with Hepatitis B, and some with Cancer and Diabetes that can’t afford the medication.

They also have their businesses such as the Milagros Coffee Shop and Rainbows End. Although the Monte Vista store this month just broke even.

They have 20 volunteers that come from around the world and donate a year’s time with them. They pay them $175 month to buy food and toiletry products. They give them health insurance and room to stay. They have 40 church workers that help them with their maintenance. They also have some community volunteers.

Commissioner Yohn questioned a sentence under the PALS program regarding the maltreatment rate of Alamosa County ranking #1 out of 64 Colorado Counties. There was a study done that measures maltreatment rates and Alamosa County does have the highest rate. It is through the website of Department of Human Services. He thinks this is calculated by the reports made so this means your County Human Services is probably busier than any other in the State of Colorado.

**SLV RC&D**

John Drake the President and Jim Claire were present. The Federal funding may cancel the funds for Rural Council and Development Groups. They do have some grants in process to cover them for the time being. They have a grant from Colorado Department of Ag for Weed Control. They have hired Vern Elliott to run this weed group. If and when they are defunded his position could be gone because he depends on a 501C3 to apply for his grants. They need to provide some assurance for those backing of the grants. Jim Claire stated they have tried to form an exit plan. He doesn’t know how their current facility office place situation will be. They are waiting on some guidelines for this. Mr. Elliot has done a lot of education in Costilla and Conejos County. He also is working with Mosca Soil Conservation on some projects. One of their big projects is Little Creek Project near Creede. Another project is mapping of ditch canal systems. They have expanded it to the west side of Rio Grande County. Currently they just finished up the Monte Vista Canal. They are working on the consolidated ditch. GIS/GPS is under contract with them on this project. They are train them with computers to use as data and as a tool. Their main concern is the weed program. They have talked with DRG and with Judy Lopez. Commissioner Allen stated they just formed a Council of Governments, maybe with them you could have space for Vern Elliott.

**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, Administrative Assistant

Darius Allen

George Wilkinson

Mike Yohn, County Commissioner