

Regional Coalition of LANL Communities

March 25, 2011 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Rio Arriba County Annex

1122 Industrial Park Rd

Espanola NM 87532

I. Introductions

II. Presentation by Charles McMillan, Principal Associate Director LANL

Rick Ulibarri welcomed Charles McMillan and stated he would be able to answer any questions anyone might have.

Charles McMillan thanked everyone for letting him join in the meeting. He said I know many of you saw the charts we presented last time, but I would like to show you some of the different charts. (Presentation attached). This fiscal year started in October and the challenge congress hasn't passed a budget. We are operational under what we call a continuing resolution. The continuing resolution is something unusual. There are only a few places in government where it exists. Usually a continuing resolution government will use the lower of this year's budget and last years budget or something like. In the previous congress, both the house and the senate were in an approximate agreement on the President's budget. We are now operational on the President's budget and this is very unusual. At Los Alamos this means we are spending at a rate that is a few hundred million higher then it would have been if it wasn't for this element. As you can see, looking at this chart, (page 2) I have control of more than half of the budget, it is probably the most stable part of the laboratory's budget. It has its up and downs but overall year in and year out going over the decades it has been a simple roll over in the organization. Looking at several major construction issues over the next decades they are part of this part of the dark blue budget. When I look at the changes at money coming into the laboratory a very large fraction over the next decade is going to be construction. The consequence of that is it is going to vary a bit. The range that I think we will be looking is about 200 and go up to 800. A lot of these jobs are rebar, plumber, painting and those kinds of craft. The other chart is on page 3; the charts show the break down on of the staff. So that was my introduction, do you have any questions for me.

Alfredo Montoya asked how can we alert or educate a lot of small contractors. How can we gather a group to get involved in the bid processes and to be involved?

Charles McMillan stated the first request I would have is to help flow this information into the system.

Alfredo Montoya stated it is my understanding this group has formed because if you want to support the lab it is better to have reasonable support across counties and municipalities versus just Los Alamos County. One of the things that is important to us is that we were willing and supportive. The previous results I have seen that Santa Fe has about 20% of the lab's employees and Rio Arriba has about 18%. One of the things the lab can do is to have a presence in the lab's business not just the construction. One of the ways of doing that is to continue programs to help students that are in college. Los Alamos has assisted with students in college costs.

Charles McMillan stated we have found over the years bringing in students into the laboratory has been a very effective way in recruiting future employees for the lab. Those interests of the people in the community and in the lab are combined there. We did see a drop down in student population over the last 3 years and now it is coming back up. We don't really know what our budget is going to be and there is a lot of uncertainty about what is going to happen next year. We have a lot of new members on Capitol Hill so we are going to see some problems. I have told my team we will be doing limited and selective hiring.

Andrew Chavez stated, going back to the hiring of people we are about to finish building our county court house and we are going to be hiring many people, but the contractors come in with their own people. A comment to the lab is your guys were saying the same thing we were, but when you hire your contractors you end up getting the contractors workers. I just want you to be cautious and not preach something that isn't going to come true.

Charles McMillan stated there may be some challenges but how do we take advantage of some of the talent here in Northern New Mexico.

Randy stated I think there is some good opportunity for local communities to have their small business to participate.

Charles McMillan I think small businesses need to be aware of the standards for construction contracts. So anything that can be done now to address quality control I think would be a very important point in competitiveness. People will need to think about what it will take to be competitive.

Pablo Sedillo stated we have had a relationship with Los Alamos over 60 years and I think this is an opportunity for us to strengthen the relationship and maybe look to diversification. Yes, the short term would be the construction but I think in the longer terms education science and math, is good. I would like to see more in terms of participation whether it is in dollars or whatever resources the lab has. I know Highlands University has a program with you and we need to look at Northern and Luna College as well. We need to expand to the other side of the mountain because they are part of this

region. We don't want to isolate ourselves to just these counties; those counties make a contribution as well. We need more participation but also tap into the resources with the local community leaders.

Charles McMillan said thank you that is also something to think about.

Michele Jacquez-Ortiz stated on behalf Senator Udall the constituents come to the senator for economic improvements. I think lab does some things very well in this area or how it partners and spins off some of its business and technology with the community. That may be an area for the lab to look at in the days ahead. I am just going to flag two areas that we have been hearing over and over again in meetings with groups. The tech transfer there may be some additional opportunities to look at with your team. We may be missing out on some of the opportunities in terms of some of the technology translated into commercializing that technology. In the second, would be on the procurement side, there are two gaps there that Los Alamos can look at which our local providers, the labs need. There are local vendors who do things really well and want to partner with the lab. Another is in regards to lowering the threshold on the contracts. I think it can be very powerful to get the local small business to create jobs and partnerships.

Charles McMillan said thank you will take that back with us.

Kathy Holian stated I have a different issue to bring up in regards to emergency management especially now with Japan and the failure of the nuclear power plants. I had an interesting conversation with Chief Martin Vigil who is our chief of emergency management in Santa Fe County. He had participated in an exercise and it involved local governments, tribal government, and state agencies. An exercise was studied of what if there were to be a fire at the old dump in Los Alamos, but by the time it was done a lot of people had dropped out. It turned out to be anemic exercise and a lot of the comments weren't included. Perhaps at our next meeting we can talk about how we can do another exercise and bring in all the local entities. I am offering Santa Fe County to be the next venue for our next meeting.

Charles McMillan stated we can really do that because I am one of the five emergency managers at the labs. Let me see if we can get anyone from the lab to speak for the emergency preparedness. It a timely thing to do and it's on all our minds.

Sharon Stover stated lets go back to this competitiveness on the contractors, it might have been just a rumor, but one of the things we heard is the lab had a challenge in hiring folks relative to drug testing. You get all these people coming through and then your ratio is hurt by drug testing. Is that something we need to be aware of?

Charles McMillan stated the answer there is, yes, we see people failing the drug test but not at any rates that are great or than that you would see in other industrial site's. I

don't think it is an issue. Let me say we are a drug free workplace. It is a very deep commitment the lab has, but it doesn't look like it's a problem more than some would expect. At the same time we don't want to see drug problems in our community and it doesn't seem like it would be a problem. Well thank you I know you have other things on your agenda so thank you again for your time.

III. Completion of JPA

Rick Ulibarri stated we will just go through the rest of this pretty quickly because there is nothing that we solve here today, but I want each one of these things moved forward as soon as we can.

Alfredo Montoya stated we all have emergency management we are trying to protect what we have right now. We are a Coalition can help the lab is in contact with the emergency management. In our county we have 18 fire stations and there are in constant communication all the time.

Sharon Stover stated just so you all know, Charles McMillan, is a candidate for the laboratory director and Patrick said if you are interested Terry Wales would also like to talk to us about some lab issues.

Rick Ulibarri stated I think on our business items I think this was productive today and one of the things that can be on our agenda next month is working on the communications.

Pablo stated we can bring some people active and communicating with the community. I think we also need to look at equity in terms of how monies are being spent and where they are being spent. I see some inequities and I think it is part of responsibility to bring this to their attention. They are falling off their obligation to the schools; they used to help with Pojoaque and Espanola public school. They are still getting 55,000 dollars to meet standards with DOE and that's money they can just put in their pocket. I don't want to be critical but I think we have the opportunity to balance it a little bit.

Michele Jacquez-Ortiz stated I could not agree to your more.

Rick Ulibarri we have a few more legal requirement. We are not a Regional Coalition yet until we get our JPA by the State Department of Finance. We are missing some signatures on that documentation.

Alfredo Montoya stated our county did sign it and I was chairman when we passed it.

Rick Ulibarri stated the date is an issue. I can bring it down so it can be signed by the new chairman. I will get with Santa Fe County and Los Alamos I know where to find them and the City of Espanola the mayor need to sign it. For Taos County, I just need a

copy of the original copy they signed. So with that, that covers the JPA and we can become organization once we go through the State Department of Finance.

IV. Approval of RFP

Rick Ulibarri stated I have hard copies of the proposed RFP. I would if anyone has rejections or comments, let me know so we can approve the RFP next meeting. I am passing out a draft of solicitation and send it, if everyone agrees, to the Department of Energy for matching funds to help fund this organization.

Danny Mayfield stated you are all doing a search now for an Executive Director.

Rick Ulibarri stated there was a search done last fall but it was unsuccessful. I prepared a new draft for you and the only real question was we could really hire anyone until we are formal.

Danny Mayfield asked how that director is going to be compensated. Will it be with the funds we put in?

Sharon Stover stated we had a budget that had a range for what the salary may be. We can bring that in the next meeting.

V. Next Scheduled Meeting

Rick Ulibarri stated we can schedule meeting for Friday, April 29, 2011 at 9:00a.m.

Kathy stated we will host the meeting in the Commissioners Chambers at Santa Fe County. If any one would like to bring someone that works in emergency management please bring them.