

# REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES

## Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

County of Los Alamos  
Pajarito Cliffs Meeting Room – Building One  
101 Camino Entrada  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Meeting called to order at 9:23 a.m.

Los Alamos County Council Chair Sharon Stover welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. The meeting was then turned over to Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Principal Associate Director for Capital Projects, Paul Henry.

### **1. The Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Progress Report**

#### **a. Discussion of subcontracting process**

Mr. Henry handed out the LANL Pajarito Corridor Construction Communications Structure organizational sheet and explained it will serve as a tool to communicate with the public. Mr. Henry explained that the project is on hold until the week of October 10<sup>th</sup> when the record of decision is released.

As the Associate Director responsible for all Capital Projects, Mr. Henry reported on the three major Departments and the staff that fall underneath his purview. They include Michael Graham of Environmental Programs and John Bretzke, Project Manager for small investment projects underneath one million dollars. Mr. Bretzke manages about 140 ongoing projects, which are opportunities for the community. Finally, Rick Holmes serves as the Project Manager for the CMRR.

The other resources available to Mr. Henry include Lisa Rosendorf, Kurt Steinhaus, and Craig Leasure. Both Lisa and Craig are involved in LANL's Community outreach plans. Craig Leasure works for the Weapons Program with the CMRR project being funded through the weapons side of the Laboratory.

According to Mr. Henry, some of the types of things LANL plans to roll out include portals that will provide project information such as procurement needs and overall status. Public awareness is important. LANL will focus on using multiple venues to get the word out in terms of where workshops are going to be held, how projects are going to be staffed, etc. They will also look to their external partners such as RDC, area communities, businesses and colleges for assistance in getting the word out.

Mr. Henry continued stating that most recently he worked on recruiting subcontractors for a \$ 2.2 billion dollar project in Pueblo, CO. with the local area having a lot of involvement in the effort.

The first part of the CMRR project is the Supplier and Enhancement Program. This step will determine how to involve our local businesses, secure the procurement for the project, where to pull in statewide business and how to partner with smaller businesses. Each area is important and decisions must be reached before we begin.

Other plans include setting up workshops to walk people through the bidding process. The workshops will help small businesses understand the pre-qualifications required in order to work on the project.

Mr. Henry explained that the first opportunities to come available are the infrastructure packages, which includes the concrete batch plant. In addition, there will be many subcontractors.

The project will include four phases:

1. Road construction to prepare for activity at CMRR. Other prep work includes construction trailers, warehouses, soil, concrete, and drain testing and Nuclear Quality Assurance (NQA1);
2. Worker Enhancement Program – this will provide many opportunities for local people to include non-manual and manual positions, such as engineers, procurement staff, intern positions recruited from local universities, as well as hiring senior management positions;
3. Specialized Construction/Trade Work – an analysis was done in August 2010 to determine the existing draw for construction work. LANL must understand the dynamics of the industry and develop a plan for attracting these specialized construction/trade labor; and,
4. Technical School/University Opportunities – many opportunities will exist for young people coming out of school including comprehensive analysis and working with local trades.

Mr. Henry completed his talk by stating that it will take the help of Northern New Mexico to make the CMRR project successful. The meeting was then opened up for questions.

Pablo Sedillo commented that hopefully the CMRR project would employ locals. He is also glad that RDC is involved. Projects like these are about serving local communities, not only locally but regionally. The involvement in this process cannot be top-down. It has to come from the bottom to the top.

Mr. Sedillo indicated he has gotten many questions about this project and what the Senator's involvement is, which he has had to explain as best he can. He is very happy that LANL is involving local communities and that the awareness includes using language that the public can understand.

Juan Torres asked with regard to workers, what is the strategy for identifying communication methods? Mr. Henry commented that in Pueblo, CO they had a group called PEDCO (Pueblo Economic Development Corporation), who they used as the interface to get the message out. RDC, as a partner in this effort, will play a pivotal role for us.

Mr. Torres also asked if the workshops and networking will happen at the same time or separate. Mr. Henry answered it will start as an overview of the procurement process and the general opportunities. Procurement will provide information of the bidding process, answering how it will work, from macro to micro. Mr. Torres followed up asking if LANL had a date. Mr. Henry answered stating no date will be set until the record of decision is issued.

Kathy Keith of RDC commented that it has been great working with the Laboratory. Working in conjunction with LANL, RDC will have booths in the local communities asking if there is interest in working with the project.

The Laboratory will convene a meeting for local businesses. RDC will contact the contractors to remind them of the meeting. RDC will also identify the help local businesses need in order to be competitive bidders for this federal project.

Ms. Keith stated that on the work force side, RDC is working with Northern and Santa Fe Community College. Both have very significant trade programs they will start recruiting from heavily.

In addition, Congress Lujan is sponsoring a Workforce Summit on October 20<sup>th</sup>, to talk about businesses workforce needs. The summit is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Santa Fe Convention Center.

Councilor Stover asked how the community can help communicate what is going on to the workforce. Ms. Keith commented that RDC is creating a website that will provide when the project starts, when bidding starts, workforce information, etc. The site will be a place where resumes can be submitted. The website should be setup by January/February. RDC is hoping to develop a long term relationship with Los Alamos contractors, allowing them to continue to identify their needs.

Mr. Henry commented that having that relationship and discussion on a regular basis is important. We want to let the community know what is coming in the next year and how we do want to partner with Northern New Mexico.

Councilor Stover inquired about the plans of the parent company, Bechtel, in terms of their workforce needs – will they bring their own or hire locally? Mr. Henry commented that there would be a core team that has 30 years experience working on a project such as CMRR. They will also get the participation of young engineers that could then potentially move into another career at the Laboratory.

Councilor Stover also asked how the local community can get ready as far as housing needs. How can the County get ready for this? Mr. Henry commented that just like in Pueblo, the community saw it as a market driver.

Andrew Chavez, Taos County, asked if they have a set number of people in mind for the project. Mr. Henry responded stating that on the craft side they are looking at 600 – 800 workers. Mr. Chavez also asked if they have a time table with the activities. Mr. Henry answered that they could not comment on that at this time.

Councilor Stover inquired if the workers will be bused to the site. Mr. Fung answered that LANL has acquired land going into the truck route, which could be developed for parking and buses. Solutions to questions such as badging in White Rock, parking and other issues will be directed through RDC.

Councilor Stover ended by commenting that the CMRR presentation had been very helpful.

Councilor Stover also shared that those businesses that would like to attend the New Mexico Workforce Summit should email: [brl.rsvp@mail.house.gov](mailto:brl.rsvp@mail.house.gov)

Mr. Henry thanked Councilor Stover for inviting LANL to the Coalition meeting. He concluded by stating that one of his greatest job satisfactions from his previous project was the hiring of young people from the universities and he looks forward to doing the same in New Mexico.

## **2. Executive Director Recruitment**

Mr. Steven Lynne commented that we are still waiting for the formally executed JPA from the State Department of Finance. Once received and past our formative stage, we can begin recruitment of the Executive Director. Councilor Stover commented that once we receive formal recognition from the State we can also begin the process of applying for funding from the DOE.

## **3. New Business**

Mr. Torres asked if everyone had received the minutes from the last meeting. It was agreed that minutes will be added to the agenda beginning with the next meeting.

Ms. Keith commented that RDC was approached by Jemez Pueblo about housing needs, including a project that could begin in White Rock. Ms. Keith will send out an email as to when a meeting will take place on this issue.

## **4. Next Meeting Date**

Agreement was reached on the following agenda items for the next meeting:

- Introduction of Harry Burgess, the new Los Alamos County Administrator; and,
- Update on the Workforce Summit.

Those in attendance set the next meeting for 9:00 a.m. on November 17<sup>th</sup> with Santa Fe County hosting. Duncan Sill will confirm the location.

Meeting adjourned 10:34 a.m.