

**MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES
June 3, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities was called to order on June 3, 2011, by Randy Autio, at approximately 8:30 a.m., in the Tesuque Room, Santa Community Convention Center, 201 Marcy Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Sharon Stone, Los Alamos County
Randy M. Autio, Los Alamos County
Commissioner Kathy Holian, Santa Fe County
Commissioner Daniel Mayfield, Santa Fe County
Mayor David Coss, City of Santa Fe
Commissioner Andrew D. Chavez, Taos County
James V. Lujan, City Manager, City of Espanola
Brenda Mares, Emergency Management, Santa Fe County
Duncan Sill, Santa Fe County
Martin Vigil, Assistant Fire Chief/Emergency Manager, Santa Fe County
Matt Roybal, Congressman Lujan's Office

OTHERS PRESENT:

Juan Torres, City of Santa Fe – Staff liaison
Melessia Helberg, Stenographer

A copy of the Sign-In Sheet for the meeting is incorporated herewith to these minutes as Exhibit "1."

OPENING DISCUSSION

Commissioner Stover said they didn't know that the LANL people were expected to attend today, and that wasn't clear.

Commissioner Holian said we did say at the last meeting that we had concerns and we wanted to communicate with the laboratory about those concerns.

Mr. Autio said he didn't realize that, and didn't know they wanted the LANL people here for this meeting. He thought you wanted a presentation to the Coalition first, and apologized for the misunderstanding.

Commissioner Stover said we should go forward with the presentation, and then continue the conversation with LANL.

Commissioner Holian said Santa Fe County has concerns and wants a dialogue with LANL about those concerns.

Commissioner Stover believes LANL would be willing to attend, but no one issued an invitation.

Mr. Vigil said he thought the purpose was for the local governments to engage LANL on the various issues.

Mr. Autio said that is part of the mission, and the other part is the local communities coming together to figure out how we can support LANL's goals and missions, and work with them, commenting that LANL isn't a member of the coalition, but frequently attend the meetings. The members are all the communities which engage with LANL.

Mr. Torres said representatives from LANL have attended several meetings when they have been invited.

Mr. Chavez said we had discussed an overall issue regarding LANL and what it does, and how that impacts the environment and each of our communities.

Commissioner Stover suggested this can be scheduled at a future time and get the players to the table.

1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PREPARATION

A copy of the power point presentation is incorporated herewith to these minutes as Exhibit "2."

Martin Vigil, Assistant Fire Chief/Emergency Manager, Santa Fe County, introduced Brenda Mares, Emergency Management Coordinator for Santa Fe County, who put together the power point presentation.

Mr. Vigil said today's presentation came about after the disaster in Japan, and they were receiving a lot of communications from residents with regard to risks from LANL. He said one of the issues is that the interest peaks during and after these events, and then falls dramatically. He would like to see the group develop some tangible next steps to address some of these gaps which local governments have. He said this isn't meant to beat-up LANL in any way, commenting that the issues in Japan are different from our situation here, although there are recurring themes in disasters.

Mr. Vigil presented information in this regard via power point. Please see Exhibit "2" for specifics of this presentation.

The Coalition members commented and asked questions as follows:

- Mr. Chavez asked how to get people informed and keep it fresh in their mind so that we don't have problems in the event of a disaster.

Mr. Vigil said emergency management recently studied this issue, and emergency management really has not been that effective in changing the behavior of preparedness for our citizens. The National Hurricane Center did a fairly comprehensive study along the Gulf Coast a year after Katrina, and asked the questions, "How many of you have assembled your evacuation kits, have your disaster supplies ready and your family disaster plan in place." He said the vast majority of people had done nothing, even after being so heavily impacted after Katrina.

Mr. Vigil said he challenges his disaster partners asking how can you spread the word of preparedness, if you're not prepared yourself, and I want you to bring to this meeting your 72 hour kits. He said it took 3 years for a lot of the volunteers to actually get that done. He said we are "wired," in a sense to always think it is going to happen to others, and if we don't have disasters all the time it is difficult to get that done.

Mr. Vigil said he is unsure he has an answer with regard to what is the best message, but he knows fear doesn't work. He has been trying to use the "comfort" message – how comfortable do you want to be when you lose some of this infrastructure – when you lose heat, electricity and such. He said it is a personal choice and some are inherently just better prepared. He said a lot of the traditional communities do better when they lose the infrastructure, and they just move forward. He said the biggest challenge is from people who move here from elsewhere and aren't prepared for the extreme weather conditions we can experience.

Mr. Vigil said our society has moved away from the "pantry" mentality, and nobody has supplies of canned goods, water and such, which is how our grandparents grew up. As a society we've lost the whole self-reliance mentality. He said we need to stay on task with this which is a year after year after year message.

- Mr. Chavez spoke about the recent experience during the 7-day cold spell, noting even the emergency management people had a hard time getting word to the public about what was happening. He said the radio stations got involved by accident, and then people started listening to the radio. He said he believes emergency managers need to work with the radio stations right away to get in the mode to get the message out, and to be sure that the information going to the public is accurate. He said the responders had difficulty accepting that they were not in charge, and there was only one person in charge and everyone else had to follow that lead.

Mr. Vigil said Santa Fe had its own difficulties in getting information from the gas company, and we had someone in the Homeland Security operations center. He said the one lesson we learned from that disaster is that there has to be a better way to have subject information going to local governments. He said, eventually, about 600 people from the faith based groups came in to help,

but that really slacks off after about two weeks when there is no longer media focus, and then there are only 2-3 people handling all of these issues.

- Unidentified said it is a high level of investment in terms of preparedness, if we were to have a catastrophic event such as Katrina or in Japan where you lose cell phones, you lose radio-TV towers, and asked what are the other options.

Mr. Vigil said the options he would like to see developed are:

- a. Community warning sirens, but there are pros and cons, and the biggest con is the amount of public education which would have to go into that to get a desired behavior from the community. He said 200 sirens would be needed to cover all population areas in Santa Fe County – 2,000 sq. miles – at a cost of \$25,000 each. He said there are issues in siting the sirens, what infrastructure would be needed to tie them into a central command location.
 - b. They are upgrading the reverse 911 system, which should be in place by the end of the summer. The current system can call only 44 numbers per minute, which isn't a mass notification system, and is good for small areas. The new system will allow them to get a warning message to a lot of people. There is about a 65% failure rate in the reverse 911 system because of blocked lines and answering machines. If the message goes out after 8:30 or 9:00 a.m., people have left their homes to go to work and won't get the message. There will be some wireless capabilities with the new system, and will be dependent on people subscribing, noting they don't have this capability currently.
 - c. The Emergency Alert System is his primary mass notification system, but it is dependent on people listening to the radio and TV. Investment in a Weather Alert Radio is necessary which will activate when the EAS message is sent. There is an encoder at LANL and we need the ability to generate those messages immediately. Currently, we are dependent on communicating that message to KOB and having KOB send it to all its members.
 - d. Social media is a rising interest in emergency management. The challenge has always been in risk communications is that they have to be timely and accurate.
- Commissioner Mayfield asked if there is an emergency manager at St. Vincent to handle all the emergencies coming from an airport disaster.

Mr. Vigil said yes. He said St. Vincent has a full incident management team, and he has trained a lot of people, and done quite a few drills with them on triage. He said the 2008 airport drill was a very complex drill, noting it was a terrorism drill, and they were required to stand up its entire decontamination capabilities. He said he went to St. Vincent and trained 18 staff in a FEMA 40-hour curriculum for hospital personnel to do that. He said, however, those numbers are dwindling,

because of attrition and people moving to different positions. He said the issue again is how to maintain that level of training. He said he really needs full-time training staff to do that. He said in a real incident, St. Vincent would not necessarily get all of those, and some people would be sent to Albuquerque via helicopter, some to Los Alamos and Espanola. They would be moving people throughout the central corridor of New Mexico.

Mr. Vigil said 450-500 people ride in one car of the Rail Runner, and they've done some work on that in the event of an incident or accident. He said there are places, such as coming up the canyon into Santa Fe, where there would be a huge challenge to get response assets into the area, noting the heavy lifting capability would be coming from Amarillo, Texas. He said the list of bad situations in that scenario are phenomenal. He said there are concerns about populations below dams.

- Mr. Chavez said in Taos, for example, there needs to be an inventory of services which already are available, commenting there is just so much money to go around. He said if you spend money to buy emergency equipment, it will sit there until an emergency happens. He said if you inventory services and who controls those, then Mr. Vigil's role would be to bring those resources together.

Mr. Vigil said this has been done at a State level, and Santa Fe County was the first to do this. He said this is a NEMS requirement. He said there are a lot of resources which already are available, but there are a lot which are not available. He asked, for example, what is the ability of Taos to deal with a chemical attack, noting there probably are gaps. He understands the reality of the financial situation, and he isn't saying to purchase all of these things which will sit and deteriorate over time. What he sees is the expectation of local governments in emergency situations, and believes we can try to bring the gap closer together.

- Mr. Chavez said the Emergency Manager's role is to identify the kinds of disasters which might happen. He said the reason people can prepare in tornado alley is because they know the probability of having a tornado is very high. He asked if they try to identify the kinds of natural disasters which could happen and the probability, and prepare for those with the highest probability of occurrence.

Mr. Vigil said Aletha [Taos County] probably has an emergency operations plan, and in the first section is a hazard vulnerability for the community. In Santa Fe, the number one threat is wildfire, followed by winter storm, followed by flash flooding and transportation incidents. He said they have targeted their energy into meeting those threats.

Mr. Vigil said they also are involved in Homeland Security issues, and things with regard to national threats aren't necessarily reflective of a local hazard, and Santa Fe is asked to address these as well. He said there clearly is an earthquake potential. He has issues with dams in the event of earthquake as well as with LANL in that event. There are large population centers beneath one of the dams. He said Mr. Chavez is correct, the preparation is based on the probability of a certain threat.

- Mr. Vigil spoke about an exercise in which he participated with LANL which was a “pretend” event and there is clearly a gap in information and follow-up, and he felt he didn’t get much from the County’s investment. However, the whole purpose of the exercise was to be sure we had the WEPI [Warning and Emergency Public Information] component in place. The exercise was put together as the result of some of the problems which occurred during the Cerro Grande fire, in terms of lack of information and such. This is an area which needs work. He said the intent, as a last message, was to ask LANL as it looks at new technologies and risk that it try to include local jurisdictions and resources need to be sent to the adjacent responders to help us to meet those new challenges and risks.
- Commissioner Holian said she would like to discuss how we can have further dialogue with LANL on this issue. She said LANL has given us a lot of information and talked with us many times. However, at times she feels it is in many ways a one-way communication, and she would like to promote a two-way communication. She was hoping this was what this Coalition was about.
- Commissioner Stover said that is reasonable, reiterating that nobody knew to invite LANL.
- Commissioner Holian said she isn’t criticizing that, but she now wants to talk about concrete steps and going forward.
- Commissioner Stover said the Coalition is scheduled to meet in Taos on July 8, 2011, and we’ve heard the presentation. She said perhaps we could have that dialogue and report back to the group between now and the next meeting so Mark can go over the presentation. She doesn’t see LANL being reluctant to do that with anybody in real time so we can keep this thing moving forward. She said if people have the time and want to schedule something with LANL, they can do so, and that way things could keep moving. This is her suggestion, noting they can call Patrick now and ask when he can schedule something.
- Commissioner Chavez would like to get a list of the concerns and pass those to the people at LANL, and have some sort of discussion in this regard, then it wouldn’t be necessary to re-present everything.
- Commissioner Stover said what she thought is that they could have that meeting and then present a recap at the July 8th meeting, and invite LANL to attend as well.

Mr. Autio suggested that Mr. Vigil meet off line with the emergency preparedness people from the Coalition and the people from LANL to talk about these issues. He said we always can improve the communication. He said during the gas situation, they were called to the Emergency Preparedness Center by the DOE because they had received a call from the Gas Company to see if they could reduce their load, which set-off their emergency preparedness warning for them. He said at the time, they had not heard anything from the Gas Company that there was an issue, and this is how they became aware of it. They then talked it through, noting he was very concerned at that point about communication. He said, for example, the State Emergency Preparedness people were not out ahead of the issue at that point, and were trailing behind and we had no information from them.

He said for him, it's about getting all of the emergency preparedness people on the same page for these incidents, and how to talk and keep those communications open.

Mr. Vigil said they were having a hard time getting any information from the Gas Company, and a lot of what they knew was from the website, and every time they made calls they got a busy signal. He said eventually the State did step in and send one of its people to the operating center, but that was two hours into the event. He said they were getting situation reports from the State EOC. He said a lot of it was that there was no information to be shared. He said they were following up from the day before, and it wasn't the gas issue, it was the arctic storm issue. He said there were unprecedented temperatures. He said they were on a conference call, and someone from El Paso was reporting rolling blackouts, and then someone from Las Cruces said they were having those as well. He said this was about 4:00 p.m., so they prepared a plan as to what they would do in the event of power outages with the cold temperatures. And then by the morning, there was the gas issue. He said he had a real hard time getting an idea of how wide-spread the problem was. He said constituents were then reporting that they were out of gas.

Mr. Vigil this whole issue has been put on the table at the Gas Company, along with the communication of its restoration activities. He said lessons were learned and captured, and he hopes it doesn't happen again, noting we saw the same thing with the H1N1 virus. He said they were getting all their information from the media, and the Department of Health was not giving them direct intel. He said it was difficult because there were deaths in Santa Fe County.

Mr. Vigil said it is difficult to bring our leaders up to speed when they were hearing information just as we were hearing it right from the media. He said the DOH got a lot of criticism for using press releases as a way to communicate with local governments.

- Commissioner Chavez said he doesn't know the risks with regard to LANL. He said communication is really what we are concerned with. He said LANL has to know what could happen, but others don't. He said, in terms of H1N1, Aletha asked the DOH why they weren't giving us information and they told her they didn't want everyone to panic. He said as it turned out, the H1N1 virus wasn't a really big deal. He asked how much we concentrate on this without creating a mass panic, while considering the seriousness of what could happen.
- Commissioner Holian said this is the reason we're trying to plan ahead, and the reason she, as a locally elected public official, feels she needs to know the risks in advance to see if there is any reasonable planning we can do. Secondly, if LANL is bringing in new risks, LANL should consider offering resources to the local communities – actual resources – so they can prepare for those.

Mr. Vigil said, in fairness to LANL, they did address this in the last meeting. The mechanism they were using was to visit the Los Alamos Hospital's emergency planning, which was the appropriate place for that to occur. He said one of the action steps, is that LANL needs to do this in Taos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties and with the Tribes – just in fairness. He said there is the need to have this ongoing mechanism during an incident. He doesn't want to talk to public affairs people or to emergency managers. He needs to talk to subject matter experts so when the local officials ask

what are the risks, "I have something to really share," noting this is another area which could be listed as a gap.

Mr. Torres said he went on the tour of Los Alamos, one of the things they talked about was the gas issue and how they become aware. He said they have a set of things they look at, one of which is an unusual temperature drop in the region, and when they get a number of data points which suggest an incredibly unusually temperature drops, a scenario is triggered. He said they pretty much figured out right away that the temperature was going to lead to a cascading failure of electricity and gas. He asked them, following the tour, at what point do they communicate with the local communities once a scenario is triggered – does LANL have a mechanism to communicate with emergency managers once a crisis situation is identified, and Mr. Vigil said there is not.

- Mr. Vigil said what he saw during the exercise was LANL's joint information center which was done effectively, but the only thing they were sending out were press releases, and we need something which will disseminate information way ahead of a press release.
- Commissioner Chavez asked if it was at Los Alamos that they saw all of this and Mr. Torres and Mr. Chavez said yes. Commissioner Chavez said he would like to have confidence that someone is keeping track of all of this, and even more to get information to the people so people don't panic, and they actually find ways to resolve the problem.
- Commissioner Stover asked if it would work to get all of the emergency coordinators to meet with LANL.
- Commissioner Holian said that could be a next step. However, it is good for the elected officials to say, if indeed it is the case, that this is an important issue for them, because if they don't then it's just the emergency preparedness people meeting and they've done that before and are sure that happens. The question is: is this a priority or is it not a priority for our community.

Mr. Autio said the first step he envisioned was getting the subject matter experts together to talk this through, and then for purposes of this coalition, to have a report from the emergency managers meeting to say, okay, here's what we found out. And then we, as a coalition would say we would like LANL to engage in the following manner and list those. He said Phil Taylor, the Emergency Preparedness person has heard more from LANL, but their general statements are that "we see the events occurring there as being contained upon the premises, upon lab ground and lab area." He said LANL doesn't see the nuclear, radioactive events going off lab property.

Mr. Autio said Mr. Vigil brought up a good issue which is transportation, because nuclear materials are brought in and out of this area in some fashion. So it's like, okay, if something happens, how is LANL prepared to handle an incident and how will we know an event is going on and to be able to react appropriately.

- Commissioner Holian said the second event that could happen is a fire at LANL where radioactive material gets into the smoke flume, then the incident certainly would move beyond the boundaries

of Los Alamos County, and this is a possibility of which we need to be aware and to do some preparation in the event that were to happen.

Mr. Autio said none of us know what the risks are – they may be great and we need to prepare for them or they may be minimal. We need as much information as possible on potential risks in order to be able to plan.

Mr. Autio said emergency preparedness is always placed low in the pecking order of where we're going to spend money.

- Commissioner Chavez said he wants to hear from the emergency managers after their meeting with LANL, with regard to whether they feel all of the “holes are covered,” and if not, identify those, and then we can play a role as a Coalition in requesting LANL to address the hole(s) that exist..

Mr. Vigil said he has heard two strategies proposed. One is for the local emergency managers to meet with the LANL emergency managers and have an initial discussion. The second is that the local emergency managers would meet first and get a list of issues for presentation to this group, and then the Coalition can take next steps. He asked what the Coalition would like for them to do.

- Commissioner Holian said she believes it would be good to “get your thoughts together in terms of emergency preparedness, and to make a list of the issues before we have a meeting with the people at the Lab.”
- Responding to Commissioner Chavez, Commissioner Stover said he suggests the emergency managers meet, develop a list and then meet with the lab. However, if there are still holes which aren't being covered, then bring that back to us and we can have that conversation with LANL.

Mr. Vigil said Phil [Taylor] has access to a dedicated emergency operations center, but we do not, and we are having to stand up a conference room which is a significant point as we bring in the bigger risk – we don't have the infrastructure.

- Commissioner Stover said in talking about the Cerro Grande fire, they had done all of this planning in rooms like this and it was because of that disaster that we got the money to do that. She said it shouldn't happen that way, but because emergency preparedness is so low on the totem pole, unfortunately it takes a disaster of that caliber to trigger it and that's why we were there.
- Commissioner Mayfield asked if there is a plan to address an emergency around water contamination.
- Commissioner Holian said her concern is that there would be a release of something into the Rio Grande, where we are taking water from the Rio Grande through the Buckman Diversion water treatment center, noting that operation would be immediately shut down. However, beyond that, she doesn't know that there are any plans.

Mr. Vigil said there is a fair amount of activity in that arena. They have had exercises with the watershed in Santa Fe on a terrorism scenario. One of the things that was good to learn is that the dilution factor brings the danger down considerably, no matter what was introduced. He has met with the people at Buckman and they are interested in an ongoing relationship. He took his Homeland Security Advisor from DHS with him when they did the site assessment, noting the Advisor has done a lot of work with the City of Albuquerque and its monitoring capabilities. The City of Albuquerque has a software package which manages all of its sites into a central location, and he shared that with Buckman.

Mr. Vigil said one of the big concerns with water treatment facilities currently seems to be cyber attacks, and so there was a lot of discussion about filling that gap, modeling on what Albuquerque had done. So these conversations are happening. He said they did the initial risk assessment at Buckman, and there were concerns about radionuclides running off into the Rio Grande, and how to monitor and collect for those. He said most of that will be addressed with the existing filtration systems. LANL is monitoring in those runoff areas, so that part is moving ahead.

Mr. Vigil said one of his greater concerns is the food and agricultural vulnerability and the possibility of introduction of something into our dairies by terrorists. He said in his world there is an endless list of things they try to address, but water is being addressed very seriously and he isn't too worried about water quality issues.

Commissioner Stover would like a copy of Mr. Vigil's power point presentation to be provided to all Coalition members.

Mr. Torres said it can be attached to the minutes.

Responding to Commissioner Stover, Mr. Vigil said he will coordinate the meeting of the emergency managers.

Ms. Holian said once the list is compiled, she will contact LANL through Rick.

- Commissioner Stover would like a report back to the Coalition prior to the July 8th meeting if possible, or whenever it is available.

2. DISCUSSION OF COALITION ACTIONS ON CONTROVERSIAL OR SENSITIVE ISSUES

Mr. Autio said one of the current issues is with the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project, and a case involving that and the whole EIS which they are in the middle of doing. He said one of the things in the JPA is to be supporting LANL in its efforts to create a safe facility for handling plutonium that goes into weapons. He said it is a hot button issue for many of the communities – how to deal with it and how to work with it. He said communities have adopted resolutions individually in support of it, noting some resolutions have failed. He said Los Alamos will be considering that issue this

month. He said the question then becomes how this coalition wants to weigh in on controversial issues such as this one, because this is one of our charter roles.

Mr. Autio said he has communicated with Peter Franklin since the last meeting, and asked him to review the JPA, and there is one issue coming up with the Town of Taos not participating. He said in Paragraph 10(B) on page 5 of the JPA, there is language addressing this issue, which states that if one of the participating partners does not choose to participate by ratifying the JPA, then the coalition would be formed without that partner without further amendment to the JPA. He said we can move forward with the formation of the coalition without Taos. He sent Mr. Franklin all of the signatures and he will be contacting Espanola for a signed copy of its JPA. Once that is done, it will be ready to go to the State DFA.

Mr. Autio said there are two actions we will be taking as discussed at the last meeting with the advertisement for a director, noting the director cannot be appointed until the JPA is approved, so that will be tentative based on DFA approving the JPA, as well as the request from assistance from the DOE which we will initiate after DFA approval.

Commissioner Stover said these are ready to move forward once the JPA is approved by the DFA.

Mr. Autio said the JPA was circulated two months ago, and they received no negative comments on it from any of the participating partners.

Mr. Autio said there is an outline in the JPA providing that the first step is to set up a Board of Directors and elect officers, noting one elected official per governmental entity will be serving a term on the Board and then will be replaced.

Mr. Autio said the communities are being faced with the issue of the CMRR Project being in the limelight, and he wanted to initiate a discussion on the process. He said one of the challenges would be if the Coalition were to take a contrary position to the underlying community(s), noting that could happen on any of these issues.

Commissioner Stover said that was part of the initial discussion, because we knew there were some things on which we would not all agree, even as a coalition.

Mr. Autio said because it is created as a governing body, and if there is a vote to take a specific action, the coalition would take that action. However, he wants everyone to understand how that would play out, given that certain members may be taking a contrary position to the Coalition's official position.

Commissioner Holian said the question is if it will be like the Supreme Court where a dissenting opinion is written as well.

Mr. Torres said it was recognized that this situation would be something which would be acceptable to the group, although we didn't go into how to deal with that procedurally, and how to deal with a dissenting opinion as a public record, and what that does to the coalition when that situation occurs.

Mr. Autio said he thought the CMRR Project would be an opportune time to have that discussion, but he was not aware of the background.

Commissioner Stover asked, with regard to CMRR, what communities have given “thumbs up or thumbs down or thumbs this way.”

Commissioner Holian said the County Commission adopted a Resolution which supported a full Environmental Impact Study, and this is their position.

Mr. James Lujan said the City of Espanola has not taken a particular stance.

Mr. Chavez said the Resolution was presented to the Taos County Commission and they did not adopt a resolution against or in favor.

Commissioner Stover said Los Alamos hasn't done it's resolution as well.

Mr. Torres said then the elected officials voting as part of the Coalition are representing the full view of their municipality or county, and then in Santa Fe it would go to the City Council first for consensus before coming back to the Coalition.

Mr. Autio said he believes this is up to each individual entity, and that is a good way to do it so you don't get cross-ways with the respective governing boards.

Commissioner Holian said if she were on the Coalition Board she would be representing the entire County Commission, so it wouldn't be her opinion.

Mr. Autio said we need to think about this as we move forward. He said the premise of this is that we understand and accept both the very positive things LANL is doing for the region economically as well as the challenges that are there for safety and addressing all of the communities' concerns, even the minority view – some minority and some majority – on the safety of the Labs. He said as we move forward we need to focus on how this coalition can speak for its member communities.

Commissioner Holian said it is important to have a process for dissenting opinions, otherwise some of the members might feel like they are railroaded continually, or they might just consider dropping out. She said when we do speak with one voice, it will be more powerful.

Mr. Autio said this is a good compromise, comparing it to the U.S. Congress when the vote is 51% to 49%, where there will be a strong minority voice. He said the comparison to the Supreme Court also is appropriate, because there is a published consent of the Coalition to show the minority view. He said it makes sense, commenting he doesn't know how we could require that we all be in “lock step,” because we all have diverse constituencies which we represent and for which we have to speak.

Commissioner Holian said, "When we do all agree on something, when we present that to our Congressional Delegation, it will be very powerful, that all of the communities agree that we should do such and such.

Mr. Torres asked if these rules and procedures will be compiled into some sort of by-laws.

Commissioner Stover said the by-laws are done.

Mr. Autio said the by-laws are not part of the JPA and he isn't familiar with the by-laws.

Mr. Lujan said it is probably worth a second look at the by-laws.

Responding to a question from the Board, Commissioner Stover said she doesn't remember the by-laws specifically, but she does know that the "voting process for stuff was reflected in there."

Mr. Autio said the by-laws could be amended to incorporate a process for handling dissenting views, if it isn't already there.

Commissioner Stover doesn't believe this is addressed in the by-laws. She said it might be a good idea to get David Abelson's feedback since he worked with us in the formation of the Coalition, as well as to get his input from working with other groups in how set to up the process for handling dissenting opinions. She thinks this would prevent us from having to "reinvent the wheel."

3. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Holian suggested we should poll the members who aren't in attendance today and ask them if there are items they would like to be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Commissioner Stover said Los Alamos County has a program called Progress Through Partnering which is a regional effort, noting they made a substantial investment of the \$2 million GRT each year. It has now been 5 years, and we need to look at how that has worked, noting the Los Alamos County Council will receive a briefing on this at a June work session. She said they want to continue to do this, but they want to look at what other kinds of initiatives are in the works.

Mr. Autio will send out an email on the meeting to everyone.

After discussion, it was the consensus among the Coalition members to set the meeting in Taos on July 8, 2011, with a tentative start time at 9:30 a.m., but with a willingness to adjust the time to accommodate Economic Development Secretary Jon Barela's schedule.

Commissioner Holian asked if anyone from the Town of Taos will be attending meetings in the future.

Commissioner Stover said she spoke with Daniel and he asked her to keep him informed, so she will call and let him know the Coalition will be meeting in Taos, and it would be nice if he could attend.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the group, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Randy M. Autio, Acting Chair

Submitted electronically June 18, 2011
Melessia Helberg, Stenographer