

REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Santa Fe County
The Nancy Rodriguez Community Center
1 Prairie Dog Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Meeting called to order at 9:20 a.m.

Santa Fe County Commissioner Danny Mayfield welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Agenda was amended and approved as followed: item # 5 (Community Communications Update was moved to item # 3, item # 3 (JPA Status) was moved to item 5, item # 4 (Executive Director Recruitment was moved to item # 4.

1. Introduction of Harry Burgess, Los Alamos County Administrator

Los Alamos County Council Chair Sharon Stover introduced Mr. Harry Burgess, the new Los Alamos County Administrator.

Mr. Burgess commented that he was very happy to be in Los Alamos; he was born in North Carolina and stated he is looking forward to working with everyone in the future.

2. LANL Consent Order, Secretary F. David Martin, New Mexico Environment Department

Secretary Martin welcomed everyone and presented on the work of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). They are currently working with officials from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to prioritize and accelerate legacy waste clean-up efforts at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). DOE'S Office of Environmental Management (EM) funds the clean-up work.

LANL has been in operation conducting nuclear weapons and other defense-related research and development since the Manhattan Project in 1943.

Research, development and testing activities related to nuclear contaminants resulted in releases to the environment over the past 65 years at various locations across the laboratory.

LANL has been conducting corrective action to address investigation and cleanup of legacy contamination under a Consent Order issued on March 1, 2005.

Governor Martinez has written a letter to DOE Secretary Chu stating that “Cleaning up the defense legacy waste at LANL will be, and must remain, a highest priority to the both the State of New Mexico and DOE.”

Following the Las Conchas fire, Governor Martinez identified the acceleration of transuranic (TRU) waste shipments from LANL to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) as her top priority.

In addition, Governor Martinez reiterated the importance of maintaining the momentum with respect to current ground water protection efforts, and ensuring that storm water runoff from LANL and surrounding areas does not adversely affect drinking water systems.

NMED is not re-negotiating the Consent Order; rather, they are only making scheduling changes within the Order.

NMED feels continued federal funding for LANL and WIPP is necessary. If FY12 funding is decreased, cleanup efforts would be affected.

LANL’s FY 12 budget request was decreased from approximately \$360 million to \$185 million, while the WIPPS’s budget was decreased from \$228 million to \$200 million.

The \$28 million grant for funding maintenance and repair of State highways used as primary transportation routes to the WHIPP was eliminated.

NMED feels that LANL requires at least \$250 million annually to optimize the required clean-up task.

For the LANL cleanup, DOE and Los Alamos National Security LLC (LANS) can ask NMED for an extension of time on any of the schedules in the Consent Order for good cause.

NMED agreed to make adjustments to some of the rapidly approaching deadlines set forth in the Order with expectation that DOE will continue to seek adequate future funding.

Gov. Martinez has expressed concerns about LANL and WIPP funding to DOE, Secretary Chu and to the New Mexico congressional delegation.

Any modifications of the Consent Order that are equivalent to a Class 2 or 3 Permit Modification have extensive public participation requirements.

NMED is committed to engage the public throughout the process of the clean-up. NMED and LANL/DOE are beginning their communication with lawmakers, interested stakeholders and the general public.

Councilor Stover thanked Secretary Martin for his presentation and asked how local governments could help.

Secretary Martin commented that local governments could talk to their congressional delegates.

Rep. Hall commented that the goal is to do the right thing first, and not only focus on the clean-up

Kathy Keith, Regional Development Corporation, asked what the economic impact of the clean-up is and wanted to make it clear that she would like to give specific numbers for how clean-up has had an economic impact on NM.

Secretary Martin thanked everyone and asked everyone to call his office if they had any other questions. (Secretary Martin's is available upon request).

3. Community Communications Update (Pajarito Corridor Project Update – CMRR) - Kurt Steinhaus, Director of Community Programs Office

Mr. Steinhaus again thanked Secretary Martin for being at the meeting. He began by providing background as to where the Pajarito Corridor Project – CMRR is going.

LANL is dedicated to giving back to New Mexico and to working with all Universities in New Mexico, schools and the Los Alamos Foundation on math and science projects.

He continued stating that the overall communications plan consists of a regular Community Leadership Breakfast that includes tours and briefings.

The effort with regard to environmental clean-up and construction along the Pajarito Corridor began two years ago. A well-attended public meeting in Espanola was held. In addition, a web site providing information on LANS construction was created, which includes a Q&A section where anyone can post a question.

Mr. Steinhaus continued stating that as we fast forward to today, Paul Henry, who presented at the last Coalition meeting was brought on board. The partnership with RDC was expanded. We must reach on to those who are going to bid on these potential projects.

Partnerships with Santa Fe Community College, Northern New Mexico Community College and UNM-Taos were formed. The colleges are designing classes that relate to jobs that LANS will need for the Pajarito Corridor Project.

Councilor Stover asked Mr. Steinhaus why advertisements haven't been placed in local papers and inquired whether bids have been put out.

Mr. Steinhaus answered yes; some small projects have been started for infrastructure but not the big construction projects. Funding will not be posted until the end of FY12.

Councilor Stover stated that even for small size projects it would be better for communications to come out early, not only for the ones at the federal level but local as well.

Kurt Steinhaus commented that LANS has sat down with construction businesses in this area and will carry Councilor Stover's message back to LANL.

Kathy Keith, RDC, has a copy of the RFI and it is posted on RDC website. If anyone would like a copy, she can email it.

Don Ami, NNSA, commented that they went through a NEPA process. DOE is willing to move forward on the CMRR project, however, he does not think Congress is willing to fund until the project is at 95%. He continued stating keep in mind that the effort Mr. Steinhaus has with RDC and others is very timely. Jobs should be here for at least 10 years and beyond, not only for CMRR but maybe five other projects as well.

Mr. Steinhaus commented that the last Community Leadership breakfast included a tour given by Associate Director Paul Henry of the Pajarito corridor. If anyone is interested in attending a Community Leadership breakfast they should contact Mr. Steinhaus.

Commissioner Mayfield shared the concerns from local citizens is crime. Is there a way to get help for our local law enforcement? Mr. Steinhaus responded stating he will pass on the message.

4. Matters from the Board

Sharon Stover reported that the Nuclear Defense Board (NDB) is in Santa Fe. Council Stover has drafted a letter from the coalition stating that the coalition does exist and asks for support. She then asked for approval of the draft letter.

Commissioner Mayfield commented that he supports it as an individual, however, he would have to take it back to the other Santa Fe Commissioners for review and approval.

Jacob Caldwell, Taos County, supported the letter; however he would need to take it back to his county as well.

Russell Naranjo representing the City of Española commented that Española could take no action with the letter.

Councilor Stover responded stating she will talk to Commissioner Alfredo Montoya immediately following this meeting about the letter.

5. JPJ Status

Randy Autio, Los Alamos County Attorney, commented that the Coalition was successful in getting the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) signed. The Coalition can now move forward as an official entity.

Don Ami, NNSA, asked why the Pueblo's were not listed on the JPA. Mr. Autio answered that no Pueblo's have joined at this point, however, it is still open for them to do so.

6. Executive Director Recruitment

Mr. Autio reported that there were no qualified candidates for the original solicitation. The recruitment was put on hold while waiting for the signing and approval of the JPA.

Councilor Stover stated that they may want to revisit the original budget that was approved as well. She commented that this effort got started two years ago; however, grants were also put on hold while waiting for the JPA.

Commissioner Mayfield asked if Los Alamos County will serve as the fiscal agent. Councilor Stover answered yes.

6. Approval of October Minutes

Duncan Sill, Santa Fe County Economic Development, motioned for approved of the October Meeting Minutes, seconded by Councilor Stover, the motion was approved.

7. Next Meeting Date

January 6, 2012, Rio Arriba to host meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned 10:46 a.m.