



DATE: January 25, 2023
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
LOCATION: 2540 W. Apache Trail, Suite 108; Apache Junction, AZ 85120

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Thompson led the Regional Council, guests, and CAG staff in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present: Jon Thompson, Al Gameros, Tim Humphrey, Belle McDaniel, Chris Higgins, Robert Schroeder, Bob Huddleston, Robin Benning, Vanessa Navarrette, Micah Powell, Dean Hetrick, Tara Walter, Kevin Cavanaugh, Vince Manfredi

Members Absent: Curtis Stacy, Patricia Armenta, Ed Honea, Angel Medina, Anita Hinojos

Staff: Andrea Robles, Angela Gotto, Yvonne Tackett, Travis Ashbaugh, Stephanie Maack

Guests: Kevin Adam, Jennifer Evans, Sam Womer, Jenny Howard

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one answered the Call to the Public

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kevin Adam provided the Legislative update.

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

Councilmember Robin Benning, Town of Queen Creek, made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilmember Robert Schroeder, City of Apache Junction, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Approval of the Membership of the August 25, 2022 Regional Council Minutes

The August 25, 2022 Regional Council minutes were approved under Consent Item VI-A.

B. Approval of the CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan 2023 Update

The CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan 2023 update was approved under Consent Item VI-B.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Andrea Robles updated the Council on recent activities and meetings taking place at CAG. She stated that CAG received the three year planning grant and the two year Department of Housing technical assistance grant. Ms. Robles stated that there are four new WIFA projects and that CAG has entered into contracts with the Town of Superior and the Town of Hayden to do some admin work for them.

Ms. Robles stated that those that are attending the RTAC Board and Legislative day there would be a room at the League for those Pinal RTA Board members that need to attend the PRTA Board meeting prior to the RTAC meeting.

Ms. Robles introduced Jenny Howard, the new State Transportation Board member for the CAG Region. Ms. Howard stated that she has 20 years of experience in high voltage powerline and substation projects. She stated that she has a strong background in infrastructure and budgeting. Ms. Howard stated that she has an extensive background in public works and transportation.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Title VI Presentation

Mr. Travis Ashbaugh informed the Committee that Title VI Training is provided on an annual basis to ensure that compliance is being met per federal requirements. He stated that as a recipient of federal funds through the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), CAG is held to a standard of non-discrimination as described within the CAG Title VI Plan. Mr. Ashbaugh provided a presentation on what Title VI is and what the responsibilities are as well as the process for filing a complaint. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

B. July 1, 2022 Population Estimates

Ms. Angela Gotto stated that the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) released the July 1, 2022 population estimates. She stated that CAG works in partnership with MAG to collect residential completions data twice a year. Ms. Gotto stated that this data is reported to OEO to develop annual population estimates and population projections. She stated that MAG collects residential completion data for the communities that are joint members of CAG and MAG (Apache Junction, Florence, Maricopa, Pinal County, and Queen Creek).

Ms. Gotto explained that there was a discrepancy between the numbers presented by MAG Regional Council in November and the numbers presented today by CAG. She stated that MAG Regional Council approves the draft numbers with the caveat that the final control totals are within 2% of the draft totals. Ms. Gotto stated that MAG's final numbers match what is being presented by CAG today. She stated that the numbers discussed will be used for the Membership Dues and discussed later in the agenda. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

C. Financial Report

Ms. Yvonne Tackett provided the Council with the financial report through November 30, 2022. She stated that with 42% of the fiscal year completed expenditures are at 40.6% and revenues are at 48.38% leaving a positive net amount of \$96,368 and outstanding receivables of \$116,907.77. Councilmember Benning stated that the bank balance numbers look a lot better than they did last year. He requested that the bank balance from the previous year be added as a note to the financial reports going forward. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. Councilmember Robing Benning, Town of Queen Creek, made a motion to approve the November 2022 financial report as presented. Councilmember Robert Schroeder, City of Apache Junction, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. CAG FY 24 Membership Dues

Ms. Yvonne Tackett stated that normally the CAG membership dues are part of the budget discussion, but since it was requested by some members to have the numbers earlier in the year for preparing their own budgets, this item is being brought forward sooner. She stated that last year CAG had a fairly decent year and is on track to meet or exceed the budgeted projections. Ms. Tackett stated that employee benefit premiums have gone down and that

CAG has contracted for a number of additional planning projects with different entities. She stated that we are asking for approval of a 10% reduction in membership dues. Ms. Tackett stated that this would impact the FY 24 budget by \$23,350 bringing the total amount of dues down from \$233,500 to \$210,150. She stated that this item was presented to the Management Committee and that their intent was to keep the dues the same as FY 23 and put the excess in a reserve fund.

Councilmember Robin Benning, Town of Queen Creek, stated that he would be concerned about a reduction in dues putting CAG in a difficult position financially.

Mayor Al Gameros, City of Globe, stated that his opinion would be to keep them the same as the FY 23 dues so that CAG can continue to build the fund balance.

Mayor Jon Thompson, City of Coolidge, stated that CAG was fortunate that YMPO and City of Globe came forward when the finances were not doing well at CAG when very few did. He stated that we don't want to beg, borrow and steal in the future.

Mayor Micah Powell, City of Eloy, stated he would just like to echo what everyone else has said and he likes the idea of putting the excess into a reserve fund. He stated that he would fully support that just in case something happens in the future. Mayor Powell stated that we need to continue to protect our nest and maintain the CAG dues and leave them the same as FY 23.

Supervisor Tim Humphrey, Gila County, stated that he agrees with the group. He stated that it's taken a lot of work to get to where CAG is now and that he would like to see the dues remain the same as FY 23.

Supervisor Kevin Cavanaugh, Pinal County, stated that he would agree that leaving the dues the same as FY 23 is necessary to ensure the ongoing operations and flexibility of CAG. He stated that he would support leaving the rates the same as FY 23.

Councilmember Bob Huddleston, City of Casa Grande, stated that he reached out to Mayor McFarland and that while they appreciate the effort to reduce the dues, they are comfortable with leaving the dues the same as FY 23 in order to keep CAG healthy.

Councilmember Vanessa Navarrette, Town of Superior, stated that they have no issues with keeping the dues the same as FY 23.

Mayor Dean Hetrick, Town of Hayden, stated that whenever there is not an increase to anything it is a win and he would be in favor of leaving the dues the same as FY 23.

Councilmember Robin Benning, Town of Queen Creek, made a motion to approve the Membership Dues at the FY 23 rate with the excess amount to be earmarked to go into the reserve fund. Councilmember Robert Schroeder, City of Apache Junction, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Appointment of the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) Representative and Alternate

Ms. Andrea Robles stated that every year we revisit the appointments to the RTAC. She stated that the current representative is Councilmember Vincent Manfredi, City of Maricopa, with Mayor Al Gameros, City of Globe, as the alternate. Ms. Robles stated that Councilmember Manfredi has expressed interest in remaining the representative to the RTAC. Mayor Micah Powell, City of Eloy, made a motion to keep Councilmember Vincent Manfredi as the

representative and Mayor Gameros as the alternate to the RTAC. Supervisor Tim Humphrey, Gila County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Election of Officers

Ms. Andrea Robles stated that each January elections are held for CAG Officers. She stated that the current officers are Chairman Jon Thompson, Vice-Chairman Micah Powell and Secretary/Treasurer Al Gameros. Ms. Robles stated that typically the term is one year, but it can be a two year term.

Mayor Jon Thompson, City of Coolidge, made a motion to nominate Mayor Micah Powell, for Chairman. Councilmember Vincent Manfredi, City of Maricopa, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Robin Benning, Town of Queen Creek, made a motion to nominate Mayor Al Gameros for Vice-Chairman. Councilmember Bob Huddleston, City of Casa Grande, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Robert Schroeder, City of Apache Junction, made a motion to nominate Councilmember Robin Benning for Secretary/Treasurer. Councilmember Vince Manfredi, City of Maricopa, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. CAG Legislative Day

Ms. Robles stated that Legislative Day was being held on February 9th and if anyone has any items to be included on the agenda to please send them to her or Angela. She stated that the agenda would be available prior to Legislative Day for members to review. This was an information item.

B. Department Updates

Economic Development

Ms. Stephanie Maack stated that CAG was awarded a three-year EDA Planning Grant for \$210,000 effective July 1, 2022. She stated that this requires a cash match of \$210,000 (\$70,000 annually) which comes from the CAG Membership dues.

Ms. Maack stated that she attended the National Association of Development Organization (NADO) annual training conference and had the opportunity to attend some very informative training sessions. She stated that she was able to attend a CEDS 101 class that offered the opportunity to learn the best practices, latest trends and what different organizations are doing to maximize their CEDS economic development potential as well as different ways they are presenting their CEDS to the EDA.

Ms. Maack stated that CAG has hosted two social media workshops for small business in Casa Grande and Maricopa and the workshops were well attended. She stated that the workshops were facilitated by Blossom Digital Marketing and focused on expanding the small business' demographic reach by engaging marketing opportunities that are free

and/or low cost to the business owner. Ms. Maack stated that she has received some great feedback on the workshops. She stated that workshops will be hosted in the Globe/Miami area and the Payson/Star Valley area.

Ms. Maack stated that the CEDS annual update is due in April. She stated that a CEDS meeting will be scheduled for this month and that Jeff Hayes, EDA Representative, will be presenting at the meeting. Ms. Maack stated that there are vacancies on the CEDS Committee for Ak-Chin Indian Community, Town of Hayden, Town of Mammoth, Northern Gila County EDC, San Carlos Apache Tribe, and White Mountain Apache Tribe and asked members to send her updates to the representatives. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

Planning Department

Ms. Angela Gotto stated that staff will be doing project management for the Town of Superior's USDA project. She stated that the current contract was amended and would be going before their town council for approval this week.

Ms. Gotto stated that WIFA has contracted with CAG for four additional projects – three in Pima County and one in the City of Eloy. She stated that CAG is currently providing project administration and Davis-Bacon labor standards monitoring on behalf of WIFA for 18 projects. Ms. Gotto stated that two projects (Tonto Basin and Apache Pine) are nearing close-out and completion. Ms. Heather Wilkey, Town of Queen Creek, asked why CAG was contracted for projects outside of our counties of service. Ms. Gotto stated that the project is located outside of Marana, which is also a member community. She stated that WIFA had spoken with PAG, but they deferred to CAG. Ms. Robles stated that approximately a year and a half ago, WIFA contracted with mainly the rural COGs and that CAG is also working in partnership with NACOG to do the administration for some projects on the White Mountain Apache Tribe and the Show Low and Pinetop-Lakeside area. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

Community Development Block Grant

Ms. Angela Gotto stated that the City of Globe and Town of Hayden have had their environmental reviews completed for their CDBG projects. She stated that the Town of Miami and Town of Kearny are in the public hearing process for project selection. Ms. Gotto stated that applications for the City of Coolidge and Gila County have been submitted to ADOH for approval. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

Transportation Planning

Mr. Travis Ashbaugh stated that the CAG FY 23 – FY 27 Traffic Count Program is underway. He stated that a contract was executed with All Traffic Data Services LLC in December and traffic counts started last week. Mr. Ashbaugh stated they would be contacting communities so that construction and street sweepers don't interfere with the counts. He stated that if communities weren't contacted to please notify him.

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the members of the Gila County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (IPTA) Exploratory Committee signed an MOU with some guiding principles to follow while seeking whether an IPTA should be formed. He stated that the Committee members decided to move forward to petition their City and Town Councils to form an IPTA. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that to date the City of Globe, the Town of Winkelman, and the Town of Star Valley have passed the petition to form an IPTA to forward to the Gila County Board of Supervisors. He stated that

the Town of Payson Council would be voting on this tomorrow. Mr. Ashbaugh stated the Town of Miami is having a work session and Town of Hayden will meet next week.

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that CAG applied for a transit planning grant to perform a Coordinated Mobility Gap Analysis. He stated this would be in partnership with Pinal County and in coordination with Sun Corridor MPO and MAG. He stated that the study is to look at the 5310 programs within Pinal County, to potentially identify 5310 or similar providers that are available and identify areas within the county that are underserved.

Mr. Ashbaugh provided an update on the off-system bridge program. He stated these are for bridges on local roads, not on a federally classified roadway. He stated that the program typically provides \$3.9 million per year to provide repairs or replacement of an existing bridge with a \$1 million threshold. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that they have lifted the \$1 million threshold and applicants can apply for up to the full amount allotted each year. He stated that a new program was created called the 'bridge formula funding' for existing bridges that need repair or replacement. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that ADOT increased that funding to \$12 million a year. He stated that the off-system bridge was always in place and there is a 5.7% local match and under the bridge formula funding it is 100% funded with no local match. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

Water Quality Planning

Mr. Travis Ashbaugh stated that staff continues to work on the Pinal County Septic systems study. He stated that the staff is still in the process of cleaning up the data and that this is the bulk of the work and will be doing this over the next couple of months.

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that there are several 208 Amendments underway. He stated the City of Coolidge and Neon Ranch RV resort are working on their first draft. He stated that EPCOR stated they will be submitting another plan to consolidate. Questions, comments, and discussion followed. This was an information item.

X. CALL TO THE COUNCIL

The members present provided updates on their communities.

XI. UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

The next Regional Council meeting will be held on March 29, 2023.

XII. ADJOURN

Councilmember Robert Schroeder, City of Apache Junction, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Tim Humphrey, Gila County, seconded the motion. Chairman Jon Thompson adjourned the meeting at 7:02 PM.