

**SUSTAINABLE GALLUP BOARD (SGB) MINUTES**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting, March 7, 2022**  
<https://fccdl.in/AUJK2z0XVX>

**Quorum - Members in Attendance:** Bill Bright, Gerald O-Hara, Tracy Lassiter

Liaison - Elizabeth Barriga

**Guests:** Pat Sheely, Rachael Kuiper (road runner food bank)

Items 1-4 were addressed; the Board had quorum of 3 members present. Last December 2021 and January 2022 SGB meeting minutes are still being edited.

**The Community Efficient Energy Development (CEED) Block Grant** provides funding for local communities to reduce energy burdens of low-income residents, creates jobs, and build capacity in communities that need it the most. This fund, established at EMNRD, will provide block grants to local and Tribal governments, and the Mortgage Finance Authority, to make targeted energy efficiency improvements in underserved communities in partnership with local community organizations.

[https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/my\\_view/its-possible-to-have-a-just-energy-transition/article\\_38301c9a-6e9d-11ec-8ef2-5b9fa13e5a1c.html](https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/my_view/its-possible-to-have-a-just-energy-transition/article_38301c9a-6e9d-11ec-8ef2-5b9fa13e5a1c.html)

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Legislation?chamber=H&legType=B&legNo=37&year=22>

**Item 5-6: HB 37 possibilities for Gallup/McKinley County** - Pat Sheely discussed the Community Efficient Energy Development (CEED) Block Grant signed February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by the NM Governor, for low income communities with a median gross income of less than 20% below poverty level. Pat is sure we have many people in town who would qualify. The COG would have to have partners with this. You have to have another community organization to work with the city to do this. You need to employ apprentices from a registered apprenticeship program that promotes diversity, or paid internships. Maybe, they can connect with the UNM-Gallup branch. They also want to know the degree that this protects public health, contribute to economic recovery, or reduce economic hardship. Maybe, they can partner with UNM-Gallup branch. Tracy responded that UNM-Gallup is currently working on the Grand Challenge and is currently lining up interdisciplinary partners. She asks for more information that she can share with the best UNM staff to figure out how this might fit into the other initiatives already going on at UNM. She would like know what we have in mind. We can share this idea with them and become a partner. This grant would provide low income people with something. For example, to help low income people lower energy costs, in turn it will help the energy crisis because we are using less energy. See the web-links above RE: **The Community Efficient Energy Development (CEED) Block Grant**. This grant is for the state, the county, municipalities and Pueblos, and will be overseen by the NM Energy Mineral and Natural Resource Department (EMNRD), who will review application and award the grants. She talked about ABQ's Campus program called: "Basic Needs" that helps with the Community Pantry and homelessness. What do we want UNM to do?

Pat says that these grant questions would have to answered:

- 1) To what degree is the project going to protect public health?
- 2) How is it going to contribute to economic recovery?

Pat has the contact information of Tammy Hickelkorn, representative with the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project. Pat emailed her questions and she is willing to help. Pat will find this letter and forward it to the people attending this SGB Meeting.

Bill says it is our job to see possibilities for our city and low income people. He would like to generate a simple Advisory message – to simply point out that the governor has signed this grant opportunity. The City may qualify, and where to go to. Such as the NMCOG, NM Tech, UNM Construction Tech could be a partner whose classes create energy efficient houses with Chris Chavez. See if we qualify. A grant writer would have to put all the pieces of collaboration together to apply for this. Council of Governments has all this data. Maybe, UNM does too. We would like to ask the NMCOG, see if they can help pull all these pieces together. Pat and Rosemarie Cecchini called the NM Legislature to talk to Patty Lundstrum and Fran Palochak, the Secretary, to possibly support this.

Bill says - we should have the City of Gallup (COG) Council look into this, and Council Members can submit for a vote. Since the SGB is a citizen's advisory group, we can to ask the city at least look into this and find an entity to figure it out like the NMCOG.

Bill asks for help to write this proposal. Tracy says she can help after next Wednesday March 16th, 2022. We can also advise the City Manager, and create a Resolution. Elizabeth suggested possibly including the County as a partner.

We have a new Water/Wastewater Director named Tim Bodel.

Bill mentioned he watched the COG Strategic Planning Sessions online. You can watch the recording on the COG website. John Wheeler, the Electric Director reported that he advertised an RFP for purchasing electricity wholesale and our existing provider stepped up with a good deal for electricity for four more years. Guzman provides renewable energy solar and wind. 70% of renewable energy can be provided to the COG. Thank you Mr. Wheeler. He helped correct the COG grid tie up to 10KW. The city is preparing for electric vehicles. Bill is researching electric heat pumps for heating homes.

Gerald made a recycling comment – MCRC would be thrilled to have NWRSWA-collect mixed paper; especially metal cans. Currently, they only accept soda and aluminum beverage cans. Bill will re-invite Bill Moore online to get input directly from the source. In the past, Billy has had a warehouse of plastic that had been sitting for months that he couldn't give away. We would be interested to learn about the mixed paper situation.

**Item 7: HB Consensus for SGB recommendations to city on HB37 (Bill) (ACTION ITEM)**

**Item 8: Announcements -**

**Item 9: Board Members retirements/ removals / recommendations (Bill)**

Do you know anyone who would like to join the Sustainable Gallup Board? Please invite them.

**Item 10: Future meeting(s) planning & adjournment (Bill): Tabled**

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00pm. Next SGB Meeting will be April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Date Approved April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

W. Bright  
William Bright, Chairperson

ATTEST: Tracy Lassiter  
Tracy Lassiter, Secretary