

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met in special session at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5, 2012, in the County Commission Chambers of the Luna County Courthouse in Deming, New Mexico for the purpose of conducting any and all business to come properly before the Board.

The following staff and elected officials were present:

Kelly Kuenstler, County Manager
Glory Johnson, Executive Assistant
Karen Smyer, County Clerk

JoAnna Z. Zurinsky, Deputy Clerk
Gabriel Boyle, Community Development and
Planning Director

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Spivey called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and Commissioner Diaz led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the flag of the State of New Mexico.

ROLL CALL: Roll call was conducted by Deputy Clerk JoAnna Zurinsky. The following commissioners constituting a quorum were present:

J. Jay Spivey, Chairman, District 2
R. Javier Diaz, District 3

Commissioner Joe L. Milo, District 1, was absent.

DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE 26 ESTABLISHING THE LUNA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE PLANNING AND REVIEW PROCESS and DISCUSSION OF GUIDELINES FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNING COMMISSION (PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE): County Manager Kelly Kuenstler explained to the board this particular ordinance is eighteen years old and should be revisited for possible modifications. Community Development and Planning Director Gabriel Boyle came before the board and explained this ordinance establishes and allows for Luna County to participate with the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies and jurisdictions in the resource management planning process. Mr. Boyle stated the ordinance allows for appointment of an advisory committee and therefore he has developed guidelines under which the committee will operate. Ms. Kuenstler said she asked Mr. Boyle to establish the guidelines because of an issue where the committee communicated to BLM without going through the county commission. Chairman Spivey asked committee member Russ Howell and Judy Keeler, Chairman of Hidalgo County PLUAC, of their specific concerns regarding NEPA and

proposed transmission lines. Ms. Keeler discussed the historical background of the Public Lands Advisory Committee. Ms. Keeler agreed guidelines are essential to coordination and cooperation with federal agencies and offered her assistance. Commissioner Diaz expressed concern that the committee did not follow proper protocol in the instance where they had addressed their concerns directly to the Bureau of Land Management without going through the county commission. It was Commissioner Diaz's opinion that guidelines must be established. Ms. Howell agreed guidelines are necessary to allow effective operation of the committee. Joe Bill Nunn stated a Public Land Use Advisory Committee was established years ago and felt it should be reestablished to allow a place for state land representatives and BLM personnel to collaborate with the committee. He addressed the situation referred to by Commissioner Diaz and said there was no intention to go around the commissioners but that some members had expressed their personal views regarding the Sun Zia transmission line project to BLM. Mr. Boyle stressed the need for the public processes. Dave Petersen recommended use of super conductor cables and explained the technology. Larry Caldwell offered his opinion that Ordinance 26 should be revisited and the planning department should be charged with the responsibility of oversight and stated the commission should consider eliminating the requirement of an advisory committee.

Ms. Kuentler recommended that the Board establish guidelines which specify that all correspondence from the committee should be directed to the Luna County Commission and that personal views of members should not be addressed on county letterhead or by using the courthouse address. Commissioner Diaz moved to accept the guidelines provided by Mr. Boyle. Chairman Spivey seconded the motion. Both commissioners voted in the affirmative and the guidelines were adopted. Mr. Boyle commended the committee's efforts. It was consensus of the board that the name should be the Luna County Advisory Committee on Natural Resources.

ADJOURN: Chairman Spivey adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

**LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Karen Smyer, Luna County Clerk

Joe L. "Oleo" Milo, Jr., District 1

Approved: _____

J. Jay Spivey, District 2, Chairman

R. Javier Diaz, District 3