



**COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE**

(By Teleconference and Webinar)

County Supervisors Association

1905 West Washington

Phoenix, Arizona

MINUTES

April 24, 2020

Call to Order:	Rudy Molera	9:00 a.m.
Present Telephonically:		
	Ann English	Cochise County
	Matt Ryan	Coconino County
	Tommie Martin	Gila County
	Jim Palmer	Graham County
	Richard Lunt	Greenlee County
	Duce Minor	La Paz County
	Steve Gallardo	Maricopa County
	Hildy Angius	Mohave County
	Jason Whiting	Navajo County
	Todd House	Pinal County
	Rudy Molera	Santa Cruz County
	Tom Thurman	Yavapai County
	Russell McCloud	Yuma County
Absent:	Alton Joe Shepherd	Apache County
	Sharon Bronson	Pima County

Others present telephonically: Jennifer St. John, James Menlove, Derek Rapier, Glenn Kephart, Melissa Buckley, Phil Bourdon, Brandi Bateman, Eric Peterson, Sarah Hall, Todd Madeksza, Julian Wolf, Vanessa Fielder, Michael Madden, Yvonne Ortega, Jacob Emnett

Others present in person: Craig Sullivan, Penny Adams, Robin Hillyard

President Rudy Molera welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He thanked everyone for their leadership. He also thanked Ben Blink from the Governor’s office, Senator Sinema and her office, and Craig and his staff for their continuous communication. Penny Adams called roll and a quorum was present.

Legislative Report

Michael Madden provided a recap of the status of the legislative session. He stated it was reported that President Fann and Speaker Bowers had come to an agreement to reconvene the session and then adjourn *sine die* on May 1, and then plan for the Governor to call a special session for June 1 to work on any budget related items. With some legislators supposedly not on board with this plan (some legislators stated they would not return to vote on any legislation not COVID-19-related), Speaker Bowers relayed to President Fann that this plan was not going to happen. Michael reported that Senator Contreras and some of his family members were confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19 and were at home in quarantine to do their best not to spread the virus. Supervisor Steve Gallardo added that in texting with Senator Contreras he learned the senator is doing better, but remains concerned about his family.

Federal Relief Mobilization

Craig Sullivan reported on an ongoing conversation for states and local governments trying to get federal relief for lost revenues due to the shutdown policies. He stated the methodology the federal

government was using, the CDGB formula, was not beneficial for Arizona counties. He reported that the National Association of Counties (NACo) continues to stay engaged, negotiating with other interested stakeholders, to get that section changed to provide direct relief with the allocation primarily to based on population. Craig reported the relief for local governments and states was not included in the new supplemental funding passed by Congress. Craig reported the President has expressed his interest in round four of COVID-19 relief that would include relief for states' and local governments' infrastructure and other items.

Vanessa Fielder reported a legislative package, passed by the U.S. House and Senate this week, for \$484 billion in supplemental programming is awaiting the President's signature. She reported the majority of the package (\$380 billion) would provide support for small businesses, then some additional support (\$75 billion) for hospitals and healthcare providers, and also new funding (\$25 billion) for testing, contact tracing, and surveillance capabilities. She noted that of the new funding, \$11 billion is allocated for states and local governments to increase COVID-19 testing, lab capacity, contact tracing, and to support employer testing. Discussion followed.

Federal Resources Update

Robin Hillyard reported that the Governor's office moved some grant writing staff from the Arizona Department of Administration to the Office of Strategic Planning & Budgeting (OSP) to assist in bringing in federal dollars. She noted they will be reaching out to each county manager to ascertain a point of contact within the county to assist with this OSP Economic Recovery Management Team.

Robin provided an overview of the Coronavirus Relief Fund that provides \$150 billion for states, tribes, territories, and local governments over 500,000 persons. She noted that of that Arizona received \$8.2 billion, with \$1 billion allocated to local governments with over 500,000 persons, and \$1.9 billion to the state. She commented that the remaining local governments will need to work with the Governor's office for the funds.

Robin reported that earlier this week the Treasury issued some new guidance on how the relief can be used, which clarified the state can pass on portions of the state allocation to local governments. She noted the guidance reaffirmed the money cannot be used for revenue replacement, but can be used for COVID-19-related expenditures not accounted for in the most recent budget or if the budgeted funds were under another cost area and were used for a substantially different use than expected (which needs further clarification). She noted that some of the expenses can be from improving telework capabilities and additional paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave due to the public health emergency. Robin added that the federal government wants to make sure governments draw down the FEMA Public Assistance Grant funds first before using the Coronavirus Relief Act funds.

Robin reported she attended a meeting with the Department of Emergency Response and Military & Veterans Affairs and learned that DEMA is the main point of contact for all public assistance funding. She stated that the Disaster Relief Assistance for Emergency Response & Protective Measures that was activated by the President's Emergency Declarations Under the Stafford Act opened up almost \$50 billion and the CARES Act added an additional \$45 billion. She said DEMA manages that program for the state, local governments, nonprofits, and houses of worship, who will work through DEMA to gain access to those funds. She noted tribes are able to work with DEMA or FEMA. She reported that 61 local governments have put in applications and have been approved by DEMA and FEMA for the public assistance grants. She noted the cost share would be 75 percent federal, 15 percent state, and 10 percent local governments. She stated eligible costs would include emergency medical care supplies and equipment, but the purchase of laptops for teleworking would not be allowed, however rental of the equipment may be. She noted that expenditures need to be reasonable and necessary. Robin added that the quarterly reporting requirement for the April 15 deadline was extended until July 15. She said each applicant will be assigned their own DEMA specialist. Discussion followed.

County COVID-19 Response Roundtable

Craig Sullivan encouraged counties to continue communicating with legislators that the 13 counties need access to the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Craig reported that yesterday Ben Blink stated the Governor's office is adjusting their communication strategy and the twice weekly calls with county supervisors and mayors has been suspended, unless a specific need arises. Craig encouraged counties to continue to use the CSA question portal set up for CSA and Mr. Blink to review proposed questions or concerns. He noted counties can also e-mail Mr. Blink directly. Craig reported the

Legislative Policy Committee meetings will continue weekly to provide information and to communicate with one another. Discussion followed.

Other Issues

In response to Supervisor Ann English's query on the all mail-in ballot election proposal, Robin Hillyard replied that the Governor and the Republican party have not shown support for the all-mail ballot. She noted the election directors, the Secretary of State's office, and county recorders have been in discussions to find alternative ways to staff polling places, because the number of polling places cannot be reduced if the all-mail ballot does not pass.

Other Business

President Rudy Molera thanked everyone again for their leadership.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Rudy Molera adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.