

**MINUTES OF THE
CENTRAL ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**February 23, 2010
Central Arizona Association of Governments
1075 S. Idaho Road, Apache Junction Arizona 85119**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Yanet Ochoa, Apache Junction
*Fred Baker, Apache Junction
*Dianne Kresich, ADOT
Alton Bruce, Coolidge
Mark Thompson, Florence
*Dave Williams, Queen Creek
*Shawny Ekadis, Queen Creek
*Rachelle Sanchez, Mammoth
*Leila DeMaree, Casa Grande
*Chris Collopy, Globe
*Evonne Hernandez, Globe
Belinda Cruz, Eloy
Joe Blanton, Eloy
*Robert Gould, Gila County
*Louis Felix, Pinal County
Jerry Stabley, Chair
*Sarah Luckie, Star Valley
*Rick Miller, Casa Grande
*Paul Jepson, Maricopa
Rodolfo Lopez, Maricopa
*Sue Laybourn, Coolidge
*Gary Eide, Kearny
*Robert Mawson, Miami
Ray Erlandsen, Vice Chair
*Bob Lorena, Hayden
*Sylvia Kerlock, Winkelman
Steve Cheslak, Marana

** Member not in attendance*

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Carl Metz, Casa Grande
Angela Gotto, CAAG
Randy Simms, CAAG

Jack Tomasik, CAAG
Travis Ashbaugh, CAAG
Samantha Hull, CAAG

- I. **Call To Order**
The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ray Erlandsen at 10:00 am.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Roll Call & Introductions**
Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

IV. **Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2009 & December 15, 2009**

A motion to approve minutes with corrections by Alton Bruce, seconded by Steve Cheslak, motion carried.

V. **New Business**

A. EDA Adjustment Strategy Briefing

Mr. Tomasik spoke on the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) requirements for an Economic Development District. The district has to contain two counties. CAAG is the Economic Development District designated by the EDA to help improve conditions in Pinal & Gila Counties. He also spoke about the consultants CAAG has hired to lead the adjustment strategy; Practical Solutions. The strategy was done for both counties and took approximately eighteen months.

The focus of the study was employment centers which are essentially clusters of non residential areas that will allow for business and office parks . These areas are generally lacking in the counties. CAAG wants to recommend both the type of activities that are feasible and desired in an area as well as where they may be located to help foster the projects that are needed for success. The short term implication is where are the jobs? Longer term implication is the structural change within the nation.

Mr. Tomasik explained that we are currently in the worst post war recession. Arizona has gone from second in job growth to fiftieth in the nation. What happened? The housing boom busted. Housing permits in the state of Arizona have dropped -92.3%. As of November the nation's unemployment rate was at 10% while Arizona's was up to 9%. Arizona's economy is driven by population and residential growth. Economic indicators have stabilized, but recovery could take anywhere from three to five years.

It is important to have an implementation strategy in place for uncertain times. Short term goals would be to prepare for better times while longer term goals would be to focus on diversifying the economy by growing sectors for which the area has real competitive advantage. Mr. Tomasik would like for the regions economic development groups to pool their resources to create a regional forum that would then create a consensus based work scope so that everyone could work together toward a common goal.

The challenge is to understand and anticipate trends in order to benefit from new opportunities in the region. Respond to opportunities that come within reach and not to get passed by due to in-action. It is more realistic to obtain a share of a growing economy sector than a declining economy sector.

Practical Solutions has issued their Draft report and on March 2, 2010 the report will go to EDA for approval.

B. DRAFT Pinal County TAZ Projections

CAAG is developing TAZ Projections for Pinal County for the purpose of long range planning, infrastructure and facilities planning and transportation planning. CAAG staff has collected land use information and locational information from member agencies. These databases have all been reviewed by the agencies before being used as input data. Mr. Tomasik explained that existing land use determines the available land while general plans and state lands are an indication of the future. Future land use provides locations for projected growth

that allows CAAG to create a base and build out population as well as base and build out employment.

Mr. Tomasik explained that the Pinal County Draft TAZ Projections are based on the mid scenario projection study and market areas. These projections were approved in January and were used as benchmarks for the TAZ projections. The member agency databases are inputs into the model. The model is a tiered modeling process (Sun Corridor Projections – Market Area Projections – TAZ Projections). The model being used is the Subarea Allocation Model – Information Manager (SAM-IM). The model is contained completely with GIS and each land use is dealt with separately in any order. It is a one acre grid based model that determines eligibility to absorb growth by land use.

Data discs were handed out to Pinal County members for review. Each disc contains only the members MPA and CAAG would like for them to focus on the geographic distribution for 2010, 2020, 2030 and 2040. Staff will be making phone calls to set up individual review meetings. For these review meetings, staff will bring a laptop with all the data and hard copy maps. The focus will be on members' areas of concern. Changes to the draft TAZ projections must be supported by input databases.

Budget restraints only allow for one review by each member agency. Final projections will be approved in CAAG Committee meetings. For members not in attendance, data discs were mailed to the proper POPTAC representative.

C. HUD Grant Opportunity

Mr. Tomasik passed out a summary on the grant opportunities coming forward from HUD. The idea is a regional plan for sustainable development. CAAG would like to try to get this grant and do it for the entire CAAG Region.

The program categories grant would be worth \$100 million each and focus on creation of regional plans for sustainable development - integrate housing, economic development, transportation and environment. This would identify housing, transportation, economic development; land use, environmental, energy, green space and water infrastructure priorities and goals for the region. It would establish locally appropriate performance goals and measure the outcomes as well as providing strategies for meeting these goals.

VI. **Round Table Discussion**

Mark Thompson of Florence informed the committee that their General Plan will go to the voters for approval on March 2, 2010.

Ray Erlandsen of Payson informed the committee that Payson would be voting on a Expenditure Limitation/Home Rule proposition on March 9, 2010.

VII. **Date, Time, Location of next meeting**

The next CAAG POPTAC meeting will be scheduled upon completion of final TAZ projections.

VIII. **Call To The Public**

No one answered the Call to the Public

IX. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Steve Cheslak, seconded by Mark Thompson. Meeting adjourned at 12:00p.m.