



Executive Director's Report

Our June meeting was our Annual Meeting, which included election of officers as well as a special ceremony celebrating a year of achievements for MAG (*see stories below*). The Executive Committee, with the urging of Mayor Stanton, thought it was time to share the success of MAG with the broader regional community. I especially appreciated all of the elected officials who came to this event to show their support and enjoy the opportunity to communicate with one another.

The success of MAG is directly attributable to our member agencies, who "are" MAG. It was especially rewarding for me to go to a MAG event and see the elected officials presenting the topics and owning MAG. Their engagement and involvement is the critical key in our ability to make progress in so many important areas, as demonstrated by the presentations highlighting our past year.

It was also a time to celebrate and acknowledge MAG'S outgoing chair, Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers. Not only did she give generously of her time to chair MAG, at the same time she served as the President of the National League of Cities. Her efforts for MAG and the nation have been phenomenal. While both positions come with some significant duties, having Mayor Rogers as President of the National League helped shine a spotlight on many of MAG's efforts, and gave us a voice on the national stage. Now, we will have an equally important voice with Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, our incoming chair, who was appointed this week as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, taking over the post from Philadelphia Mayor Michel Nutter. As Conference President, Mayor Smith will set the organization's agenda, appoint committee and task force chairs and serve as the national spokesperson for the June 2013-June 2014 term.

The chairs of MAG are frequently called upon to represent our agency, whether it be at press conferences, forums, events, or presiding over monthly meetings. We greatly appreciate the energy and commitment our elected officials bring to the table to make this region and the state of Arizona a great place for future generations.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

Meeting Report for the Annual Meeting, Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Action Items



Pinal County Becomes Newest MAG Member

Following in the wake of a By-Laws amendment expanding the MAG boundary last month, the MAG Regional Council approved Pinal County as its newest MAG member. Pinal County Supervisor Todd House will represent the unincorporated portion of Pinal County within the new boundary.

On May 9, 2013, Governor Brewer approved the new MPA Boundary for MAG. The new boundary is in accordance with federal regulations and comes as a result of new census numbers showing newly urbanized areas. During the May 22nd meeting, the MAG Regional Council voted to amend the MAG By-Laws in order to recognize a new Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary and to provide for new members to join MAG. At that meeting, the city of Maricopa and the town of Florence were approved as new MAG members.

In addition, the Gila River Indian Community has sent a letter to MAG recommending that the Community remain in MAG and that the portions of Community land in Pinal County now be included in the MAG MPA.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

Election of MAG Officers

As part of its Annual Meeting, the Regional Council elected new officers for the coming fiscal year. Mesa Mayor Scott Smith was selected to lead the organization as chair for the next year. He will also preside over the MAG Executive Committee. The Executive Committee serves as MAG's finance committee and is responsible for a number of administrative responsibilities, such as amendments to the budget and contract selections.

Mayor Smith has served on the MAG Regional Council since 2008 and on the MAG Executive Committee since 2009. He served as treasurer of the Regional Council from July 2011 to June 2012, when he was elected vice chair. He is a member of the Transportation Policy Committee and served as the chair from July 2010 to June 2011. Mayor Smith has been a member of the Economic Development Committee since its inception in October 2010.

Other elected officers include Youngtown Mayor Michael LeVault, who will serve as vice chair, and Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane, who will serve as treasurer. Those nominated to serve as at-large members are Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, Queen

Creek Mayor Gail Barney, and a new member of the Executive Committee, El Mirage Mayor Lana Mook. Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers remains on the committee as past chair. A full listing of all Regional Council and TPC members is available on the MAG website at www.azmag.gov.

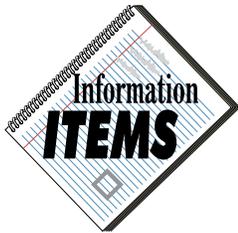
For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

Appointment to Transportation Policy Committee

The MAG Regional Council appointed Florence Mayor Tom Rankin to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). Recently, Councilman Dick Esser from the town of Cave Creek announced he would not seek reelection to the Cave Creek Town Council. The resignation created a vacancy on the TPC for an at-large seat, which needed to be geographically balanced under the MAG policies. The appointment was unanimously approved.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

Information Items



Passing of the Gavel Ceremony

Following the Annual Meeting, approximately 150 elected officials, community representatives, business leaders, and members of the public celebrated the election of new officers during a special reception and Passing of the Gavel ceremony that included a look back on a year of accomplishments for the regional planning agency.

Outgoing Chair Marie Lopez Rogers noted that it has been an incredible year of progress for MAG, which included the completion of several major transportation studies and important economic development efforts, as well as “historic strides in our relationship with Mexico.” Mayor Rogers stated that the MAG organization continues to make a difference for the residents of our region. Incoming Chair Scott Smith also addressed the group in regard to his priorities for the coming year and the opportunities ahead.

Additional achievements for the year were highlighted in a special 18-minute video. The video will soon be distributed to government cable channels (Channels 11) in the Valley for public programming, and the video will be available on the communications section of the MAG website, www.azmag.gov.

For more information, please contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Next Meeting

Please note that the July meeting of the Regional Council has been cancelled. The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be Wednesday, August 21, 2013, at 11:30 a.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, second floor, Saguaro Room. Agenda items are pending.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.