



**CHAVES COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**William E. Cavin, Chairman  
Jeff Bilberry, Vice Chairman**



**Dara Dana, Member  
T. Calder Ezzell Jr, Member  
Richard C Taylor, Member**

**William B. Williams, County Manager**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022**

**CHAVES COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER – JOSEPH R SKEEN BUILDING**

**#1 ST. MARY'S PLACE, ROSWELL, NM 88203**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Cavin called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Taylor led the pledge and Commissioner Bilberry led in prayer.

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Those present were Commissioners Cavin, Bilberry, and Taylor. Commissioner Ezzell attended by phone. Commissioner Dana was absent.

Also present were County Manager, Bill Williams, Public Services Director, Mac Rogers, Detention Center Director, Justin Porter, IT Director, Alfredo Garcia, Finance Director, Anabel Barraza, County Clerk, Cindy Fuller, Undersheriff, Charles Yslas, media, staff, and guests.

Chairman Cavin asked that a moment of silence be held for Commissioner Ezzell on the passing of his Mom and Commissioner Dana with her Mom in the hospital.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

*Presenter: Bill Williams, Chaves County Manager*

Mr. Williams stated in accordance with Ordinance #31, the Chaves County Board of Commissioners must elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission for the year 2022. The terms for these positions are for one year and the election will become effective January 13, 2022.

MOTION MADE TO: NOMINATE AND ELECT WILL CAVIN AS CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMING YEAR  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY  
ROLL CALL VOTE: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR – YES  
COMMISSIONER EZZELL – YES  
COMMISSIONER BILBERRY – YES  
COMMISSIONER CAVIN – YES  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

MOTION MADE TO: NOMINATE AND ELECT JEFF BILBERRY FOR VICE-CHAIR FOR THE COMING YEAR  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL  
ROLL CALL VOTE: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR – YES  
COMMISSIONER EZZELL – YES  
COMMISSIONER BILBERRY – YES  
COMMISSIONER CAVIN – YES  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2021, AND DECEMBER 30, 2021  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
IN FAVOR: CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, AND TAYLOR  
OPPOSED: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

## PROCLAMATIONS

Chairman Cavin spoke to the players, Coaches, and General Grizzle that were in the room from the New Mexico Military Institute. He stated they have done an amazing job, COVID withstanding, the Coaches, staff and Corps of Cadets have all done their part to stay in school during this COVID mess. It's been a lot of work and they are greatly appreciated for everything they have done. Between the athletics and the education at the Institute as well as the opportunities to advance, the school is simply amazing. The Institute is a staple to Roswell, Chaves County, and the State of New Mexico. The athletic director was unable to attend today but he has done an amazing job.

### 1) NMMI BRONCOS' NATIONAL CHAMPIONS DAY/NMMI BRONCO VOLLEYBALL

Commissioner Cavin read the proclamation out loud. January 13, 2022 was proclaimed as NMMI Broncos National Champions Day in Chaves County. The proclamation was presented to the NMMI Bronco volleyball coaches that were present and General Grizzle. A photo was taken with the Commissioners.

### 2) NMMI BRONCOS' NATIONAL CHAMPIONS DAY/NMMI BRONCO FOOTBALL

Commissioner Cavin read the proclamation out loud. January 13, 2022 was proclaimed as NMMI Broncos National Champions Day in Chaves County. The proclamation was presented to the two NMMI Bronco football players that were present, as well as coaching staff and General Grizzle. A photo was taken with the Commissioners.

General Grizzle stated they are very proud to be community citizens. They've done economic impact studies and NMMI contributes over \$48 million a year to the Chaves County economy, and they are very proud of that. They appreciate being part of the community and the recognition and that the County takes equal pride in what they do.

### 3) CHAVES COUNTY SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Commissioner Cavin read the proclamation out loud. January 23 – 29, 2022 was proclaimed as School Choice week in Chaves County.

## UPDATE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*Presenter: Mike Espiritu, President*

Mike Espiritu stated he wanted to make note that KRQE news specifically mentioned the Chaves County Board of Commissioners today for the taking the time to honor the young men and women who go to the Institute. Ascent Aviation will be breaking ground next month. He thanked the Commission for their involvement in helping to move the funds from the Governor's Office through capital outlay. This a big deal for Chaves County. Cattleman's Pride received some LEDA money primarily for a new business in the beef industry. They are restructuring. The LEDA piece is on hold, and we will see how it moves forward.

He's had weekly calls with the Superintendent in Hagerman to talk about how they can move forward with the career tech program. He also has calls with the Hagerman City Council on how they can develop that community. He spent some time with the Lake Arthur folks as well with suggestions on how they can move their programs forward. He's anxious to see this happen in the lower valley school districts. Admiral Beverage is building that nice facility on Brasher and SE Main. Tonight, at the City Council they've asked for an IRB, industry revenue bond, and hopefully tonight the City Council will be in approval of that. He doesn't have the details on the pilot, but this doesn't affect the city's bonding capacity. The pilot is important because with the elimination of the property tax piece and pushing money back into our County is really important.

Irma Perez from their office does business retention visits each month. This past month she visited with 41 different businesses in Chaves County. This is important as they continue to reach out to local businesses to see how well they are doing and keep them connected to the resources and grow jobs. Melissa Juarez from their office participates in online site consulting calls and continues to market and advertise Chaves County. They contracted with a new company, GSLI, Global Site Location Industries. They are one of a small handful of communities in NM that have access to this program because they limit the number per State. They met with Next Era Energy, and they are looking to expand.

At the EDC board meeting, they mentioned a leadership event they will host on February 1<sup>st</sup>. They have a world-renowned speaker coming in and only 30 seats available. There is a small fee to attend. This will help businesses to grow and expand.

**PRESENTATION – NEXT ERA ENERGY RESOURCES**

*Presenter: Dan Ryan, Developer for Next Era Energy*

Mr. Ryan thanked the Commission for having him here today. The project they are building northeast of Roswell is called Chaves County Solar II, it is directly below Chaves County Solar I and is 30 megawatts. Next Era has been here for about six years and has two operating facilities. They have 41 operating utility scale solar facilities, two of those being in Chaves County. They are the largest generator of renewable resources in America right now. Chaves Solar II will be positioned on 255 acres of land. It will be connected to the SPS line that is already out there. Everything is going to utilize previous facilities already out there and be underground. They will have 50 construction jobs for about six months and the project cost is around \$46 million to build starting June 1<sup>st</sup> and carrying through December 31<sup>st</sup>. He showed slides showing the haul route.

Commissioner Cavin asked who the buyer or receiver would be of the energy being created. Mr. Ryan stated they do have a power purchaser, but it hasn't been released yet to the public.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**AGREEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**1. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT A-22-001 BETWEEN CHAVES COUNTY AND SOUTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

*Presenter: Anabel Barraza, Chief Financial Officer*

Ms. Barraza stated this is an agreement between Chaves County and Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District. Currently they are seeking to have the expertise and support from the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District so that they can be compliant on the Federal regulation and guidelines when procuring and contracting using the American Rescue Act funds. They are reviewing several projects they could use under these funds; the new medical clinic is one of those, and Southeastern Economic District has always been a great support with different federal projects Chaves County has done. The latest one being the courthouse elevator project. They look forward to continuing to work with them on other federal projects. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE AGREEMENT A-22-001
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, AND TAYLOR.
OPPOSED: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

**2. REQUESTING RATIFICATION OF APPROVAL FOR AGREEMENT A-22-002 BETWEEN CHAVES COUNTY AND THE NEW MEXICO AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR APPROPRIATION A19-D2072-200 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,719.00**

*Presenter: Georgianna Hunt, Community Development Project Specialist*

Ms. Hunt stated they are requesting ratification of approval for Agreement A-22-002 between Chaves County and the New Mexico Department of Aging and Long-Term Services for Appropriation A19-D2072-200 in the amount of \$4,719.00. This agreement is to purchase commercial kitchen equipment for the Midway Joy Center. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE FOR: RATIFICATION OF APPROVAL FOR AGREEMENT A-22-002  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, AND TAYLOR  
OPPOSED: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

**3. A. RESOLUTION R-22-001 – NOTICE FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE CHAVES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**B. RESOLUTION R-22-002 – NOTICE FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE CHAVES COUNTY INDIGENT HOSPITAL/HEALTH CARE BOARD**

*Presenter: Bill Williams, Chaves County Manager*

Mr. Williams stated that in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Chaves County Board of Commissioners is required to publish a notice of public hearings each year. The attached resolutions, if approved, would establish that our County Commission meetings be held once monthly and Indigent Health/Hospital Care Board meetings will be held quarterly on the third Thursday of the month with IHC meeting at 8:30 and the Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:00 am. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RESOLUTION R-22-001 AND RESOLUTION R-22-002  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY  
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, AND TAYLOR  
OPPOSED: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

**4. RESOLUTION R-22-003 – SUPPORT FOR THE NEW MEXICO COUNTIES 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

*Presenter: Bill Williams, Chaves County Manager*

Mr. Williams stated that each year New Mexico Counties works with their Board of Directors to determine the Legislative Priorities for the year. This year's priorities are:

1. HB 2 Appropriations
  - a. Restore detention reimbursement fund for State Prisoners
  - b. Reimburse Counties for State prisoner transport
  - c. Permanently fund RISE (Reach, Intervene, Support, Engage) Program
2. Restore the Law Enforcement Protection Fund
3. Create a matching fund to help counties pay for construction and renovation of State district courthouses

Resolution R-22-003 supports these priorities. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE R-22-003  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, AND TAYLOR  
OPPOSED: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

**5. RESOLUTION R-22-004 – CHAVES COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

*Presenter: Karen Sanders, Emergency Manager*

Ms. Sanders stated they are requesting approval of Resolution R-22-004 for the Chaves County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan is required to be updated every five years, and approved by

the State of NM, FEMA, and adopted by each of the five participating jurisdictions. This allows them to apply for pre and post disaster funding. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RESOLUTION R-22-004  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY  
IN FAVOR: CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, AND TAYLOR  
OPPOSED: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

**6. RESOLUTION R-22-005 – APPROVAL OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FY 21-22**

*Presenter: Anabel Barraza, Chief Financial Officer*

Ms. Barraza stated they have performed a mid-year analysis and review and are requesting a budget adjustment for the line items in exhibit A. These adjustments are for an operation DWI grant from NMDOT, a feasibility study for broadband, and other various adjustments. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE RESOLUTION R-22-005  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, AND TAYLOR  
OPPOSED: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**7. APPROVAL TO PURCHASE (2) TWO INTERNATIONAL PUMPERS FOR SIERRA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

*Presenter: Mac Rogers, Public Services Director*

Mr. Rogers stated Sierra Volunteer Fire Department is asking for approval to purchase two (2) new International Pumpers. The Department will be using funding from both the fire apparatus replacement schedule fund and fire distribution funds. This has been approved by the State Fire Marshal's Office, both the use of the funds and the specifications of the units. They will be replacing unit number 304, a 1988 Pierce, and unit 308, a 1994 Freightliner. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) INTERNATIONAL PUMPERS FOR SIERRA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY  
IN FAVOR: CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, AND TAYLOR  
OPPOSED: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

**8. REQUESTING PERMISSION TO SUBMIT THE 2022 EMS FUND ACT APPLICATIONS AND SERVICE REPORTS ON BEHALF OF THE BERRENDO, MIDWAY, AND SIERRA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

*Presenter: Mac Rogers, Public Services Director*

Mr. Rogers stated staff is requesting approval of the 2022 EMS Fund Act applications and service reports on behalf of Berrendo, Midway, and Sierra Volunteer Fire Departments. The service reports ensure compliance with State guidelines on EMS service and the EMS component of the fire departments. The Fund Act applications provide funding for the EMS component, typically this is \$7,000.00 for Midway, \$5,000.00 for Berrendo, and \$5,000.00 for Sierra.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE PERMISSION TO SUBMIT THE 2022 EMS FUND ACT APPLICATIONS AND SERVICE REPORTS ON BEHALF OF BERRENDO, MIDWAY, AND SIERRA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
IN FAVOR: CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, AND TAYLOR  
OPPOSED: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

## APPROVAL OF CHECKS

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE CHECKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,159,985.32  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER BILBERRY  
IN FAVOR: CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, AND TAYLOR  
OPPOSED: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

## APPROVAL OF REPORTS

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD  
MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR  
SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL  
IN FAVOR: CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, AND TAYLOR  
OPPOSED: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANA

## UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER VISITOR NOT TO EXCEED 15 MINUTES. NO FORMAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION.

Tim Jennings, 2716 N Penn. #48, Roswell

Mr. Jennings expressed condolences to Commissioner Ezzell over the loss of his mother and stated she was a very special person. We're going along well on the flood commission extension and improvements of the levy. He reminded them that does not protect us all the way. He hopes in the near future we can get a resolution from the City and the County asking the Corps of Engineers that we be allowed to place a gate on the Dam. He thinks this is still a necessity. There is still an area out there that if water falls in the right place and we have significant rains it will still cause problems. This is something that needs to be done and we need to get together with the city for this request. We could store 100,000-acre feet of water out there to let us have orderly release of water. Some of our more rural fire departments that are smaller, pumpers are good for 25 years at the most. Penasco, Dunken, and Rio Felix all got pumpers within about a year of each other. There are three of them that are all 25 years old, and need replaced. He knows there's a schedule for replacement. With all the work and time that's been spent on fixing the levy it has delayed them on some other projects. We're not over with the flooding that we experienced last May, June, and July. He appreciates the work the County has done in getting more money for improvements to the hangar at the Base. Highway 380 really needs to be four lanes; it is very dangerous. We're already at tremendous capacity and we need it four lanes from Roswell to the state line. Keep this in mind as you talk to people in Santa Fe during the coming session.

Rita Kane Doerhoefer, very narrow unstriped Mark Road

Ms. Doerhoefer thanked Charles for what the Sheriff's did on Tuesday morning. She stated everytime she gets something from the County she reads it. On page 27, Bill is listed as the interim county manager, page 8, Stan is listed as the county manager. She doesn't know what we spent \$26.95 at Alton's Power Gym. She stated she wants to talk about the Sheriff's vehicles and asked if they were aware of how many vehicles the Sheriff's Office has that has over 100,000 miles? Over 160,000 miles? 230,916 miles? If we expect our Sheriff's to track down these criminals that are in our County, she thinks we need to get some of them newer vehicles. Some that don't have the mileage on them. She could probably outrun a couple of them in her 69 GTO. The next time we are doing budget and have some extra money we need to look at the Sheriff's vehicles. She saw on the checks we spent \$10,000.00 for a settlement. We paid a different attorney, she may get these records, or she may not but all in all, she reads every single line. She stated she's watching.

There were no comments online.

## **MANAGER'S COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Williams stated it's very exciting that New Mexico Military Institute is here in Chaves County and brought the first National Championship for a collegiate team to the State of New Mexico. Those guys are really amazing. He got to read the proclamation last night to the Corps of Cadets as they are obviously on campus and can't come out, that was a great feeling. They have a conference call coming up with the US Forest Service on the 26<sup>th</sup> talking about wilderness areas that they are proposing in Chaves County without having talked to us previously. We also have a conference call with several other states that are concerned about the 30x30 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. He thanked all the Chaves County employees and stated we have the greatest group of employees. He's looking forward to the next year.

## **COMMISSIONERS' COMMUNICATIONS**

### **COMMISSIONER TAYLOR**

Commissioner Taylor stated he would like to wish everyone a very successful and happy New Year and that 2022 will be a super good year and far better than the last one we had. He thanked Mike and Tim and all the great work they are doing at the air center on the funding from the State. The Air Center is a crown jewel for this community and the Southeastern part of the State. He appreciates the funding we have received and the efforts to track additional funding. The more we do out there, the more we'll develop in this community.

### **COMMISSIONER EZZELL**

Commissioner Ezzell thanked the Commission for the nice gesture and moment of silence for his mother. He thanked everyone that has reached out to him and offered condolences and warm thoughts. It's the time of year when the Legislature is fixing to convene, and he knows they are used to serious questions about the judgement exercised by our elected officials. The Representative from District 58 left Santa Fe at 4:00 yesterday afternoon, drove 1100 miles, woke him up at 6:00 this morning knocking on the front door of his mother's house. He has made it clear to her that we expect her to use better judgement starting next Tuesday. He thanked everyone at the County that keeps us in such good shape.

### **COMMISSIONER BILBERRY**

Commissioner Bilberry thanked everyone for all the hard work they do. He stated our hearts are with Calder and Dara. Our prayers are that God's hand will be on them and it will all be speedily resolved fast. We have a lot of stuff coming up, he's had emails about the jumping mouse and the Lincoln County Forest plan, and House Bill 36, and he's not sure what the bond bill number is. There are some things people need to pay attention to because they are really going to affect our State and taxpayers and the citizens of Chaves County. He's proud to serve with a Commission that is aware of these things and has Chaves County at heart and wants to make sure our private citizens and our private property rights are taken care of and upheld in the law.

### **COMMISSIONER CAVIN**


Commissioner Cavin told Calder he is in our thoughts and prayers, and he knows it's been a tough six weeks with his aunt passing away and now his mom. He would agree with him that Representative Ezzell needs to use some better judgement in driving all that way through the night and any weather she encountered but she's his partner in crime and will always be there for him. He's honored to serve as the Chaves County Board of Commissions Chair for another year. He stated he and Jeff have done a good job and thinks he'll finish up his term on some good things for Chaves County. There is a lot of work they have out in front of them and Jeff alluded to some of it. The Governor is proposing to put out a fifty-million-dollar bond that's going out to the voters and be all about preservation and land purchasing. A lot of these things coming at us are not going to be good for rural New Mexico, for our ranchers and farmers, and all the entities that are doing things in rural New Mexico. We need to make sure to educate the citizens on things that are going on, it's our job as Commissioners in Chaves County.

The legislative conference we have next week, with the resurgence of COVID, he's not going to be surprised if we have a shut down legislative session where we don't have the public there to talk to our Legislators. Virtual really doesn't work out so well, we need to be in the committee

meetings and tell our legislators how these things are going to affect all of us. He hopes this doesn't happen but it's a high probability. There have been great meetings over the last two weeks with trying to move project forward at the Air Center. He thinks we're in a really good place and come March we'll have more funds. The Governor has already appropriated money for passing lanes to the state line on 380 which would make a difference but with the money we have from the federal government for infrastructure, now is the perfect time to get the four lanes to the state line.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 am.

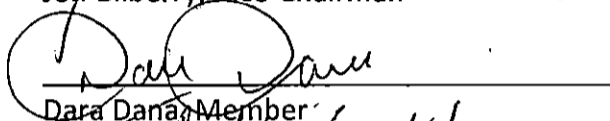
BOARD OF CHAVES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



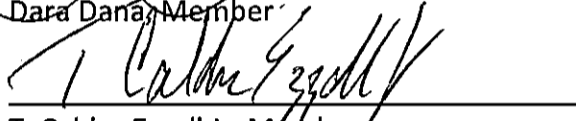
William E. Cavin, Chairman



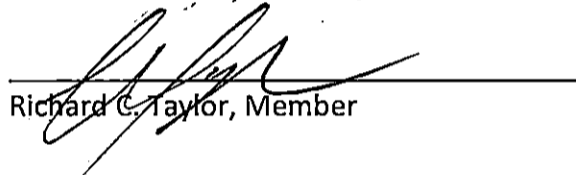
Jeff Bilberry, Vice-Chairman



Dara Dana, Member

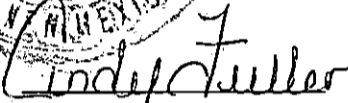


T. Calder Ezzell Jr, Member



Richard C. Taylor, Member



  
Cindy Fuller