

MEMO

TO: NCLA Board of Directors

FROM: David May, Mindy McCloughan, Sarah MacQuiddy

DATE: August 3, 2015

SUBJ: NCLA’s Regional Agenda

This is a follow-up to the discussion at last week’s retreat about NCLA’s regional agenda. Attached is another draft of the agenda infused with the comments from the retreat plus possible 2015-16 goals for each alliance / committee. We’ve also attached the memo of July 30 with the first draft.

We appreciate all of the time you invested in NCLA last week. That’s double thanks to those of you that attended both the Fix North I-25 Retreat and the NCLA Board Retreat.

\*\*\*\*\* FOR DISCUSSION ONLY \*\*\*\*\*

Draft 2 - 8/03/15

REGIONAL ECONOMIC or BUSINESS? AGENDA

Energy \* Transportation \* Water \* Workers \* Legislation

**ENERGY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Energy has driven job growth and improvement in our economy and will continue to be an opportunity for our Northern Colorado.  The role of the Northern Colorado Energy Initiative is to support the production of energy in Northern Colorado in an environmentally responsible manner. 2015-16 Goals of the Energy Initiative include:* Monitor state legislation relative to the oil and gas industry
* Track proposed community fracking bans in Northern Colorado (such as Windsor proposal for fall 2016 ballot) and recommend NCLA role to Board, if any
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 | **Include in ‘regional agenda’?** | **Include on NCLA’s 2016 ‘Priority Agenda’?** | **Establish a formal structure (committee, alliance, etc)?** |
| Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Initiative (committee) structure: The Northern Colorado Energy Initiative is a working group appointed by the board of the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance. Membership on the committee will be limited to 7 – 15 people of whom a maximum of 1/3 would work directly for the oil and gas and renewable energy sectors. Members of the committee must be members of at least one of the three NCLA partner chambers. While not adhering to a specific formula, an attempt must be made to have regional balance. |

**TRANSPORTATION**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The effectiveness of the transportation system impacts business, quality of life, public safety and the environment. The area’s key transportation corridor is I-25, which is rapidly failing. The role of the Fix North I-25 Business Alliance is to lobby to secure the funding to widen I-25 to 3 lanes each way between Highways 14 and 66 by 2025. 2015-16 Goals of the Fix North I-25 Business Alliance include:* Get North I-25 included in the federal long-term transportation funding bill
* Shape and help pass a Colorado ballot measure to fund transportation
* Protect SB 228 money and get part of it for N I-25
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 | **Include in ‘regional agenda’?** | **Include on NCLA’s 2016 ‘Priority Agenda’?** | **Establish a formal structure (committee, alliance, etc)?** |
| Yes | Yes | Yes,Continue Fix North I-25 Biz Alliance |
| Initiative (committee) structure: The Fix North I-25 Business Alliance is a working group appointed by the board of the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance. Membership on the committee will be limited to 7 – 15 businesspeople. Members of the committee must be members of at least one of the three NCLA partner chambers. While not adhering to a specific formula, an attempt must be made to have regional balance. |

**WATER**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Affordable, reliable, high quality water is an essential factor in the economic well-being and quality of life of Northern Colorado. The role of the Northern Colorado Water Initiative is to lobby for development of new water sources and storage while supporting reasonable water conservation measures. 2015-16 Goals of the Water Initiative include:* Proactive communications relative to the importance of water in general and in specific support of the NISP project
* Monitor the petition process to bring a constitutional amendment to the ballot to change Colorado water law
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 | **Include in ‘regional agenda’?** | **Include on NCLA’s 2016 ‘Priority Agenda’?** | **Establish a formal structure (committee, alliance, etc)?** |
| Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Initiative (committee) structure: The Northern Colorado Water Initiative is a working group appointed by the board of the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance. Membership on the committee will be limited to 7 – 15 people of whom a maximum of 1/3 would work directly for the water sector. Members of the committee must be members of at least one of the three NCLA partner chambers. While not adhering to a specific formula, an attempt must be made to have regional balance. |

**WORKERS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The availability and productivity of the regional workforce is a critical economic consideration. Employers find it increasingly difficult to secure the talent they need. The role of the Northern Colorado Labor Force Coalition is to develop and implement a strategic labor force development plan. The Coalition represents the business (i.e. demand) perspective of workforce. 2015-16 Goals of the Labor Force Coalition include:* Determine whether the two counties have common agendas relative to workforce and proceed together or move forward independently
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* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 | **Include in ‘regional agenda’?** | **Include on NCLA’s 2016 ‘Priority Agenda’?** | **Establish a formal structure (committee, alliance, etc)?** |
| Yes | Yes | MaybeRequires more discussion; the 3 chamber executives to make recommend-ation |
| Initiative (committee) structure: The Northern Colorado Labor Force Coalition is a working group appointed by the board of the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance. Membership on the committee will be limited to 7 – 15 people of whom all will be from private employers. Members of the committee must be members of at least one of the three NCLA partner chambers. While not adhering to a specific formula, an attempt must be made to have regional balance. |

# # #

*The Regional Economic Agenda was developed by business leaders in the two-county area through the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance.*

**LEGISLATION**

In addition to legislation related to the above 4 initiatives – energy, transportation, water, and workers – the Northern Colorado business community needs a strong lobbying presence in Denver and Washington for general business interests. To that end, the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance has a professional lobbyist under contract and the NCLA Board reviews and monitors dozens of bills, lobbying on the ones that will impact area businesses.

# # #

**2015-16 State and Regional Goals of NCLA**

DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

* Get North I-25 included in the federal long-term transportation funding bill
* Shape and help pass a Colorado ballot measure to fund transportation
* Protect SB 228 money and get part of it for N I-25
* Determine the viability of a regional transportation mechanism (such as a local government fund, RTA, other)
* Change the construction defects law to remove the disincentive for construction of
* Support the Northern Integrated Supply Project to increase water storage for Northern Colorado



MEMO

TO: NCLA Board of Directors

FROM: Sarah MacQuiddy, David May, Mindy McCloughan

DATE: July 30, 2015

SUBJ: NCLA’s Regional Agenda

NCLA has a long history of representing the interests of Northern Colorado with state government. NCLA also has a history to working on some issues that are more regional in nature such as water and the regional transportation authority.

While staying true to our state lobbying roots, we believe it is time to elevate and formalize NCLA’s regional agenda. We recommend focusing on four issues: energy, I-25 / highway funding, water and workforce development.

**Four Regional NCLA Initiatives**

We believe a general model to consider is the one now being used for the Fix North I-25 Business Alliance. Even as we work out some operational things, the Alliance has served NCLA well. Similar structures could be established for the other 3 issues. One change we should consider would be to broaden participation on all 4 groups to include members of the chambers. We would hope that NCLA board members would stay involved but opening up the committees would spread the workload and increase support.

The 4 committees are extension of and answer to the NCLA Board of Directors. They could recommend policy and programming to the NCLA Board but the committees exist to implement adopted NCLA policy.

We have attached a rough write-up.

**Visibility for NCLA’s Regional Initiatives**

While organizing ourselves to better influence issues important to the region, we want to make sure that NCLA and its partners get credit as regional leaders. A starter list for communicating NCLA’s Regional Initiatives to various audiences could include:

* Finish the regional section of the NCLA website
* Regional ‘plan of action’ report sent to the top investors of the 3 chambers
* Regional ‘plan of action’ posted on all of 3 chamber’s websites and sent out electronically to their members
* Press release
* Sent to legislative delegation
* Etc.

Someone should be assigned to manage this effort, perhaps Fyn Public Relations.

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In closing, we are proud of the work NCLA has done over the years. We think it has served the interests of Northern Colorado and the business community. Strengthening our regional agenda will add to that legacy of effectiveness.

Attachment: Regional Economic Agenda

\*\*\*\*\* FOR DISCUSSION ONLY \*\*\*\*\*

REGIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA

Energy \* Transportation \* Water \* Workers \* Legislation

**ENERGY**

Energy has driven job growth and improvement in our economy and will continue to be an opportunity for our Northern Colorado.  The role of the Northern Colorado Energy Initiative is to support the production of energy in Northern Colorado that in an environmentally responsible manner. 2015-16

Goals of the Energy Initiative include:

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* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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**WATER**

Affordable, reliable, high quality water is an essential factor in the economic well-being and quality of life of Northern Colorado. The role of the Northern Colorado Water Initiative is to lobby for development of new water sources and storage while supporting reasonable water conservation measures. 2015-16 Goals of the Water Initiative include:

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* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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**WORKERS**

The availability and productivity of the regional workforce is a critical economic consideration. Employers find it increasingly difficult to secure the talent they need. The role of the Northern Colorado Labor Force Coalition is to develop and implement a strategic labor force development plan. The Coalition represents the business (i.e. demand) perspective of workforce. 2015-16 Goals of the Labor Force Coalition include:

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**TRANSPORTATION**

The effectiveness of the transportation system impacts business, quality of life, public safety and the environment. The area’s key transportation corridor is I-25, which is rapidly failing. The role of the Fix North I-25 Business Alliance is to lobby to secure the funding to widen I-25 to 3 lanes each way between Highways 14 and 66 by 2025. 2015-16 Goals of the Fix North I-25 Business Alliance include:

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**LEGISLATION**

In addition to legislation related to the above 3 initiatives – water, workers and transportation – the Northern Colorado business community needs a strong lobbying presence in Denver and Washington. To that end, the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance has a professional lobbyist under contract and the NCLA Board reviews and monitors dozens of bills and lobbies according to impact on area business. 2015-16 Goals of NCLA include:

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