

**MIDDLE RIO GRANDE HOUSING COLLABORATIVE (MRGHC)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

April 2, 2026

1:00 p.m.

**Mid Region Council of Governments (MRCOG)
809 Copper Ave NW Albuquerque, NM 87102**

I. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR LAWRENCE RAEL called the meeting of the Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative (MRGHC) to order at approximately 1:15 p.m. on April 2, 2026. The meeting was held at the Mid Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) office, located at 809 Copper Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, with a hybrid attendance option. Chair Rael apologized for the delayed start, citing traffic and prior appointments.

II. ROLL CALL

Chair Rael conducted the roll call. The following members were present:

- CHAIR LAWRENCE RAEL
- COMMISSIONER STEVE ANAYA
- COMMISSIONER CONNIE CHAVEZ
- SECRETARY IAN ROBERTSON

VICE CHAIR DAN MAJEWSKI was excused from the meeting. Chair Rael confirmed the presence of a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Rael presented the agenda for approval. C. Chavez moved to approve the agenda as presented. S. Anaya seconded the motion. Chair Rael asked for additions or changes; none were brought forward. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Rael presented the minutes from the previous meeting held on February 26, 2026, noting they were previously distributed. I. Robertson moved to approve the February 26,

2026, minutes. S. Anaya seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0-1, with C. Chavez abstaining because she was absent from the February 26 meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Rael opened the floor for public comment, allowing two minutes per speaker. He instructed online participants to raise their virtual hands. No members of the public signed up or came forward to speak.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECTION PROCESS

Background and Application Status

Chair Rael outlined the process for selecting a new Executive Director to fill a current vacancy. He reported that MRCOG advertised the position until the application period expired on March 20, 2026. He noted that the collaborative received multiple applications from candidates meeting the required qualifications.

Motion to Enter Closed Session

Chair Rael proposed moving into a closed session to review the qualified applicants, emphasizing the necessity of a confidential environment for personnel matters. Chair Rael moved to convene in closed session to discuss qualified applicants for the Executive Director position, as authorized by the limited personnel matters exemption of the Open Meetings Act under NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1.H(2). C. Chavez seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- C. Chavez: Yes
- S. Anaya: Yes
- I. Robertson: Yes
- L. Rael: Yes

The motion passed 4-0, and the board entered closed session. The meeting recording was paused.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

The board convened in closed session to discuss limited personnel matters regarding the Executive Director applicants.

VIII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Chair Rael noted the time as approximately 1:32 p.m. and initiated the return to open session. Chair Rael moved to return to open session and to approve the statement certifying that discussions during the closed session were strictly limited to the personnel matters exemption contained in Section 10-15-1.H(2) of the Open Meetings Act. C. Chavez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted:

- C. Chavez: Yes
- S. Anaya: Yes
- I. Robertson: Yes
- L. Rael: Yes

The motion passed 4-0.

Action Resulting from Closed Session

Chair Rael reported the outcomes of the closed session. The board directed Personnel Director, MRCOG to evaluate all applicants against the minimum job qualifications. The Personnel Director will then forward a vetted list of qualified candidates to the Chair. The full Commission will subsequently conduct the applicant interviews. MRGHC staff member Cummins was tasked with ensuring this process is completed.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Candidate Review Framework

Chair Rael announced the board agreed to meet the following Thursday at 1:00 p.m. to review the qualified applicants. He detailed a two-tier ranking strategy: Tier 1 candidates, who meet all qualifications and possess sufficient experience, will advance to interviews. Tier 2 candidates, who meet minimum qualifications but lack the preferred level of experience, will serve as alternates if negotiations with Tier 1 candidates are unsuccessful. The board expressed unanimous concurrence with this strategic framework. Chair Rael directed Mr. Cummins to ensure the process is established and the meeting space is secured, a logistical requirement reiterated by S. Anaya.

Legislative Update and Future Agenda Items

During closing announcements, Chair Rael noted the recent conclusion of the legislative session and highlighted new funding allocations established by the governor and legislature for various housing programs. To contextualize MRGHC's financial strategy moving forward, Chair Rael requested that staff member Tommy coordinate a presentation for the scheduled April 23 meeting. This presentation will feature updates from city and county representatives regarding current and projected legislative funding allocations.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business or public comments brought before the board, Chair Rael adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:40 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct summary of the proceedings of the Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative Board of Directors meeting held on April 2, 2026.

IAN ROBERTSON, Secretary