



GYPA January 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Greater Yuma Port Authority.

1/23/2025 8:30 AMMST

@ San Luis City Hall - 1090 Union Avenue - San Luis, AZ 85349

Attendance

Present:

Members: Arturo Durazo, Alejandro Figueroa (remote), Russ Jones (remote), Nieves Riedel, Matias Rosales

Guests: Buna George, Gary Magrino, Jenny Torres, City of San Luis, Interim City Manager, Honorable Chris Morris (remote)

Absent:

Guests: Tony Reyes

I. Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rosales at 8:32am

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of allegiance was recited

 [Untitled design.pdf](#)

III. Consent agenda

The following items listed under the Consent Agenda will be considered as a group and acted upon by one motion with no separate discussion, unless a Board Member so requests. In that event, the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion and action

Motion:

Motion to approve consent agenda as presented


Motion passes unanimously


A. Approval of minutes for meeting held on November 21, 2024

 November 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.pdf






B. Approval of financial statements for October 2024 - December 2024

 Financials ending 12.31.2024.pdf


 PnL ending 12.31.24.pdf

 Balance sheet ending 12.31.24.pdf

C. Approval of Executive Director, Buna George, to be an authorized user for the Greater Yuma Port Authorities Wells Fargo Bank, banking and financial accounts.

- D. Letter of support request from Yuma County RAISE grant
 -  YC. Raise.Draft.1.23.2025.docx
- E. Sponsorship request from the Arizona Mexico Commission for \$1,500
 -  Greater Yuma Port Authority Sponsorship Letter .pdf
- F. Approval of a 30 day contract with Illumination labs for border data research analysis.
 -  GYPA - Petricor Proposal.pdf
 -  MX Illumination Labs - Company & Services Overview (2) (1).pdf
 -  Illumination Labs [eng] - One Pager (1).pdf


IV. Discussion and possible actions:

- A. 2025/2026 Cash call to member entities
 -  Cash Call Suspension Draft.1.2025.docx

Motion:

Motion to defer cash call for the 2025/2026 fiscal year

Motion passes unanimously

- B. Chairman's report
- C. Executive Director's report
 -  24.25 Budget Draft.pdf

Motion:

Executive director presented proposed committees to compliment the organizations mission. She was advised to look at the bylaws and ensure that committee formation was allowed and to gather a list of participants and map it out to bring it back and present to the board at a later meeting.

1. Change Structure of meetings:
 - a. GYPA to facilitate briefs with law enforcement, including but not limited to, Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol and other enforcement agencies.
 - b. Follow briefing with GYPA board meeting.
 - c. Committee reports will be provided quarterly to the board. Please prepare for a longer time commitment during these meetings.
2. Infrastructure Committee

- a. San Luis II Port facilities for further industry growth/recruitment
 - b. Addition of freezer inspection facilities
 - c. Partnership on USDA lab facilities
 - d. Logistical routes for uninterrupted commercial vehicle mobility
 - e. County 25th to Ash Highway (San Luis)
 - f. Highway 95 North (County wide)
 - g. D/E Corridor for Port II Connectivity (County)
 - h. Bridge expansions in Wellton for AG
 - i. Rolle Air Field
 - j. Incorporating YCAA and its growth with expansion of airfreight lines in South County
3. Key Industry clusters
- a. Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association (Yuma Fresh Veg)
 - b. Fresh Produce Association of the Americas (FPAA)
 - c. ADOT BLU (Border Liaison Unit)
 - d. Southwest Port Users (SWPU)
 - e. Custom Brokers
 - f. Commercial Freight Companies
4. International Relations Committee
- a. GYEDC Consultant, Carlos Armando Mejia
 - b. 4Front ED, Executive Director, Remigio Martinez
 - c. State of Arizona Government
 - d. US and Mexico Consulates
 - e. San Luis Rio Colorado Government
 - f. State of Sonora Government
5. Humanitarian Committee
- a. US Consulates
 - b. Passport Identification for minors
 - c. Expediting passport processing for minors
 - d. ADOT & Law enforcement divisions

- e. Provide accessibility to obtain state Identifications and fingerprint ID for minors
 - f. Campesinos Sin Fronteras
 - g. Addressing the farmworkers needs of the community
6. Finance Committee
- a. Allocating organizational funds in competitive investments
 - b. Aiding in recruitment efforts of CBP officers
 - c. Grant writers / writing
 - d. Arizona Local 1st
7. Emergency Management Committee
- a. Necessary communication between state, federal and municipal plans of action in case of emergency in Yuma County.
8. Southern Border Resources:
- a. Ramirez Advisors (bridge to other Arizona Port Authorities)
 - b. Border Trade Alliance (BTA)
 - c. North American Strategy for Competitiveness (NASCO)
 - d. Smart Border Coalition
 - e. Fresh Produce Association (FPAA)

V. Summary of current events

Board members and Executive Director may discuss events attended on behalf of the Port Authority, may present a summary of current events, and update the schedule for future meetings, as appropriate. No legal action will be taken pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02

Motion:

The Chairman welcomed the newly appointed GYPA Board Member, the Honorable Chris Morris from the City of Yuma. Morris was appointed in lieu of Mayor Doug Nicholls, who filled in the term for late board members the Honorable Gary Knight and Alejandro Figueroa, Economic Development and intergovernmental affairs director of Yuma County, who will serve the remainder of the term of previous board member, Ian McGaughey from Yuma County Administrator.

Mayor Riedel from the City of San Luis stated that Luis Vargas would likely be taking her place on the GYPA Board, as he had been attending the meetings and wished to carry on serving the City in this capacity. This will be placed on the City's agenda for approval.

VI. Call to the public

is held for public benefit to allow individuals to address issue(s) within the jurisdiction of each individually appointed member and their scope of knowledge. Board members may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute §38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to criticism, or scheduling the matter for further discussion and decision at a future date. Public comments may be made in person or submitted by email at: BGeorge@GYPA.org. The email forms of public comment will be accepted until 8:00 a.m. the morning of the scheduled meeting. All public comments will be read aloud during the board of directors meeting that begins at 9:00 a.m. If a person so chooses to address the board in person, the general public is allotted 3 minutes to address the Board.

Motion:

Jenny Torres, Interim City Manager for the City of San Luis, spoke about trip and travel arrangements to Washington DC, the 1st week of March 2025. The City is working with Luis Ramirez, who advised setting up meetings to advocate on three topics: 1.) Additional CBP officers and staff for the San Luis I Port of Entry, 2.) A full-time USDA entomologist at San Luis II and 3.) Postmaster issues concerning mail delivery to cluster boxes in addition to the post office boxes. She invited members of the GYPA to attend in their official capacity and will provide details on meetings and travel arrangements soon.

VII. Adjournment

Motion:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47am

VIII. Notice:

The Board of Directors may vote to go into executive session during the noticed meeting concerning any of the agenda items mentioned above. If authorized by the requisite vote of the Directors, the executive session will be held immediately after the vote and will not be open to the public. The executive session, if held, will be at the same meeting location set forth above. The discussion may relate to personnel, public records, confidential legal advice or counsel, litigation, and real estate or other matters permitted pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 38-431.03(A)(1)-(7). The Chair or other presiding officer shall instruct the persons present at the Executive Session regarding the confidentiality requirements of the Open Meeting Laws. CERTIFICATION OF POSTING: Posted this 21st day of January 2025. GREATER YUMA PORT AUTHORITY /s/ Secretary/Treasurer, Russel Jones. Notice: The GYPA does not discriminate based on disability in admission to, access to treatment of participation in its programs or activities. People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations by contacting the GYPA's main office line at 928-248-8546. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.