

Rio Colorado Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2026

Yuma County Main Library

2951 S. 21st Drive

Yuma, Arizona 85364

1. **Call to Order:** 5:38 pm by Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson

2. **Roll Call:** Present: Bruce Gwynn, Faron Owl, Emilia Cortez-Sharkey, Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson, Tom Rush, Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cárdenas, Sue Ann Willen

Absent: Sheridan Osborn, Jessica Ragonini, Dr. Ellen Riek, Thelma Lundy, Tom Rushin

Guest: Mike Pancrazi

3. **Call to the Public:** Mike Pancrazi asked about the February 6-7, 2026 plans from the Arizona Historical Society. Bruce Gwynn and Dr. Elliott-Nelson explained that this was a series of activities organized by the Arizona Historical Society and AWC for the Yuma Historic Walking Tour booklet and the Yuma Historic App. This will involve a Yuma trivia contest on February 6, 2026 at 7 pm at the Prison Hill Brewing Company, a history talk by Cliff Trafzer on February 7, 2026 at 10 am at the Yuma County Heritage Library Auditorium, a walking tour from the current City Hall at 1 pm, and a table at the reception for the Redondo Day. Bruce Gwynn shared that the walking tour was originally planned to start at the Molina Block, but he had explained to Dr. David Turpie that Madison Avenue will be closed off for Redondo Day and the Molina Block would be difficult to access. Faron Owl mentioned that he had shared with the Quechan Tribal Council about these activities and that they are very interested in talking with Cliff Trafzer while he is in Yuma. Dr. Elliott-Nelson said she would email the Arizona Historical Society and request contact information for Cliff Trafzer and copy Faron Owl and Emilia Cortez-Sharkey on the email. Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cardenas added that the walking tour should include AWC students who

had researched some of the locations on the history app. The digital app can be accessed through Iphone or Cuseum web app.

4. Approval of minutes: Minutes for the December 9, 2025, Rio Colorado Chapter (RCC) Board of Directors meeting were approved. (Bruce Gwynn, Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cárdenas) <https://arizonahistoricalociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/RCC-Meeting-Minutes-Dec-9-2025.docx>

5. President's Remarks: Dr. Elliott-Nelson thanked everyone for being present. She gave updates on the Arizona Historical Society and Rio Colorado Chapter Board.

Dr. Monica Ketchum Cardenas shared that the Cuseum app with the Yuma Virtual History Tour was being updated with additional tours from AWC students.

6. Rio Colorado Chapter Board Members Needed. A motion was made to ratify the email vote taken for the new Rio Colorado Chapter Board Member, Jessica Regonini. (Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cardenas, Tom Rush). The motion passed unanimously.

7. Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Update – Emilia Cortez-Sharkey shared that the YCNHA is holding Wild West Days on January 31st. They also created a new exhibit on Barbershops at the Yuma Territorial Prison, and planted trees in a community event.

8. Announcements and matters for consideration at future board meetings. Items for the Redondo Days were brought up.

The RCC Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

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Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson, President of the Rio Colorado Chapter Board

The RCC of the Arizona Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the administration of its program and services as prescribed by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as

amended and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, or alternative formats, by contacting Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson at linda.elliottnelson@gmail.com . Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange for the accommodation.