

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**THIRD MEETING**  
**of the**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**August 8-9, 2022**  
**Student Services and Technology Center**  
**University of New Mexico-Gallup**  
**705 Gurley Avenue**  
**Gallup**

The third meeting of the Economic Development and Policy Committee was called to order by Representative Antonio Maestas, chair, on August 8, 2022 at 10:15 a.m. at the Student Services and Technology Center at University of New Mexico (UNM)-Gallup.

**Present**

Rep. Antonio Maestas, Chair  
Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Vice Chair  
Sen. Ron Griggs  
Rep. Tara L. Lujan  
Rep. Willie D. Madrid  
Rep. Linda Serrato  
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.

**Absent**

Rep. Meredith A. Dixon  
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo  
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez  
Sen. Leo Jaramillo  
Rep. Raymundo Lara  
Rep. Georgene Louis  
Rep. Kristina Ortez  
Sen. Michael Padilla  
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero  
Sen. Pat Woods

**Advisory Members**

Sen. Crystal R. Diamond (8/8)  
Rep. Rebecca Dow  
Rep. Pamela Herndon  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Rep. Rod Montoya  
Rep. Nathan P. Small (8/8)  
Sen. Bill Tallman (8/8)

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Rep. Anthony Allison  
Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Sen. Jacob R. Candelaria  
Rep. Ambrose Castellano  
Rep. Christine Chandler  
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg  
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos  
Rep. Joy Garratt  
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill  
Rep. Derrick J. Lente  
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle  
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm  
Rep. Andrea Romero  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez  
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

Rep. Candie G. Sweetser  
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

### **Guest Legislators**

Rep. D. Wonda Johnson (8/8)  
Sen. George K. Munoz (8/8)

(Attendance dates are noted for members not present for the entire meeting.)

### **Staff**

Tom Kricka, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Erin Bond, Researcher, LCS  
Grecia Duarte, Intern, LCS

### **Guests**

The guest list in the meeting file.

### **Handouts**

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

### **References to Webcast**

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov), under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

## **Monday, August 8**

### **Welcome and Introductions (10:15 a.m.)**

Representative Maestas welcomed the committee and asked members and staff to introduce themselves. The committee offered a moment of silence for Mark Fleisher, who recently passed away.

### **Welcome to Gallup (10:23 a.m.)**

Louis Bonaguidi, mayor, City of Gallup; Sabrina Ezzell, interim chancellor, UNM-Gallup; and Billy Moore, chair, McKinley County Board of County Commissioners, welcomed the committee to Gallup and noted economic development endeavors in the area.

### **Liquor License Reform and Its Economic Impact (11:07 a.m.)**

Andrew Vallejos, director, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division, Regulation and Licensing Department, presented on recent changes to New Mexico's liquor licenses due to House Bill 255 (2021). Mr. Vallejos stated that there is not yet enough data on how the new

restaurant licenses have impacted the price of full dispenser licenses but that inter-local dispenser licenses have decreased slightly. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20080822%20Item%202%20Liquor%20License%20Reform.pdf>.

#### **Update on Public Banking (1:18 p.m.)**

Angela Merkert, Ed.D., executive director, Alliance for Local Economic Prosperity (AFLEP); Sarah Manning, outreach coordinator, AFLEP; and Harold Dixon, former chief executive officer and president, State Employees Credit Union, spoke to the committee in favor of creating a public bank of New Mexico. They stated that a public bank could fill gaps not met by existing agencies by focusing on community economic development with equitable access to lending. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20080822%20Item%203%20Create%20the%20Public%20Bank%20of%20New%20Mexico.pdf>.

Chris Moya, president and chief executive officer, Independent Community Bankers Association of New Mexico, spoke in opposition to the creation of a public bank of New Mexico. He noted that many state programs and agencies support economic development in New Mexico and highlighted possible risks associated with the creation of a state bank.

#### **Update on the Energy Transition Act (ETA) (3:12 p.m.)**

Representative Small; Rikki Seguin, executive director, Interwest Energy Alliance; Steven Michel, attorney; and Joseph F. Hernandez, Diné Energy organizer, Naeva, discussed the ETA. Ms. Seguin discussed the renewable energy market in New Mexico and how New Mexico could meet growing renewable demands in the Western Interconnection. Mr. Michel provided an overview of the ETA and noted challenges to implementation. Mr. Hernandez spoke on the importance of including tribes in the implementation of the ETA and other economic endeavors. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=EDPC&Date=8/8/2022&ItemNumber=4>.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 5:14 p.m.

## **Tuesday, August 9**

### **Reconvene**

Representative Maestas reconvened the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

### **Hydrogen as Economic Development: Benefits and Challenges (9:17 a.m.)**

Wiley Rhodes, co-founder, Escalante H2 Power, and David Schlissel, director of resource planning analysis, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, discussed the development of hydrogen power in New Mexico. Mr. Rhodes spoke in favor of hydrogen as a fuel and opined that New Mexico would benefit from investing in hydrogen, particularly at the Escalante Power Plant. Mr. Schlissel spoke in opposition and reviewed possible problems with converting the Escalante power plant to hydrogen. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=EDPC&Date=8/8/2022&ItemNumber=5>.

### **Public Comment (11:51 a.m.)**

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.