

**MINUTES  
of the  
FIRST MEETING  
of the  
RURAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE**

**June 21, 2021  
Video Conference Meeting**

The first meeting of the Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force was called to order by Senator Siah Correa Hemphill, co-chair, on June 21, 2021 at 1:06 p.m. by video conference via an online platform.

**Present**

Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Co-Chair  
Rep. Candie G. Sweester, Co-Chair  
Rep. Anthony Allison  
Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Rep. Rachel A. Black  
Sen. Craig W. Brandt  
Sen. Crystal R. Diamond  
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo  
Sen. Carrie Hamblen  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera  
Sen. Leo Jaramillo  
Rep. Willie D. Madrid  
Rep. Roger E. Montoya  
Sen. Michael Padilla  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Rep. Nathan P. Small  
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

**Absent**

Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Ambrose Castellano  
Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Rep. Tara L. Lujan  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Rep. Antonio Maestas  
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna

Rep. Rebecca Dow  
Rep. Harry Garcia  
Sen. Mimi Stewart

**Staff**

Ariel MacMillan-Sanchez, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, LCS  
Rebecca Griego, Records Officer, LCS  
Joanne Vandestreek, Senior Legislative Librarian, LCS

**Guests**

The guest list is 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 task force meeting, which can be found at [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov), under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and task force discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

## **Monday, June 21**

### **Welcome and Introductions (1:06 p.m.)**

Senator Correa Hemphill welcomed the task force, and members of the task force introduced themselves.

### **Economic Development Department (EDD) Update (1:33 p.m.)**

Alicia J. Keyes, secretary, EDD; Jon Clark, deputy secretary, EDD; Mark Roper, director, Economic Development Division, EDD; Amber Dodson, director, New Mexico Film Division, EDD; Axie Navas, director, New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division, EDD; and Johanna Nelson, strategic programs manager, Economic Development Division, EDD, provided the task force with an overview of programs and projects at the EDD that affect rural communities in New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/REOTF%20062121%20Item%201%20EDD%20Update.pdf>.

### **Study of Critical Rural Infrastructure Needs and Funding Recommendations Update (2:52 p.m.)**

Terry Brunner, chief executive officer, Pivotal New Mexico, and Jenny Jackson, program manager, Pivotal New Mexico, provided the task force with an overview of the report that Pivotal will be creating for the legislature regarding critical infrastructure needs of rural communities in New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/REOTF%20062121%20Item%202%20Pivotal%20New%20Mexico.pdf>.

### **2021 Proposed Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (3:26 p.m.)**

Ms. MacMillan-Sanchez presented an overview of the proposed work plan and meeting schedule for the 2021 interim. The work plan and meeting schedule was approved without objection. The document can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/REOTF%20062121%20Item%203%20Proposed%20Work%20Plan.pdf>.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the task force, the meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.