

**MINUTES
of the
THIRD MEETING
of the
NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**August 11-12, 2025
Community Room
Los Luceros Historic Site
253 County Road 41
Alcalde**

The third meeting of the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee was called to order by Representative Joy Garratt, chair, on August 11, 2025 at 10:07 a.m. in the Community Room of the Los Luceros Historic Site in Alcalde.

Present

Rep. Joy Garratt, Chair
Sen. Michael Padilla, Vice Chair
Rep. Michelle Paulene Abeyta
Rep. John Block
Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Sen. Craig W. Brandt (8/11)
Rep. Kathleen Cates
Rep. Jack Chatfield
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (8/12)
Rep. Angelita Mejia
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Sen. Gabriel Ramos

Absent

Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Kristina Ortez
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

Advisory Members

Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. Nicole Tobiassen

Guest Legislator

Rep. Joseph Sanchez (8/11)

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

Staff

Sabina Gaynor, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
D. Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, LCS
Gabriel Suazo, Intern, 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 committee meeting, which can be found at 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 11

Welcome and Introductions (10:07 a.m.)

Representative Garratt welcomed the committee and asked members to introduce themselves.

Overview of Programming and History of Los Luceros Historic Site (10:17 a.m.)

Anne McCudden, director, State Historic Sites and Monuments Division, Cultural Affairs Department, and Michelle Zupan, site manager, Los Luceros Historic Site, State Historic Sites and Monuments Division, Cultural Affairs Department, presented about the programs and history of Los Luceros Historic Site. They discussed the Cultures and Creators Art Festival, Rio Grande Sky Fiesta, culture and art classes, kitchen, entrepreneur training program and strategic partnerships of Los Luceros Historic Site.

Bond 101: An Overview of the Bonding Process (10:45 a.m.)

Lawrence "Chip" Pierce, chief financial strategist, New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA); Mark Chaiken, general counsel, NMFA; and Marquita Russel, chief executive officer (CEO), NMFA, presented about bonds. They explained what a municipal bond is, how it works, the associated financial and legal constraints, the various types of municipal bonds and the structure of bond repayment. They also discussed disclosure laws and the various roles involved in the bonding process, including bond counsel, underwriter, bond trustee, rating agencies and bondholders. Finally, the presenters explained the financial analysis review, creditworthiness review and bond issuance processes. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=NMFA&Date=8/11/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Public Project Revolving Fund (PPRF) Overview, Delegation Report and Review of Proposed PPRF Rules (1:37 p.m.)

Mr. Pierce, Mr. Chaiken and Ms. Russel provided an overview of the PPRF and the PPRF bond program, including the program's credit ratings and outstanding debt, advantages of

borrowing through the PPRF, number of loans, types of PPRF loan borrowers and revenue pledges. They also discussed rules governing the PPRF that were amended by the NMFA. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=NMFA&Date=8/11/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Report from the New Mexico Bioscience Authority (2:39 p.m.)

Stephanie Tofighi, executive director, New Mexico Bioscience Authority; Ryan P. Cangioli, strategy and policy director, New Mexico Bioscience Authority; and Paul Laur, chief operating officer, Mercury Bio, presented broadly about what the New Mexico Bioscience Authority is and its mission, organization and staff. They discussed the value of the New Mexico Bioscience Authority and the impact it has had on New Mexico, including bioscience companies in New Mexico. Lastly, they recommended that the state prioritize increasing financial capital to invest and grow companies, increasing lab space for bioscience business incubators and accelerators, educating a statewide workforce and facilitating statewide collaboration within the industry. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=NMFA&Date=8/11/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 12

Report on the Small Business Recovery and Stimulus Act (9:13 a.m.)

Ms. Russel presented a history of and an update on the Small Business Recovery and Stimulus Act, which was passed during the 2020 first special session to provide low-interest loans to New Mexico businesses that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Russel stated that over 2,500 loans have been provided through the act and provided details on the loans, including when the loans were provided and under which loan program, the current status of the loans and borrowers that filed for bankruptcy. Lastly, Ms. Russel discussed the difficulties of servicing loans and detailed the contract that the NMFA entered into with Lendistry to service loans on behalf of the NMFA. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=NMFA&Date=8/11/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Report on the Economic Development Revolving Fund (9:57 a.m.)

Fernando Martinez, deputy director, NMFA, and John Brooks, chief of programs, NMFA, provided a legislatively required report on the Economic Development Revolving Fund, which was created in 2003 as part of the Statewide Economic Development Finance Act. They

discussed the fund's programs, including the Smart Money Loan Program, Essential Services Working Capital Program, Cannabis Microbusiness Program, State Small Business Credit Initiative, Capital Access Program and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=NMFA&Date=8/11/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Report on the Venture Capital Program Fund (10:43 a.m.)

Ms. Russel and Ryan Marie Decker, private markets consultant, Mission Driven Investments, Meketa Investment Group, Inc., discussed the history and purpose of the Venture Capital Program Act. They discussed the qualifications and requirements for investing in private equity funds and investments made by the NMFA. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=NMFA&Date=8/11/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Access to Capital — Venture Capital (11:09 a.m.)

Mia Petersen, executive director and CEO, New Mexico Technology Council, and John Chavez, managing director, New Mexico Start-Up Factory, spoke about the conditions in which a company would seek capital, various ways of raising capital and organizations and funds that provide venture capital. Next, they discussed steps and requirements for a business to acquire venture capital. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=NMFA&Date=8/11/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Tour of Los Luceros Historic Site (12:15 p.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured the Los Luceros Historic Site.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.