

Revised: September 15, 2022

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
FOURTH MEETING
of the
RURAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE**

**September 19-20, 2022
Fort Bayard Theater
79 Camino de las Palomas
Fort Bayard**

Monday, September 19

- 10:00 a.m. **Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**
—Senator Siah Correa Hemphill, Co-Chair, Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force (REOTF)
—Representative Candie G. Sweetser, Co-Chair, REOTF
- 10:10 a.m. (1) **[Welcome to the Village of Santa Clara and Historic Fort Bayard](#)**
—Richard Bauch, Mayor, Village of Santa Clara
- 10:40 a.m. (2) **[Mining District Water Infrastructure Collaboration](#)**
—Richard Bauch, Mayor, Village of Santa Clara
—Ed Stevens, Mayor, Town of Hurley
—Kristina Ortiz, Clerk/Treasurer, City of Bayard
—Tony Trujillo, Government Relations, Freeport-McMoRan Inc.
—Randy Ellison, General Manager, Chino Mine, Freeport-McMoRan Inc.
- 11:40 a.m. (3) **[Health Care Infrastructure in Rural New Mexico: Challenges and Opportunities](#)**
—Susan Wilger, Interim Executive Director, New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils (NMAHC)
—Susie Johnson, Public Health Project Manager, NMAHC
—Edith Vazquez, Coordinator, Luna County Health Council
—Lisa Daniel, Program Manager, Sierra County Health Council
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. (4) **[Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments \(SWNMCOG\)](#)**
—Priscilla Lucero, Executive Director, SWNMCOG
—Emily Gojkovich, Deputy Director, SWNMCOG
- 2:30 p.m. (5) **[The Importance of Logging for Forest Health and Rural Economic Opportunity in New Mexico](#)**
—Andrew R. Ortiz, Registered Agent, Aok Logging LLC

3:30 p.m. **Freeport-McMoRan Mine Tour — Committee Only**

Tuesday, September 20

- 9:00 a.m. (6) **REOTF: Discussion of Legislative Priorities for 2023**
—Mark Edwards, Lead Staffer, REOTF, Legislative Council Service
- 10:00 a.m. (7) **Responses to Task Force Inquiries and Some Economic "Strawmen" as Examples of Rural Development Analysis**
—Jay Lillywhite, Department Head and Professor, Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business Department, College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University
- 11:00 a.m. (8) **Geothermal Energy Development in New Mexico**
—Thomas Solomon, Electrical Engineer and Facilitator, Geothermal Development Working Group; Co-Coordinator, 350 New Mexico
—Neil Ethier, Director, Business Development - Americas, Eavor
—Shari Kelley, Ph.D., Senior Geophysicist and Field Geologist, Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
- 12:00 noon **Public Comment**
- 12:30 p.m. **Adjourn**