

Revised: September 19, 2023

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
FOURTH MEETING
of the
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**September 20, 2023
D.H. Lescombes Winery and Tasting Room
7075 Highway 549 SE
Deming**

**September 21-22, 2023
J. Cloyd Miller Library Forum Area
Western New Mexico University
1000 West College Avenue
Silver City**

Wednesday, September 20 — Deming

- 10:00 a.m. **Call to Order**
 —Senator Carrie Hamblen, Chair
- 10:10 a.m. (1) **Economic Impact of the Restaurant Industry and Workforce Development Needs**
 —Genevieve Wertz, Culinary Arts Instructor, Deming High School
 —Kristen Thomson, Director of Government Affairs, New Mexico Restaurant Association
 —Carol Wight, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), New Mexico Restaurant Association
- 11:00 a.m. (2) **Overview from the New Mexico Wine Growers Association and New Mexico Distillers and Brewers**
 —Skye Morris-Devore, Government Relations, New Mexico Distillers Guild; Owner, Tractor Brewing Company and Troubled Minds Distilling
 —Chris Schaefer, Owner, Operator and Distiller, Dry Point Distillers
 —Christopher Goblet, Executive Director, New Mexico Wine and Grape Growers Association
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. (3) **Update on House Bill 255 (2021)**
 —Phillip Sanchez, Director, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division, Regulation and Licensing Department

2:30 p.m. (4) [Site Readiness](#)
—Eric Montgomery, Legislative Committee Chair, New Mexico IDEA
—Representative Joshua N. Hernandez

3:30 p.m. **Tour of D.H. Lescombes Winery (Legislators Only)**

4:00 p.m. **Public Comment**

4:30 p.m. **Recess**

Thursday, September 21 — Silver City

10:00 a.m. **Reconvene**

10:10 a.m. (5) [Report from the New Mexico Finance Authority \(NMFA\)](#)
—Marquita Russel, CEO, NMFA

11:15 a.m. (6) [Update from the Economic Development Department \(EDD\)](#)
—Sara Gutierrez, Deputy Division Director, Economic Development
Division, EDD

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. (7) [Developing Energy Grid Equity](#)
—Theresa Cardenas, Chief Operating Officer, Noble Renewables Group of
the West, LLC
—Selena Connealy, Ph.D., Associate Director, New Mexico Established
Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
—Priscilla Lucero, Executive Director, Southwest New Mexico Council of
Governments

3:00 p.m. (8) [Economic Development Needs of Rural New Mexico](#)
—Cassie Arias-Ward, Economic and Tourism Development Coordinator,
City of Deming
—Jacqui Olea, Community Development Director, Town of Silver City
—Christie Ann Harvey, Executive Director, Greater Luna County
Economic Opportunity Council
—Emily Gojkovich, Economic Development Specialist, City of Lordsburg
—Priscilla Lucero, Executive Director, Southwest New Mexico Council of
Governments

4:00 p.m. **Public Comment**

4:30 p.m. **Tour of Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery (Legislators Only)**

4:45 p.m. **Recess**

Friday, September 22 — Silver City

9:00 a.m. **Reconvene**

9:10 a.m. (9) **Forest Health and the Logging Industry**
—Andrew Ortiz, Owner, AOK Forestry, LLC
—Russell Laney, Owner, Timber Tramp Logging, LLC

10:30 a.m. (10) **New Mexico's Agrarian Economies**
—Anthony Parra, Deputy Secretary, New Mexico Department of
Agriculture
—Belinda Garland, Executive Director, New Mexico Livestock Board
—Travis Day, Executive Director, New Mexico Chile Association

12:00 noon **Public Comment**

12:15 p.m. **Adjourn**