

Revised: August 3, 2021

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

**August 4-5, 2021
University of New Mexico-Gallup
Student Services and Technology Center, Room 200
705 Gurley Avenue
Gallup**

Wednesday, August 4 — Joint Meeting with the Indian Affairs Committee

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Georgene Louis, Co-Chair, Indian Affairs Committee
—Senator Shannon D. Pinto, Co-Chair, Indian Affairs Committee
—Representative Candie G. Sweetser, Co-Chair, Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force
—Senator Siah Correa Hemphill, Co-Chair, Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force
- 9:15 a.m. (1) **Welcome and Update from the City of Gallup and UNM-Gallup**
—Louie Bonaguidi, Mayor, City of Gallup
—Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor, and Professor, Business and Applied Technology, Community Education and Workforce Development Division, UNM-Gallup
- 9:25 a.m. (2) **Bioscience as a Means of Economic Development**
—Richard Larson, M.D., Ph.D., Director, New Mexico Bioscience Authority; Executive Vice Chancellor, UNM Health Sciences Center
- 10:30 a.m. (3) **Economic Opportunities and Challenges of Uranium Mine Cleanup**
—Susan Gordon, Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
—Representative D. Wonda Johnson
—Valinda Shirley, Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency, Navajo Nation (invited)
- 11:45 a.m. (4) **Historic Sites and Opportunities for Economic Development**
—Dr. Patrick Moore, Executive Director, New Mexico Historic Sites, Cultural Affairs Department
- 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**

- 2:15 p.m. (5) [Infrastructure Needs on Tribal Lands and in Rural Communities](#)
—Representatives from the All Pueblo Council of Governors (invited)
—Dr. Pearl Yellowman, Executive Director, Division of Community Development, Navajo Nation
—Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation
—Evan Williams, Executive Director, Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments
- 3:30 p.m. (6) [Broadband Access on Tribal Lands and in Rural Communities](#)
—John Badal, Chief Executive Officer, Sacred Wind Communications
—Matejka Santillanes, Executive Director, New Mexico Exchange Carrier Group
—Jay Santillanes, Lobbyist, New Mexico Exchange Carrier Group
- 4:45 p.m. (7) [Update from Request for Proposals Contractor on Rural Infrastructure Study](#)
—Terry Brunner, Chief Executive Officer, Pivotal New Mexico
—Jenny Jackson, Program Manager, Pivotal New Mexico
- 5:15 p.m. **Public Comment**
- 5:45 p.m. **Recess**

Thursday, August 5 — Joint Meeting with the Indian Affairs Committee

- 9:00 a.m. **Reconvene**
- 9:15 a.m. (8) [Legalization of Recreational Cannabis and Tribal and Rural Communities](#)
—John Blair, Deputy Superintendent, Regulation and Licensing Department
—Matt Muñoz, Chief Innovation and Finance Officer, Carver Family Farm; Board Member, New Mexico Independent Cannabis Association
—Representatives from the All Pueblo Council of Governors (invited)
—Jesse Delmar, Executive Director, Division of Public Safety, Navajo Nation
—Kimberly A. Dutcher, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Justice, Navajo Nation
—Dr. Jill Jim, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.H.A., Executive Director, Department of Health, Navajo Nation
—Alexander Greenberg, Financial Program Specialist, Economic Development Department

- 10:30 a.m. (9) [Update on Road Construction on Tribal Lands and Rural Communities](#)
—Rick Padilla, Executive Director of Highway Operations, Department of Transportation (DOT)
—George Dodge, Director, Local Government Relations, DOT
—Clarissa Martinez, State Grant Manager, DOT
—Desiree Sanchez, State Grant Supervisor, DOT
- 11:45 a.m. (10) [Behavioral Health Licensure and Native American Healing Arts Exemption](#)
—Charlie Alfero, Executive Advisor, Center for Health Innovation
—Susan Wilger, Executive Advisor, Center for Health Innovation
—Dr. Kevin Foley, Executive Director, Na'Nizhoozhi Center, Inc.
- 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 2:15 p.m. (11) [Native American and Rural Education: Updates on the Yazzie/Martinez and Zuni Lawsuits, Education in Rural and Tribal Schools and Cross-Border Schools](#)
—Melissa Candelaria, Senior Education Attorney, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
—Alisa Diehl, Senior Education Attorney, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
—Lashawna Tso, Assistant Secretary of Indian Education, Public Education Department (invited)
—Dr. Gwen Perea Warniment, Deputy Secretary for Teaching, Learning and Assessment, Public Education Department
—Patricia Gonnig, Superintendent of Schools, Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education (invited)
—Daniel Tso, Council Member and Chair, Health, Education and Human Services Committee, 24th Navajo Nation Council
—Milton Bluehouse, Jr., Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation
—Mona Martinez, Chief Procurement Officer and Staff Attorney, Public School Facilities Authority
—Representatives from the All Pueblo Council of Governors (invited)
- 4:00 p.m. (12) [In-State Meat Inspections and Livestock Regulations](#)
—Belinda Garland, Executive Director, New Mexico Livestock Board
—Darryl Billy, Ranger Sergeant, Resource Enforcement, Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources
- 5:00 p.m. **Public Comment**
- 5:15 p.m. **Adjourn**