

**MINUTES
of the
THIRD MEETING
of the
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**August 28, 2023
Doña Ana Community College-Sunland Park Center
3365 McNutt Road
Sunland Park**

**August 29-30, 2023
Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine
3501 Arrowhead Drive
Las Cruces**

The third meeting of the Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee was called to order by Senator Carrie Hamblen, chair, on August 28, 2023 at 9:44 a.m. at the Doña Ana Community College-Sunland Park Center in Sunland Park.

Present

Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Chair
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Vice Chair
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu (8/28, 8/29)
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Crystal Diamond Brantley
Sen. Ron Griggs (8/28, 8/29)
Rep. Charlotte Little
Rep. Jimmy G. Mason (8/28, 8/29)
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle (8/30)
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

Advisory Members

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon (8/28, 8/29)
Rep. Anthony Allison
Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya
Rep. Rod Montoya (8/28, 8/29)
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero

Absent

Rep. Ambrose Castellano
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Sen. George K. Muñoz
Rep. Kristina Ortez
Rep. Linda Serrato

Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Sen. William F. Burt
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg
Rep. Pamelya Herndon
Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Derrick J. Lente
Rep. Marian Matthews
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm
Rep. Andrea Romero
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Bill Tallman

Guest Legislator

Sen. Jeff Steinborn (8/29, 8/30)

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

Staff

Erin Bond, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS)

D. Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, LCS

Nicole Waguespack, Researcher, 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 28 — Sunland Park

Welcome and Introductions (9:44 a.m.)

The chair welcomed committee members and guests to the meeting.

Welcome to Doña Ana Community College-Sunland Park (9:48 a.m.)

Mónica Torres, Ph.D., president, Doña Ana Community College, welcomed the committee to the campus and provided an update on Doña Ana Community College, including its commitment to the community and opportunities and updates on its facilities, programs and students. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=8/28/2023&ItemNumber=1>.

The Economic Impact of New Mexico Ports of Entry (10:48 a.m.)

Jerry Pacheco, president, The Border Industrial Association, and executive director, International Business Accelerator, spoke about New Mexico's growing exports and new border projects, buildings and developments. Marco A. Grajeda, executive director, Border Authority, and Julio A. Jimenez, deputy director, Border Authority, discussed the Border Authority's priorities of advancing key border infrastructure projects, expanding regional collaboration with

El Paso and Mexico and strengthening the Border Authority. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=8/28/2023&ItemNumber=2>.

Approval of Minutes (1:13 p.m.)

Upon a motion made by Representative Gallegos and seconded by Representative Madrid, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the June 21, 2023 meeting. Upon a motion made by Representative Gallegos and seconded by Representative Armstrong, the committee approved the minutes of the July 6-7, 2023 meeting.

Industrial Logistics (1:15 p.m.)

Dennis Melonas, account executive, Aries Worldwide Logistics, described Aries Worldwide Logistics, the services it offers and the industries it serves. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20082823%20Item%203%20Aries%20Industrial%20Logistics.pdf>.

The Economic Impact of Short Line Railroads (2:07 p.m.)

Raquel Espinoza, senior director, Public Affairs, Union Pacific, spoke about the importance and influence of trains on New Mexico's economy. She also discussed Union Pacific's safety measures. Hildeberto Moreno, director, Land Development and Sales, Ironhorse Resources, Inc., described Ironhorse Resources, Inc.'s operations and new clients. Arvin Trujillo, executive administrator, Office of the President, Navajo Nation, and Mike Stark, county manager, San Juan County, spoke about how the Navajo Nation is evaluating a project that would build railroads to connect the Four Corners region and Navajo Nation to the BNSF Railway Company's freight rail network. They discussed the potential benefits and economic opportunities that the project could create. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=8/28/2023&ItemNumber=4>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Tour of the Border Industrial Association (3:45 p.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured the Border Industrial Association.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 29 — Las Cruces

Welcome to and Economic Impact of Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM) (9:20 a.m.)

John Hummer, M.H.A., president and chief executive officer (CEO), BCOM, welcomed the committee to the BCOM and discussed the BCOM's mission, performance and economic impact. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20082823%20Item%205%20Impact%20of%20BCOM.pdf>.

City of Las Cruces Metropolitan Redevelopment Areas and the Catastrophic Business Relief Fund (10:23 a.m.)

Elizabeth Teeters, director, Economic Development, City of Las Cruces, and Debbi Moore, president and CEO, Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, spoke about the City of Las Cruces' efforts to develop and revitalize areas, including a storefront repair program, metropolitan redevelopment areas and a catastrophic business assistance program. Ms. Moore discussed the economic impact of small, local businesses and the importance of supporting them throughout the state. Jo Ann Garay, director, Small Business Development Center (SBDC), spoke about the SBDC's role in supporting small businesses, especially through the Catastrophic Business Assistance Program. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20082823%20Item%206%20Metropolitan%20Redevelopment%20Areas%20and%20Catastrophic%20Business%20Relief%20Fund.pdf>.

Growing New Mexico's Film Industry (11:26 a.m.)

Amber Dodson, director, New Mexico Film Office, and Shane Shariff, economist, New Mexico Film Office, spoke about the film tax credit, the money spent and jobs created by productions and the general economic impact of film in New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20082823%20Item%207%20NM%20Film%20Office.pdf>.

Public Banking (1:34 p.m.)

Angela Merkert, executive director, Alliance for Local Economic Prosperity, spoke about the capital landscape and lending trends in New Mexico and a potential pilot program for a state bank. Harold Dixon, former president and CEO, State Employees Credit Union, detailed the potential pilot program. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20082823%20Item%208%20AFLEP%20Public%20Banking.pdf>.

Public Comment (3:12 p.m.)

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

Types and Impacts of Tax Increment Development Districts (TIDDs) (3:17 p.m.)

Jennifer Garcia Kozlowski, executive director, Downtown Las Cruces Partnership, and Susan Cabello, director, Las Cruces Arts and Cultural District, gave an overview of TIDDs and examined the Las Cruces TIDD that was established in 2007. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20082823%20Item%209%20Las%20Cruces%20TIDD.pdf>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 30 — Las Cruces

The Economic Impact of Nonprofit Organizations (9:13 a.m.)

Terra Winter, president and CEO, Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM), spoke about the mission and programming of the CFSNM and the economic impact of nonprofit organizations, the influence of COVID-19 on nonprofit organizations and the future outlook for nonprofit organizations. Dawn Hommer, president and CEO, Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico (CAASNM), spoke about the mission of the CAASNM. Lorenzo Alba, Jr., executive director, Casa de Peregrinos, discussed the work of Casa De Peregrinos. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=8/28/2023&ItemNumber=10>.

Economics of Affordable Housing (10:44 a.m.)

Nicole Martinez, executive director, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, and Natalie Green, Housing and Neighborhood Services, City of Las Cruces, spoke about the economic impact of affordable housing and homelessness, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope's efforts and the state's housing needs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=8/28/2023&ItemNumber=11>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Tour of Baked Chicken Farm (1:00 p.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured the Baked Chicken Farm.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.