

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

**November 13-14, 2024  
State Capitol, House Chamber  
Santa Fe**

The fifth meeting of the Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee was called to order by Representative Doreen Y. Gallegos, chair, on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 9:34 a.m. in the House Chamber of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Chair  
Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Vice Chair  
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu (11/13)  
Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Sen. Crystal Brantley (11/13)  
Rep. Ambrose Castellano (11/14)  
Rep. Charlotte Little  
Rep. Tara L. Lujan  
Rep. Kristina Ortez (11/14)  
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Anthony Allison  
Rep. Mark Duncan  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera (11/13)  
Rep. Willie D. Madrid (11/14)  
Sen. Antonio Maestas (11/13)  
Rep. Alan T. Martinez  
Rep. Rod Montoya (11/13)  
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm (11/14)  
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

**Absent**

Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez  
Rep. Jenifer Jones  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Rep. Jimmy G. Mason

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Rep. Cynthia Borrego  
Sen. William F. Burt  
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg  
Rep. Joy Garratt  
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill  
Rep. Pamelya Herndon  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Rep. Derrick J. Lente  
Rep. Marian Matthews  
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya  
Sen. George K. Muñoz  
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle  
Rep. Andrea Romero  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez  
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.  
Rep. Reena Szczepanski  
Sen. Bill Tallman

### **Guest Legislators**

Sen. Nancy Rodriguez (11/13)

Rep. Linda Serrato (11/14)

Sen. Pat Woods (11/14)

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

### **Staff**

Erin Bond, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS)

D. Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, LCS

Andrea Martinez, Intern, LCS

### **Minutes Approval**

Because the committee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

### **Guests**

The guest list is in the meeting file.

### **Handouts**

Copies of all handouts and 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](http://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.

### **Wednesday, November 13**

#### **Welcome and Introductions (9:34 a.m.)**

Representative Gallegos welcomed everyone to the meeting, and members of the committee introduced themselves.

#### **Update from the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) (9:38 a.m.)**

Marquita D. Russel, chief executive officer (CEO), NMFA, presented broadly on the NMFA, its governance and its statutory authority. She then discussed the various programs, acts and initiatives of the NMFA. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=11/13/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

**Update from the Workforce Solutions Department (WSD) (10:37 a.m.)**

Marcos Martinez, deputy secretary, WSD, and Katrina Vigil, director, State Apprenticeship Office, WSD, presented about the department's pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship and other employment programs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=11/13/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

**Public Banking Update (11:22 a.m.)**

Angela Merkert, executive director, Alliance for Local Economic Prosperity (AFLEP), and Harold Dixon, member, Advisory Board, AFLEP, and former president and CEO, State Employees Credit Union, spoke about New Mexico's small businesses, existing lending programs and the shortcomings of the financial resources currently available. They discussed an implementation plan for a potential state bank and loan programs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=11/13/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

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

On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the October 15-17, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Local Solar Access Project (1:14 p.m.)**

Alysha Shaw, campaign director, Public Power New Mexico, spoke about a proposed local solar access fund that would provide funding to the NMFA to issue grants to tribes, counties, municipalities and school districts for solar and storage projects to power public buildings. She discussed statistics about the benefits of solar energy and support from voters and communities in the state. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=11/13/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

**Housing Stability and Economic Development (2:02 p.m.)**

Serge Martinez, co-founder, New Mexico Center for Housing Law, and Devrim Tiryaki, lobbyist, New Mexico Center for Housing Law, presented on housing instability, some of the impacts of housing instability and policies to address it. They also discussed the eviction process and eviction sealing. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=11/13/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

**Earned Wage Access (2:40 p.m.)**

Ryan Naples, director, Public Policy, DailyPay; Duy Nguyen, assembly member, Nevada State Assembly; Brent Adams, senior vice president, Policy and Advocacy, Woodstock Institute; and Nancy Coleman-Chavez, public policy manager, Western States, DailyPay, discussed what earned wage access is, how it works, the pay structure, purported benefits and existing law in Nevada. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=11/13/2024&ItemNumber=6>.

**Small Business Development Center Ecosystem (3:14 p.m.)**

Glenn Walters, director, Operations, New Mexico Small Business Development Center Ecosystem, and Russell Wyrick, executive state director, New Mexico Small Business Development Center Ecosystem, presented about New Mexico's small business development centers and their services, programs and participant statistics. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=11/13/2024&ItemNumber=7>.

**Enabling Innovative Technology Development in New Mexico (3:42 p.m.)**

Harrison Fell, Ph.D., professor, Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics, North Carolina State University, discussed the Energy Transition Act (2019) and considerations for meeting the act's requirements, including technology development, transmission, demand-side interventions, infrastructure and rural electric distribution cooperatives. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=11/13/2024&ItemNumber=8>.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Recess**

The meeting recessed at 4:10 p.m.

**Thursday, November 14****Reconvene**

Representative Gallegos reconvened the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

**Infrastructure Planning and Development (9:23 a.m.)**

Wesley Billingsley, director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Division, Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), and Hallie Brown, bureau chief, Capital

Navigation and Funding Assistance Bureau, Infrastructure Planning and Development Division, DFA, discussed the Infrastructure Planning and Development Division, how it was created and its three bureaus. They also presented about the revenue streams of capital projects and importance of diversification. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=11/13/2024&ItemNumber=9>.

#### **Update from the Taxation and Revenue Department (10:31 a.m.)**

Stephanie Schardin Clarke, secretary, Taxation and Revenue Department, and Aysha Mora, deputy secretary, Taxation and Revenue Department, presented about the Taxation and Revenue Department, its mission, strategic plan and customer experience initiatives. They also discussed various tax policies, the administration of tax expenditures and the department's priorities for the 2025 legislative session. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=11/13/2024&ItemNumber=10>.

#### **Consideration of Legislation for Endorsement (11:33 a.m.)**

Committee members discussed and unanimously endorsed one bill that would create personal income tax credits for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services volunteers in an amount equal to \$1,000 for each volunteer who volunteers at least 52 times in a taxable year. The endorsed legislation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20111324%20Item%2011%20228617.4%20EMT%20and%20firefighter%20tax%20credit.pdf>.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.