

**MINUTES
of 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**

The fourth meeting of the Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee was called to order by Senator Carrie Hamblen, chair, on September 20, 2023 at 10:17 a.m. in the D.H. Lescombes Winery and Tasting Room in Deming.

Present

Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Chair
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Vice Chair (9/20, 9/21)
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Crystal Diamond Brantley (9/20, 9/22)
Sen. Ron Griggs
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill (9/20)
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez (9/20, 9/21)
Rep. Jenifer Jones (9/20, 9/21)
Rep. Charlotte Little
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr. (9/20)
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

Advisory Members

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Anthony Allison
Rep. Mark Duncan
Sen. Bill Tallman (9/20)

Absent

Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. Ambrose Castellano
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Rep. Jimmy G. Mason
Sen. George K. Muñoz
Rep. Kristina Ortez
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle
Rep. Linda Serrato

Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Sen. William F. Burt
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Pamela Herndon
Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Derrick J. Lente
Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Rep. Alan T. Martinez

Rep. Marian Matthews
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya
Rep. Rod Montoya
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. Reena Szczepanski

Guest Legislator

Rep. Luis M. Terrazas (9/20, 9/21)

(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.

Wednesday, September 20 — Deming

Welcome and Introductions (10:17 a.m.)

Senator Hamblen welcomed committee members and guests to the meeting.

Economic Impact of the Restaurant Industry and Workforce Development Needs (10:20 a.m.)

Genevieve Wertz, culinary arts instructor, Deming High School, spoke about Deming High School's culinary arts program. Kristen Thomson, director of government affairs, New Mexico Restaurant Association, spoke about the economic impact and workforce development needs of the state's restaurant industry. Carol Wight, chief executive officer (CEO), New

Mexico Restaurant Association, detailed the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's New Mexico ProStart program's need for additional funding to provide a complete pipeline process from school to restaurant. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20092923%20Item%201%20NMRA%20-%20Economic%20Impact%20and%20Workforce%20Development%20Needs.pdf>.

Overview from the New Mexico Wine Growers Association and New Mexico Distillers and Brewers (11:28 a.m.)

Skye Morris-Devore, government relations, New Mexico Distillers Guild, and owner, Tractor Brewing Company and Troubled Minds Distilling, and Chris Schaefer, owner, operator and distiller, Dry Point Distillers, discussed the economic impact of craft alcohol and opportunities for growth, especially in distributing outside of the state. Christopher Goblet, executive director, New Mexico Wine and Grape Growers Association, spoke about the Wine and Grape Growers Association and its recent events, the 2023 wine harvest and the economic impact of New Mexico wine. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=9/20/2023&ItemNumber=2>.

Update on House Bill 255 (2021) (1:42 p.m.)

Phillip Sanchez, director, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division, Regulation and Licensing Department, provided an update on delivery, restaurant, dispenser, retailer and manufacturing licensing. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20092023%20Item%203%20Alcoholic%20Beverage%20Control%20Division%20Licensing%20Update.pdf>.

Site Readiness (2:45 p.m.)

Eric Montgomery, legislative committee chair, New Mexico IDEA, and Cassie Arias-Ward, vice president, New Mexico IDEA, spoke about the readiness of real estate sites for business development and expected economic growth from developing ready real estate sites. Representative Hernandez spoke about using public lands to grow and attract businesses to New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20092023%20Item%204%20Site%20Readiness.pdf>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Tour of D.H. Lescombes Winery (3:45 p.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured the D.H. Lescombes Winery.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 21 — Silver City**Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

Report from the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) (10:13 a.m.)

Marquita Russel, CEO, NMFA, discussed the NMFA, its programs and the small business capital landscape in New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDRPC%20092023%20Item%205%20Report%20from%20NMFA.pdf>.

Update from the Economic Development Department (EDD) (11:33 a.m.)

Sara Gutierrez, deputy division director, EDD, spoke about the Job Training Incentive Program, the Main Street America Coordinating Program, the Creative Industries Division, the Local Economic Development Act and other programs and units of the EDD. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20092023%20Item%206%20Economic%20Development%20Department.pdf>.

Welcome to Western New Mexico University (WNMU) (1:36 p.m.)

Joseph Shepard, Ph.D., president, WNMU, welcomed the committee and provided an update on WNMU.

Developing Energy Grid Equity (1:45 p.m.)

Selena Connealy, Ph.D., associate director, New Mexico Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), spoke about EPSCoR's research into improving the energy grid. Theresa Cardenas, chief operating officer, Noble Renewables Group of the West, LLC, spoke about a town hall outreach project involving discussions and sessions in seven different settings across New Mexico and the adoption of recommendations to the legislature. Priscilla Lucero, executive director, Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments, spoke about the project's recommendations. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20092023%20Item%207%20Energy%20Grid%20Equity.pdf>.

Economic Development Needs of Rural New Mexico (3:17 p.m.)

Jacqui Olea, community development director, Town of Silver City, spoke about Silver City's overall economic situation, projects and events. Cassie Arias-Ward, economic and tourism development coordinator, City of Deming, discussed Deming's economic development,

strengths and future opportunities. Christie Ann Harvey, executive director, Greater Luna County Economic Opportunity Council, spoke about the economic development challenges and needs of Luna County. Emily Gojkovich, economic development specialist, City of Lordsburg, spoke about Lordsburg's economic development needs and projects. Ms. Lucero spoke about entrepreneurship and economic development projects in southwest New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=9/20/2023&ItemNumber=8>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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

Members of the committee and staff toured Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, September 22 — Silver City

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:21 a.m.

Forest Health and the Logging Industry (9:22 a.m.)

Andrew Ortiz, owner, AOK Forestry, LLC, and Russell Laney, owner, Timber Tramp Logging, LLC, spoke about the logging industry, forest management and forest health.

New Mexico's Agrarian Economies (10:39 a.m.)

Anthony Parra, deputy secretary, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, spoke about the state's agriculture industry and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture's Healthy Soil Program and 2024 legislative priorities. Belinda Garland, executive director, New Mexico Livestock Board, discussed the state's meat and poultry inspection program. Travis Day, executive director, New Mexico Chile Association, detailed New Mexico's chile harvests and issues facing the industry. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20092023%20Item%2010%20Ag%20Update.pdf>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.