

**RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, August 27 at 10:00 A.M.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://azcommerce.zoom.us/j/96120963056?from=msft>

MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Keith Watkins, Acting Chairman, called the meeting of the Rural Business Development Advisory Council to order at 10:00 A.M. Heather Escobedo, ACA, noted roll call:

Committee Members Present Via Zoom

- Keith Watkins, ACA (Acting Chairman)
- David Bentler, Maricopa County
- Paul Watson, Navajo County
- Levi Esquerra Tribal Representative
- Angie Harmon, Statewide
- Tony Boone, Cochise County
- Mayor Tom Murphy, Pima County
- Joy Staveley, Coconino County
- Mayor Doug Nicholls, Yuma County
- Donald "DL" Wilson, La Paz County

Committee Members Not Present

- Ron Fain, Yavapai County
- VACANT, Gila County
- Ron Gould, Mohave County
- Jaime Chamberlain, Santa Cruz County
- VACANT, Apache County
- VACANT, Graham County
- VACANT, Greenlee County

Other Attendees

- Jamie Kerr, VP, Rural Economic Development (ACA)
- Heather Escobedo - Project Manager, Operations (ACA)
- Teri Orman – Program Manager, Procurement and Grants (ACA)
- Andy Lombard - EVP, Innovation & Venture Development (ACA)

Of the 15 filled seats of the RBDAC, a quorum was present. The meeting was noticed and properly posted.



II. Approval of Minutes Dated June 16, 2020 Meeting

Keith Watkins moved to approve the minutes, as is. Paul Watson and DL Wilson seconded the motion; all in favor; the motion was approved.

III. Update on ACA Innovation and Small Business Initiatives-Andy Lombard, EVP, Innovation and Venture Development, ACA

Andy Lombard provided an overview of recent activities and updates of the ACA's Innovation and Small Business Initiatives which included COVID updates and support.

IV. Discussion and Approval of 2020 Economic Strengths Program grant, Keith Watkins, Sr. VP, Legislative Affairs and Rural Development

Keith Watkins provided an overview of the 2020 Economic Strengths Program Grant which included funding updates. Levi Esquerra moved to approve the funding allocated and Mayor Tom Murphy seconded the motion; all in favor to continue with the approval process. Awardees will be notified following final approval.

Keith Watkins also provided ACA updates on the ACA Film and Digital Media and Business Attraction and Expansion programs.

V. Roundtable Discussion

Each attendee gave an update regarding their respective community.

VI. Call to Public

No members of the public were in attendance.

VII. Adjournment

Keith Watkins moved to adjourn; all voted in favor; the meeting adjourned at 11:02 A.M.

