

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

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given that the Rural Business Development Advisory Council will hold a meeting open to the public at the following time and place:

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 10:00 A.M.**

Zoom Meeting

<https://azcommerce.zoom.us/j/97970771331?from=addon>

Meeting ID: 979 7077 1331

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Seiden was unable to attend and asked Keith Watkins to administer the meeting. Keith Watkins, Arizona Commerce Authority, called the meeting of the Rural Business Development Advisory Council to order at 10:00 AM. Heather Escobedo, Arizona Commerce Authority, noted roll call.

Committee Members Present

- Angie Harmon, Statewide
- Mayor Tom Murphy, Pima County
- Tony Boone, Cochise County
- Julie Pastrick, Coconino County
- Tricia Lewis, Yavapai County Committee
- Nathan Levi Esquerra, Tribal Representative
- Keith Watkins, Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA)
- Deanna Beaver, La Paz County
- Keith Johnson, Navajo County

Committee Members Not Present

- Danny Seiden, Maricopa County (Chairman)
- Gary Kellogg, Mohave County
- Jaime Chamberlain, Santa Cruz County
- Doug Nicholls, Yuma County
- Dustie Robinette, Greenlee County
- Fernando Shipley, Gila County
- Steven Miller, Pinal County
- Paul Ramsey, Apache County
- Danny Smith, Graham County

Others Present

- Jamie Kerr, VP, Rural Economic Development (ACA)
- Heather Escobedo, Project Manager, HR/Operations (ACA)
- Sandip Bhowmick, VP, Broadband (ACA)
- Teri Orman, Manager, Grants & Procurement (ACA)
- Tanya Sandavol, Grants Administrator (ACA)

- Lynn Sugiyama (ADOT)

**II. Consent Agenda**

Approval of March 14, 2023, RBDAC Meeting Minutes

Deanna Beaver moved to approve minutes, as is. Mayor Tom Murphy seconded the motion; all in favor; the motion approved.

**III. Broadband Update – Sandip Bhowmick, VP, Broadband, Arizona Commerce Authority**

Sandip Bhowmick provided updates on Broadband initiatives. Please see presentation for more details.

**IV. Discussion and approval of the FY2023 Economic Strength Projects (ESP) Grant – Jamie Kerr, Vice President, Arizona Commerce Authority**

Nathan Levi Esquerra moves to approve the ESP Grant recommendations; Mayor Tom Murphy seconded the motion; all in favor; the motion approved.

**V. ACA Update - Keith Watkins, Senior Vice President, Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA)**

Keith Watkins provided updates on ACA projects and initiatives. Workforce accenlerators working with community colleges, training gap with Lucid, didn't have the capacity for workforce. End othe day Expanded – aanounced two more going into majavi county – largingly manufacturing space and creating one in Yuma county to support aeropace and defense.

**VI. Roundtable Discussion**

Most attendees gave an update regarding their respective community.

**VII. Call to Public**

Keith Watkins called for comments from members of the public. No members of the public were in attendance.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Keith Watkins moved to adjourn meeting; Tom Murphy seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM.

