

**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, October 18, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Arizona Commerce Authority - 100 N. 7th Ave, Suite 400 - Phoenix, AZ 85007

Humphries Room

Zoom Details:

<https://azcommerce.zoom.us/j/99414771856?from=addon>

Meeting ID: 994 1477 1856

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3), the Board may vote to enter into executive session to obtain legal advice on any matter listed on the Agenda, including matters not specifically designated in this Notice as matters for consideration in executive session. Executive sessions are not open to the public.

I. Opening Remarks, Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Danny Seiden, Arizona Chamber of Commerce, called the meeting of the Rural Business Development Advisory Council to order at 10:04 AM. Danny Seiden thanks members for their great work and noted opportunity for the Rural areas noting their air quality. Heather Escobedo, Arizona Commerce Authority, noted roll call.

Committee Members Present

- Angie Harmon, Statewide
- Mayor Tom Murphy, Pima County
- Tony Boone, Cochise County
- Gary Kellogg, Mohave County
- Danny Seiden, Maricopa County (Chairman)
- Nathan Levi Esquerra, Tribal Representative
- Keith Johnson, Navajo County
- Keith Watkins, Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA)

Committee Members Not Present

- Julie Pastrick, Coconino County
- Deanna Beaver, La Paz County
- Jaime Chamberlain, Santa Cruz County
- Tricia Lewis, Yavapai County Committee
- 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)
- Jill Howard Allen, Vice President, Innovation Research (ACA),
- Heather Escobedo, Project Manager, HR/Operations (ACA)

II. Consent Agenda

Tabling approval of July 19, 2023, RBDAC Meeting Minutes for next meeting.

III. Small Business Innovation Research – Jill Howard Allen, VP, Innovation Research Department, Arizona Commerce Authority

Jill Howard Allen provided updates on SBIR initiatives. Please see presentation for more details.

IV. ACA Update, Keith Watkins, SVP, Rural Development

Keith Watkins gave updates on Sunset Audit, Broadband initiatives, SemiConductor Task Force and I-19 Recompete Grant.

V. Roundtable Discussion

Most attendees gave an update regarding their respective community.

VI. Call to Public

Chairman Seiden excused himself early and asked Keith Watkins to take over administering the meeting. Keith Watkins called for comments from members of the public. No members of the public were in attendance.

VII. Adjournment

Angie Harmon moved to adjourn meeting; Gary Kellogg seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 AM.

