

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

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://azcommerce.zoom.us/j/99268499831?from=addon>

**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 10:07 AM. Teri Orman, ACA, noted roll call:

Committee Members Present Via Zoom

- Keith Watkins, ACA (Acting Chairman)
- Paul Watson, Navajo County
- Levi Esquerra Tribal Representative
- Tony Boone, Cochise County
- Mayor Tom Murphy, Pima County
- Mayor Doug Nicholls, Yuma County
- Jaime Chamberlain, Santa Cruz County
- Angie Harmon, Statewide

Committee Members Not Present

- David Bentler, Maricopa County
- Ellen Kretsch, Gila County
- Donald "DL" Wilson, La Paz County
- Ron Gould, Mohave County
- Ron Fain, Yavapai County
- VACANT, Apache County
- VACANT, Coconino County
- VACANT, Graham County
- VACANT, Greenlee County

Other Attendees

- Jamie Kerr – VP, Rural Economic Development (ACA)
- Teri Orman – Procurement and Grants Manager (ACA)
- Robert Theobald – Small Business Ombudsman/VP Small Business Services (ACA)

Of the 13 filled seats of the RBDAC, a quorum was present. The meeting was noticed and properly posted.



**II. Small Business Initiatives – Robert Theobald, Small Business Ombudsman/VP**

Robert Theobald gave a briefing on Programs for Small Business including the Arizona Innovation Challenge (AIC), ACA Small Business Checklist, Arizona Small Business Boot Camp & Resource Collective, and the Small Business Digital Academy.

**III. 2021 ESP Grant Approval – Keith Watkins**

Keith Watkins provided an overview of the recommended FY2021 Economic Strength Projects (ESP) Grant recipients including the following:

- Town of Chino Valley: 100% funding request, \$400,000
- City of Nogales: 100% funding request, \$500,000
- Mohave County: 50% funding request, \$250,000

Mayor Doug Nichols motioned to approve the grantees; Jaime Chamberlain seconded the motion; all voted in favor; the motion was approved.

Levi Esquerra requested that we have a briefing from ADOT regarding the previous round of ESP grants and their status at the next RBDAC meeting.

**IV. Arizona Commerce Authority update, Keith Watkins, Sr. V.P.**

Keith Watkins provided updates ACA's business attraction and expansion projects; semiconductor, electric vehicle, and battery manufacturers; Lucid Motors; and Arizona's official selection for the 2023 Super Bowl.

**V. Approval of Minutes Dated October 28, 2020 Meeting**

Several attendees had to leave the meeting early due to scheduling conflicts. Minutes for the October 28, 2020 meeting will be reviewed at the next RBDAC meeting.

**VI. Roundtable Discussion**

Each attendee gave an update regarding their respective community. Paul Watson advised that he would be retiring and will be resigning from the RBDAC, leaving a seat open for Navajo County.

**VII. Call to Public**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Keith Watkins moved to adjourn; all voted in favor; the meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.

