

**MINUTES
of the
THIRD MEETING
of the
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**August 18, 2021
Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine
Las Cruces**

**August 19-20, 2021
New Mexico State University Golf Course
Las Cruces**

The third meeting of the Economic Development and Policy Committee was called to order by Senator Carrie Hamblen, chair, on August 18, 2021 at 11:17 a.m. at the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine in Las Cruces.

Present

Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Chair
Rep. Antonio Maestas, Vice Chair (8/20)
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo (8/19, 8/20)
Rep. Raymundo Lara (8/19, 8/20)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Rep. Kristina Ortez
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr. (8/18, 8/19)

Advisory Members

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon (8/18)
Rep. Alonzo Baldonado (8/19, 8/20)
Sen. Crystal R. Diamond (8/18, 8/19)
Rep. Joy Garratt*
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas (8/18, 8/20)

Absent

Sen. Ron Griggs
Rep. Joshua Hernandez
Sen. Leo Jaramillo
Rep. Georgene Louis
Sen. Michael Padilla
Rep. Linda Serrato
Sen. Pat Woods
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

Rep. Anthony Allison
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena
Sen. Jacob R. Candelaria
Rep. Ambrose Castellano
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Rebecca Dow
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill
Rep. Pamela Herndon
Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Rep. Derrick J. Lente

Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Rep. Marian Matthews
Rep. Matthew McQueen
Rep. Rod Montoya
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm
Rep. Andrea Romero
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. Candie G. Sweetser
Sen. Bill Tallman

Guest Legislators

Sen. William P. Soules
Sen. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto (8/20)

(Attendance dates are noted for members not present for the entire meeting.)

*Representative Garratt was made a voting member by the Speaker of the House for this meeting.

Staff

Peter Kovnat, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Ariel MacMillan-Sanchez, Staff Attorney, LCS
Samantha DeLap, Intern, 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, August 18 — Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine

The Economic Impact to New Mexico of the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (11:20 a.m.)

John Hummer, co-founder and president, Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine, provided the committee with a presentation on Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine's creation, future goals and economic impact. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=EDPC&Date=8/18/2021&ItemNumber=1>.

Strategic Plan for the City of Las Cruces Economic Development Department (12:10 p.m.)

Ifo Pili, city manager, City of Las Cruces, and Elizabeth Teeters, business development administrator/economic development, City of Las Cruces, provided the committee with a presentation on Las Cruces' economic development status, including an overview of the city's comprehensive strategic plan and COVID-19-based economic assistance. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20081821%20Item%202%20CLC%20Presentation.pdf>.

Access to Healthy Food (1:31 p.m.)

V. Quevedo, policy director, La Semilla Food Center; Yvonne Diaz, founder and farmer, De Colores Farms and Foods; and Dr. Anita G. Rodriguez, founder and farmer, Utopia Valley LLC, provided the committee with a presentation on the status of food insecurity in the state, challenges to farmers, opportunities for investment and expansion in the local food system and the success of local farms. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=EDPC&Date=8/18/2021&ItemNumber=3>.

Building Social, Economic and Environmental Resilience through Local Food and Farming in Southern New Mexico (3:11 p.m.)

Alma Maquitico, trainer and manager, Anthony Youth Farm, and Monique Hernandez, youth trainer, Anthony Youth Farm, provided the committee with a presentation on the need for investment in agricultural infrastructure for small local farms that support their communities, the hardships and solutions that the COVID-19 pandemic brought to their farm and the surrounding community and their vision of local farms being at the heart of communities. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20081821%20Item%204%20%20Food%20System.pdf>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recess

The committee recessed at 4:32 p.m.

Thursday, August 19 — New Mexico State University (NMSU) Golf Course

Reconvene

The committee reconvened at 9:08 a.m.

Job Training Programs at Community Colleges in New Mexico (9:13 a.m.)

Dr. Monica Torres, president, Dona Ana Community College; Ty Trujillo, executive director, New Mexico Association of Community Colleges; and Dr. Gregory Todd Busch, president, Mesalands Community College, provided the committee with a presentation on community colleges' contributions to the workforce and economic development, opportunities for community colleges to improve and specific programs and opportunities available at Dona Ana Community College. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20081821%20Item%205%20Job%20Training%20Programs%20NM%20CCs.pdf>.

New Mexico's Agricultural Experiment Station's Economic Impact (10:33 a.m.)

Leslie Edgar, associate dean, Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, NMSU, and Jay Lillywhite, department head and professor, Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, NMSU, provided the committee with a update on the Agricultural Experiment Station and its economic impact, including its contribution to increasing the productivity of cultivating apples, jujubes, pecans and raising livestock. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=EDPC&Date=8/18/2021&ItemNumber=6>.

Arrowhead Center's Entrepreneurship Program and Assisting in Business Startup (11:24 a.m.)

Kathryn Hansen, director, Arrowhead Center, NMSU; Carlos Murguia, economic development officer, Arrowhead Center, NMSU; Rachael Ryan, owner, Backyard Farms; and Sonia Gonzales, owner, Callie Baby Bottle, provided the committee with an update on the Arrowhead program, including youth engagement, project innovations, small business support programs and two business examples that were helped significantly by Arrowhead. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20081821%20Item%207%20Arrowhead%20Center%208%2019%202021.pdf>.

Regent Welcome (12:05 p.m.)

Ammu Devasthali, chair, Board of Regents, NMSU; Dina Chacón-Reitzel, vice chair, Board of Regents, NMSU; Arsenio Romero, secretary and treasurer, Board of Regents, NMSU; Neal Bitsie, student regent, Board of Regents, NMSU; and Adam Cavotta, staff, Board of Regents, NMSU, welcomed the committee to NMSU, expressed their gratitude in hosting the committee and noted NMSU's successful groundbreaking that morning.

Approval of Minutes (12:31 p.m.)

Upon a motion made by Representative Fajardo, and seconded by Representative Lujan, and without objection, the minutes of the June 14, 2021 and July 26-27, 2021 meetings were adopted.

Update from the Workforce Solutions Department (WSD) (12:45 p.m.)

Tracey Bryan, chair, State Workforce Development Board; Ricky Serna, acting secretary, WSD; and Yolanda Montoya-Cordova, deputy secretary, WSD, provided the committee with a presentation on unemployment compensation programs and funds and jobs outlooks before and after the COVID-19 pandemic and an update on the current status, challenges and opportunities of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act system. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=EDPC&Date=8/18/2021&ItemNumber=8>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recess

The committee recessed at 2:47 p.m.

Friday, August 20 — NMSU Golf Course**Reconvene and Welcome (10:05 a.m.)**

The committee reconvened at 10:05 a.m. Dan Arvizu, chancellor, NMSU, welcomed the committee and commented on the excitement of students in returning to school, the importance of legislators serving as role models to students and the role that higher education plays in economic development.

Strategic Plan for Albuquerque Economic Development (10:13 a.m.)

Danielle Casey, president, Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc., provided the committee with a presentation on the work of Albuquerque Economic Development, including its core areas of service and expertise, strategic plan and policy priorities. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=EDPC&Date=8/18/2021&ItemNumber=9>.

Refinancing Small Loans at Affordable Interest Rates *and* The Effects of Small Loans and Improving Access to Financial Resources (11:19 a.m.)

Lindsay Cutler, attorney, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty; Austin Weahkee, political director, New Mexico Native Vote; and Diane Sandoval-Griego, chief of financial empowerment, outreach and marketing, Guadalupe Credit Union, provided the committee with a presentation on small storefronts loans, including current annual percentage rate caps, stories of people affected by storefront loans and alternatives to storefront loans. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=EDPC&Date=8/18/2021&ItemNumber=11>; and

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/EDPC%20081821%20Item%2010%20GCU.PDF>.

Representative Dixon requested Ms. Cutler's presentation in print form.

Public Comment (1:24 p.m.)

Javier Au from Sun Loan made comments on why Sun Loan's loans are very safe and shared his personal experience with high-interest loans, noting that annual percentage rate is not a good way to measure.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.