

**MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING
of the
RURAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE**

**June 13, 2022
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force (REOTF) was called to order by Representative Candie G. Sweetser, co-chair, on June 13, 2022 at 10:11 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Co-Chair
Rep. Candie G. Sweetser, Co-Chair
Rep. Anthony Allison
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Susan K. Herrera
Sen. Leo Jaramillo
Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Rep. Roger E. Montoya
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

Absent

Rep. Rachel A. Black
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. Crystal R. Diamond
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo
Sen. Carrie Hamblen
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

Advisory Members

Rep. Ambrose Castellano
Rep. Rebecca Dow
Rep. Harry Garcia
Rep. Tara L. Lujan

Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Rep. Antonio Maestas
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna
Sen. Mimi Stewart

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Erin Bond, Research Assistant, LCS
Catherine Sayler, Staff, 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 task force meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and task force discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Monday, June 13

Welcome and Introductions (10:11 a.m.)

Representative Sweetser welcomed task force members, staff and guests and asked task force members and staff to introduce themselves.

Overview of the Building Blocks of a Potential Rural Infrastructure Program and Status of the Rural and Frontier Communities Ombud Office (10:19 a.m.)

Donnie Quintana, director, Local Government Division (LGD), Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), and Shanna Sasser, rural equity ombud, LGD, DFA, gave the task force an overview of the potential for a rural infrastructure program in New Mexico and discussed the status of the Rural and Frontier Communities Ombud Office.

Motion (11:33 a.m.)

Representative Dow made a motion that the task force send a letter to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the relevant agencies at the United States Department of Agriculture requesting that flood response aid programs be used to proactively limit the anticipated flood damage from monsoon rains falling on the burn scars from this year's historic Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak and Black fires. She also requested that copies of this letter be sent to the New Mexico congressional delegation. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Proposed 2022 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (11:52 a.m.)

Mr. Edwards presented an overview of the proposed work plan and meeting schedule for the 2022 interim. The work plan and meeting schedule was approved without objection. The document can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/REOTF%20061322%20Item%202%20proposed%20work%20plan.22.pdf>.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the task force, the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.