

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

**November 21, 2022  
State Capitol, Room 322  
Santa Fe**

The fifth meeting of the Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force was called to order as a special subcommittee by Senator Siah Correa Hemphill, co-chair, on November 21, 2022 at 9:48 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Co-Chair  
Rep. Candie G. Sweetser, Co-Chair  
Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Sen. Craig W. Brandt  
Sen. Crystal R. Diamond  
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera  
Rep. Tara L. Lujan\*  
Rep. Roger E. Montoya  
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

**Absent**

Rep. Anthony Allison  
Rep. Rachel A. Black  
Sen. Carrie Hamblen  
Sen. Leo Jaramillo  
Rep. Willie D. Madrid  
Sen. Michael Padilla  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez  
Rep. Nathan P. Small

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Ambrose Castellano  
Rep. Rebecca Dow  
Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Rep. Harry Garcia  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Sen. Antonio Maestas  
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna  
Sen. Mimi Stewart

\*Appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives as a voting member for this meeting only.

**Staff**

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Erin Bond, Researcher, LCS  
Catherine Sayler, Staff, LCS

## **Minutes Approval**

Because the task force will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the task force.

## **Guests**

The guest list 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](http://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, November 21**

### **Welcome and Introductions (9:50 a.m.)**

Senator Hemphill called the meeting to order, and members of the task force introduced themselves.

### **Acequia Flood Damage Report (9:52 a.m.)**

Paula Garcia, executive director, New Mexico Acequia Association, discussed the challenges acequias currently face due to recent extreme flash flooding and burn scar flooding. Ms. Garcia noted that many communities lack the necessary funds and staff to meet the reimbursement requirements set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and that these communities require assistance from state agencies. Ms. Garcia offered several policy recommendations, such as expanding the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/REOTF%20112122%20Item%201%20Acequia%20Report.pdf>.

### **Justice-40: How Could New Mexico Leverage this Federal Initiative to Benefit Rural New Mexico? (11:00 a.m.)**

Jalonne White-Newsome, Ph.D., senior director, Environmental Justice, White House Council on Environmental Quality, and Olugbenga "Gbenga" Ajilore, Ph.D., senior advisor, Office of the Undersecretary for Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture,

reviewed the federal Justice-40 Initiative, which seeks to ensure that 40 percent of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=REOTF&Date=11/21/2022&ItemNumber=3>.

#### **Approval of Minutes (11:26 a.m.)**

On a motion made by Senator Stefanics and seconded by Representative Sweetser, the task force unanimously approved the minutes from the June 13, 2022, July 28-29, 2022, August 23-24, 2022 and September 19-20, 2022 meetings. The speaker of the house of representatives appointed Representative Lujan as a voting member to establish quorum.

#### **Public Safety: The Need for Geographic Information System (GIS)-Based Address Updates in Rural Communities for Next Generation E911 Emergency Response (11:27 a.m.)**

Stephen A. Weinkauf, bureau chief, E-911 Bureau, Local Government Division (LGD), Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), discussed the need for accurate 911 locations and highlighted the state's transition from E-911 to Next Generation 911 systems. Mr. Weinkauf expressed hope that the New Mexico 911 Program could help resolve discrepancies between GIS locations and street addresses. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/REOTF%20112122%20Item%202%20Needs%20for%20GIS%20based%20Addressing%20for%20Emergency%20Response%20in%20Rural%20Communities.pdf>.

#### **Rural Ombud Office Update (1:12 p.m.)**

Shanna Sasser, rural and frontier equity ombudsman, LGD, DFA, discussed the Rural Ombud Office's work and offered policy recommendations based on common problems the office handles, such as hazard mitigation and matching grant funds. Ms. Sasser highlighted a proposal to create a digital literacy initiative, which would provide community computer labs in Cooperative Extension Service offices. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=REOTF&Date=11/21/2022&ItemNumber=4>.

#### **Review of Potential 2023 Legislation (2:00 p.m.)**

Mr. Edwards presented proposed legislation for the 2023 legislative session for the task force's review.

Jay Lillywhite, department head and professor, Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business Department, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University (NMSU), spoke in favor of creating a rural and tribal development institute at NMSU.

Jason Espinoza, co-owner, KW Consulting, spoke in favor of bill draft 202.223229.1, which would allow businesses to elect origin-based sourcing rules for reporting gross receipts and use of certain services. On a motion made by Representative Armstrong and seconded by Senator Diamond, the task force voted to endorse bill draft 202.223229.1. Senator Stefanics voted in opposition.

Adrian Avila, fiscal analyst, Senate Majority Office, reviewed Senator George K. Munoz's proposal to establish a prosperity and economic resiliency fund.

The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=REOTF&Date=11/21/2022&ItemNumber=5>.

**Public Comment (2:52 p.m.)**

A list of individuals providing public comment is available in the meeting file.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the task force, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.