

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

Thursday, October 14, 2025, 10:00 A.M.  
100 N. 7th Avenue, Suite 100,  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**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 10:05 AM. Heather Escobedo, Arizona Commerce Authority, noted roll call.

**Committee Members Present**

- Mayor Tom Murphy, Pima County
- Danny Seiden, Maricopa County (Chairman)
- Nathan Levi Esquerra, Tribal Representative
- Deanna Beaver, La Paz County
- Jaime Chamberlain, Santa Cruz County
- Mayor Doug Nicholls, Yuma County
- Keith Watkins, Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA)

**Committee Members Not Present**

- Angie Harmon, Statewide
- Tony Boone, Cochise County
- Paul Ramsey, Apache County
- Julie Pastrick, Coconino County
- Danny Smith, Graham County
- VACANT, Navajo County
- VACANT, Mohave County
- Dustie Robinette, Greenlee County
- Fernando Shipley, Gila County
- Stephen Miller, Pinal County
- Tricia Lewis, Yavapai County

**Others Present**

- Heather Escobedo, Project Manager, HR & Talent Management (ACA)
- Sarah Forlano, Executive Assistant, Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry

**II. Consent Agenda - Approval of June 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Levi Esquerra moved to approve June 12, 2025, meeting minutes, Tom Murphy seconds to approve; all in favor, minutes are approved.



- III. Welcome and Federal Shutdown Implications, Danny Seiden, Chairman**  
Chairman Seiden provided an update on the Federal Shutdown Implications. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chairman Seiden.
- IV. Rural Initiatives, Keith Watkins, Sr. Vice President, ACA**  
Keith Watkins provided four Rural initiatives for the council to undertake. Deann Beaver moved to motion; Mayor Tom Murphy seconded; all in favor, motion approved.  
Please see Keith Watkins for questions and details.
- V. Arizona Commerce Authority update, Keith Watkins, Sr. Vice President, ACA**  
Keith Watkins provided updates on ACAI initiatives, please see Keith for questions and details.
- VI. Roundtable Discussion**  
Keith Watkins opened the floor for members to provide updates and questions; members gave an update regarding their respective communities.
- VII. Call to the Public**  
Keith Watkins called for comments from members of the public. No members of the public were in attendance.
- VIII. Adjournment**  
Keith Watkins called for action to adjourn meeting; Jaime Chamberlin moved the motion; Deanna Beaver seconded; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM.

