

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

Thursday, June 12, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
100 N. 7th Avenue, Suite 400,
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 10:04 AM. Heather Escobedo, Arizona Commerce Authority, noted roll call.

Committee Members Present

- Angie Harmon, Statewide
- Mayor Tom Murphy, Pima County
- Tony Boone, Cochise County
- Danny Seiden, Maricopa County (Chairman)
- Nathan Levi Esquerra, Tribal Representative
- Julie Pastrick, Coconino County
- Deanna Beaver, La Paz County
- Danny Smith, Graham County
- Mayor Doug Nicholls, Yuma County
- Jaime Chamberlain, Santa Cruz County
- Keith Watkins, Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA)

Committee Members Not Present

- Paul Ramsey, Apache County
- Keith Johnson, Navajo County
- Gary Kellogg, Mohave County
- Dustie Robinette, Greenlee County
- Fernando Shipley, Gila County
- Steven Miller, Pinal County
- Tricia Lewis, Yavapai County

Others Present

- Robert Theobald, Small Business Ombudsman/VP, Small Business (ACA)
- Heather Escobedo, Project Manager, HR & Talent Management (ACA)
- Teri Orman, Grants and Procurement Manager, Accounting & Procurement (ACA)
- Sarah Forlano, Executive Assistant, Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry

II. Consent Agenda - Approval of February 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes



Tom Murphy moved to approve June 18, 2024, meeting minutes, Tony Boone seconds to approve; all in favor, minutes are approved.

III. Welcome and Overview of Legislation session, Danny Seiden, Chairman

Chairman Seiden provided an update on the ACA Legislative session. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chairman Seiden.

IV. ESP25 Evaluation, Teri Orman, Grants & Procurement Manager, ACA

Teri Orman reviewed the evaluation. Please see Teri for details and questions.

Deanna Beaver moved to approve ESP25 Evaluation award to Yuma, Mayor Tom Murphy seconded the motion to approve; Mayor Doug Nichols recused himself from the vote. All in favor, approved.

V. ACA Small Business Update, Robert Theobald, Small Business Ombudsman/VP, Small Business, ACA

Robert Theobald provided small business updates. Please see Robert for questions and details.

VI. Arizona Commerce Authority update, Keith Watkins VP, Rural Development

Keith Watkins provided updates on Rural initiatives, please see Keith for questions and details.

VII. Roundtable Discussion

Keith Watkins opened the floor for members to provide updates and questions; a few members gave an update regarding their respective communities.

VIII. Call to the Public

Keith Watkins called for comments from members of the public. No members of the public were in attendance.

IX. Adjournment

Keith Watkins moved to adjourn meeting; all moved to approve the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

