



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

Arizona Commerce Authority
333 North Central Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Keith Watkins, Acting Chairman, called the December 9, 2015 meeting of the Rural Business Development Advisory Council to order at 11:34 am. Deborah Klatt, ACA, was called upon to take roll. A quorum was present. The meeting was noticed and properly posted.

Committee Members Present In-Person

David Bentler
Ron Gould
Nolan Larson
Larry Lucero
Les Orchekowsky
LeRoy Shingoitewa
Keith Watkins
D.L Wilson
Robert Corbell
Jim Dinkle
Angela Harmon

Committee Members Present Via Teleconference

Joy Staveley
Julie Engel

Committee Members Not Present

Jaime Chamberlain
Ben File
Stephen Rutherford
Kip Kempton
Ellen Kretsch

Quest of Committee Members

Carine Dieude
Akas Kovach

ACA Staff Members

Deborah Klatt

II. Approval of Minutes of October 29, 2015*

Minutes from the last meeting were not available to approve at this time.

III. Presentations

a. Congressional Update—Steve Bloch, Capital Strategies

Steve Bloch discussed the remaining business for Congress this year and that is passing an omnibus spending bill to fund the federal government until September 2016. He focused on one of Congress' main achievements in 2015, which is the passage of a five-year transportation reauthorization bill that includes two interstate designations important to state and rural Arizona – Interstate 11 and Sonoran corridor. There also is a general increase of 10% in transportation funding for Arizona, and an increase of funding distributed to local government from 50% to 55% from the STP program, which was converted to a block grants program, generally increasing flexibility for state and local government priorities. He also discussed the impact on four pending EPA Rules on rural economic development.

IV. Discussion Possible Action

a. FY 16 Economic Strengths Program (ESP) Grant- Keith Watkins

The ESP is a competitive grant program designed to enhance the economic strength and competitiveness of Arizona rural communities by providing funding for highway projects that foster job growth. The ESP will reimburse specified costs of qualifying rural road and/or highway projects. The recommendation is to take this to the Arizona Commerce Authority Board of Directors to review and pass onto ADOT. David Bentler motioned and Keith Watkins second. .

I. ACA Update – Keith Watkins, Arizona Commerce Authority

Keith Watkins updated the council on the Arizona Commerce Authority Audit findings and recommendations. Some processes need to be created and/or improved, which have already been implemented across the organization.

a. 2016 dates for Quarterly RBDAC meetings

February 17, April 13, June 15, August 17, October 12, 2016

*all locations are to be determined

V. Call to Council Members for Future Agenda Items

No Comments were made

VI. Call to Public

Akos Kovach suggested the possibly rotating the location of the future Rural Advisory meetings to other locations around the state. The host would also try to schedule the meeting around something going on in the community or with a tour of the area to help everyone get more familiar with the region.

VII. Adjournment

Larry Lucero moved to adjourn; David Bentler seconded.
The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.