

**NORTHEASTERN NEVADA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**Great Basin College
VIA ZOOM**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83367326040>

1500 College Parkway

Elko, NV 89801

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 1:00 pm

A. CALL TO ORDER: By NNRDA Chair of the Board, Alissa Wood, Nevada Gold Mines

The agenda for this meeting of the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA) has been properly posted for this day and time in accordance with NRS requirement.

In accordance with NRS 241, the Authority may: (I) change the order of the agenda, (II) combine two or more agenda items for consideration, (III) remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time, (IV) and if the agenda is not completed, recess the meeting and continue on another specified date and time, (V) place reasonable restrictions on time, place, and manner of public comment and that comment based on viewpoint may not be restricted.

NNRDA's monthly board meeting agenda and board meeting minutes are now posted for public viewing on our website at www.nnrda.com.

B. ROLL CALL: Introductions of Board Members and Guests

STAFF:

Sheldon Mudd-Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Madison Aviles-City of Carlin

Beth Savedra-City of Wells

Alissa Wood-Nevada Gold Mines

Reece Keener-City of Elko

Amanda Osbourne-Elko County

Matt Miller-Kinross Gold

BOARD MEMBERS:

Terri Clark-NNRH

Daniel Pace-SW Gas

Anthony Dowling-NV Energy

GUESTS:

Shari Davis-GOED

Jim Foster-Regional Airport

Shirley Alen-Kellerman-RNDC

Jan Baum-City of Elko

Tom Burns-GOED

C. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED IN PERSON AND VIA EMAIL. WE ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING BY SUBMITTING COMMENTS TO KRIS@NNRDA.COM – WHERE THEY WILL BE THEN ADDED TO THE RECORD.

This agenda item is to provide time for the general public to address the Authority regarding items of concern. Action cannot be taken at this time, but a matter can be set on the agenda for a future meeting, as appropriate.

D. MINUTES:

1) Approval of the March 22, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

ACTION: Reece Keener made a motion to approve the March 22, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. Madison Aviles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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E. NNRDA FINANCIALS:

- 1) Review and approval of financials for March – April 2023.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

ACTION: Madison Aviles made a motion to approve the Financials for March-April 2023. Beth Savedra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Introduction, comments, and Q&A for new Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development Director, Thomas Burns.

FOR DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION: NNRDA Executive Director, Sheldon Mudd, introduced and welcomed the new Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development Director, Thomas Burns. Mr. Burns told the Board that the budget that made it out of Committee restored the funding back to the RDA's. They also have some "One Shot" funding that they hope to filter into the rural communities. Mr. Burns and Mr. Mudd met a few weeks back and both felt that the meeting was productive. Mr. Burns is looking forward to visiting NNRDA's region this summer. Director Burns was thanked for attending the NNRDA Board Meeting.

- 2) Presentation, review, and discussion regarding the Elko Air Alliance, presented by Elko City Manager Jan Baum.

FOR DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION: Jan Baum, Elko City Manager, gave a presentation regarding the Elko Air Alliance. Ms. Baum explained what an air alliance is and how it can benefit Elko's Regional Airport. An Air Alliance is a Non-profit organization which is formed to bring together local partners, both public and private who are committed to retaining air service. The Air Alliance would provide funding for minimum revenue guarantees (MRG). The Air Alliance would promote commercial air travel through marketing efforts and promote economic development within the catchment area. There are strict rules and regulations for sponsoring organizations incentivizing air carriers to serve airports and the Air Alliance is a vehicle to comply with these regulations.

Why is an Air Alliance needed? The primary driver to create the Air Alliance is the national pilot shortage. Regional airports are the most impacted; airline have limited pilot resources and are reluctant to use them on at-risk markets. This leaves at-risk markets with less flights as well as undesirable flight times.

Where do we go from here? Create a non-profit Air Alliance where public and private regional organizations come together to support Northeastern Nevada commercial air service. Support AB429 which provides funding for the Nevada Air Service Development Fund; state funding that supports intrastate travel, possible funding mechanisms to assist with MRG's, and provides funding for the AIP match funding for small airports. Finally, determine primary public and private partners for the non-profit.

- 3) Review, discussion, and possible action regarding NNRDA proposed annual budget for FY 23-24.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

ACTION: Reece Keener made a motion to approve the NNRDA proposed annual budget for FY2023-2024. Madison Aviles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 4) Review and discussion regarding NNRDA 2023 Budget Cost Savings Analysis.

FOR DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION: Executive Director, Sheldon Mudd, let the Board know that essentially NNRDA runs a very conservative, lean budget. Mr. Mudd created a multi-page cost savings analysis report where he showed the Board NNRDA's continuous revenue and expenditures.

As far as cost saving analysis goes; NNRDA will continue to be vigilant in evaluating overall resource costs for normal and out-of-the-ordinary operations. Should more cost effective options be made available, NNRDA staff will as they have done in the past, take appropriate action to ensure there is no waste nor frivolous spending of any kind.

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If anything, it is the Directors opinion based on average funds realized at the end of nearly every fiscal year , that NNRDA could do a better job spending the money that has been entrusted to them to achieve overall economic development objectives. Staff have been extremely conservative over the course of the last six years but it is possible that adopting this “penny pinching” approach may have stifled our ability to maximize our efficiency when deploying our economic development strategies. When expenses start to exceed revenue, then it is reasonable to begin considering a reduction in overall spending.

5) Review, discussion, and possible action regarding NNRDA Executive Director Individual Goals for FY23-24.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

DISCUSSION: The Executive Director explained how he created this document trying to set it up so he has the general goal, discuss the goal, then list some of the KPI's that go along with that goal. He also let the Board know that there's quite a few daily tasks that aren't listed but are done to create opportunity for the organization and to keep NNRDA running smoothly.

First, there's Administration and Organizational Development followed by Business Development which everyone thinks of first when you mention economic development. Lastly is Community and Workforce Development.

With Business Development we have a very active role in which our organization can be directly involved in. When it comes to Community Development, we tend to be a bit more passive. These are times when we engage communities, recommend community enhancement, try to gain support for it and possibly secure some financing as well which is where the Economic Development District comes into play. When Sheldon says passive, he means we cannot make those decisions. It's up to our members and their communities and boards to make those decisions for their communities.

NO ACTION TAKEN: Board Chair, Alissa Wood, recommended no action to be taken today but give voting members more time to review and possibly come back with any questions they might have.

The Chairwoman will temporarily recess the Regular NNRDA Board of Directors meeting for a special meeting of the Northeastern Nevada Economic Development District.

A. Call to Order: NNRDA EDD Chair, Alissa Wood, Nevada Gold Mines

EDD Chair, Alissa Wood, called to order the special meeting for the Northeastern Nevada Economic Development District at 1:48 pm.

B. Minutes:

(1) Approval of the July 27, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

ACTION: Madison Aviles made a motion to approve the July 27, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. Matt Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Financials:

(1) Review of Financial Activity

FOR DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION: Executive Director, Sheldon Mudd, let the Board know the \$70,000 that was formerly approved to be taken from the NNRDA Reserved Funds has not yet been deposited into the EDD Account. NNRDA will get those monies transferred when the EDD becomes active. An account has been created with Elko County and will be separate from NNRDA's activity and action. NNRDA is working out the final details with the EDA in getting the EDD set up. With that said, there has been zero financial activity to report.

D. New Business:

(1) Review and discussion of NNRDA EDD Activity.

FOR DISCUSSION

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DISCUSSION: The Development District has been very slow going. One of the reasons for this is the way our organization is set up. Every time we think it's a go, something else comes up that brings it to a halt. The most recent concern was that our Meeting Minutes were not signed by each member on the board. They are initialed by the admin, Kris Ashdown, just like every other entity here (the county and city clerks). The last conversation with the director of the EDA thinks the EDD should be operational by July 1, 2023. We will keep working through the red tape hoping to get the EDD up and running.

(2) Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the establishment of an independent EDD board separate and apart from the NNRDA Board of Directors. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

DISCUSSION: When NNRDA first talked about creating the EDD, it was our intention to have NNRDA and the EDD run congruently – we didn't want to create a completely separate organization and we were assured that would be the case. As we move along, it's becoming evident that this will not be the case. According to Federal Regulations, we must be able to check six boxes. By and large we have done just that with the exception of "must have a minority group represented or a labor union" and "must have a workforce development agency represented". Legally, we cannot bring those agencies onto our current Board as we were organized by an Inter-local Agreement which means the Board has to be comprised of representatives from the county and the city. Our only other option is to create an independent Board hopefully using our existing government members then adding the other 2 or 3 entities required. If the Board wants to move forward then Sheldon is looking for authorization to move forward to find the needed members to create the EDD Board.

ACTION: Matt Miller made a motion to approve the Executive Director, Sheldon Mudd, to solicit participation for members in order to create the EDD Board. Beth Savedra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chairwoman will adjourn the special meeting of the Northeastern Nevada Economic Development District to reconvene the Regular NNRDA Board of Directors meeting.

Chairwoman, Alissa Wood, adjourned the EDD Meeting at 1:56 pm then reconvened the Regular NNRDA Board of Directors Meeting.

G. REPORTS

1) **Status Report and Leads:** Staff will provide status on various activities, projects and leads. Sheldon Mudd let the Board know that just since March NNRDA helped facilitate the Nevada Works meetings here at the college. Nevada Works had secured 14.2 million dollars to enhance workforce development in rural Nevada so we've been trying to help them in their efforts. The first meeting was an information gathering meeting which many of you attended.

Sheldon made a trip to Twin Falls meeting with a few different industrial and residential builders which has yielded some activity in the area.

Carson City was added to the Executive Directors travels as he participated at the GOED Legislative Meeting and attended the Legislature to comment on rural Nevada issues.

NNRDA has been heavily involved with writing support letters. A few to mention would be AB58, AB429, and SB394.

NNRDA conducted an Entrepreneur Webinar for entrepreneurs who are inventing things where we had 3 or 4 participants from this area. We got them in touch with a Nevada manufacturer who's got a product called Metal Rave. He gave ideas and suggestions on how to get their product to market.

We helped facilitate MineConnect Tours with NGM, Kinross, and I-80 Gold. Thank you to the mining companies that participated. There were 6 to 8 companies from Ontario, Canada that came to evaluate the market and maybe consider Nevada for their next location.

NNRDA has been working closely with Madison and the City of Carlin on possible Incentive Programs. NNRDA has begun planning the "On Target Nevada" event as well as the Mining Supply Chain Forum. Sheldon attended the Retail Logistics & Supply Chain Show/ White Label World Expo in Las Vegas.

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NNRDA was introduced to the Swedish Business Council who want to start looking at the mining world in Nevada similar to what we have done with Canada.

We have begun talking with the County about transferring our email and possibly our website over to them unless Susan and Lee Local can convince us otherwise.

While Sheldon was in Las Vegas, he met with the Governor's Office Southern Director, Sonia Joya, Amanda Sandoval, and Sonny Vinnya as well as the new GOED Director, Tom Burns.

NNRDA is still working with several companies – Project Hydrogen, Iron Vista, Hogan's Group, US Energy Forage FTE, Certarus, Solmax, SK Godelus and MineCo, LLC.

2) RNDC: Report from Shirley Allen-Kellerman, RNDC, Business Lending Representative.

No update given due to Shirley Alen-Kellerman was present but in Sheldon's office meeting with a client.

H. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Board members will be provided the opportunity to give a short report on their business or their city/county.

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J. ADJOURN: Alissa Wood made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 pm. Beth Savedra seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

KA
Kris Ashdown, NNRDA Executive Assistant