

**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, March 22, 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

Kris Ashdown-Executive Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Madison Mahon-City of Carlin

Reece Keener-Mayor, City of Elko

Jason Pengelly-City of Wells

Matt Miller-Kinross Gold-Bald Mtn

Alissa Wood-Nevada Gold Mines

BOARD MEMBERS:

Anthony Dowling-NV Energy

Donna Bath-Silver Lion Farms

Mackenna Velez-SW Gas

GUESTS:

Kathy Workman – White Pine County

Melissa Schultz-Nevada Gold Mines

Daniel Pace-SW Gas

Joe Brown-Coldwell Banker

Fred Steinmann-Director for University Center for Economic Development, UNR

C. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

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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 January 25, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

ACTION: Reece Keener made a motion to approve the January 25, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. Madison Aviles seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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E. NNRDA FINANCIALS:

- 1) Review and approval of Financials for January and February. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**
ACTION: Madison Aviles made a motion to approve the Financials for January and February 2023. Reece Keener seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Annual CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) update and presentation by Fred Steinmann, (Director for University Center for Economic Development at UNR). **NON-ACTION**
REPORT: Dr. Frederick Steinmann, Director of the University Center for Economic Development, presented an overview of the completed 2022 annual evaluation and update to NNRDA's current five-year, 2020-2025, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). UCED faculty and staff have been working with the NNRDA since 2019 to develop and implement this five-year CEDS for the communities, cities, and counties located within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority's borders.
- 2) Review, discussion, and possible approval of performance evaluation for NNRDA Executive Director, Sheldon Mudd, for calendar year 2022. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

DISCUSSION: Madam Chair, Alissa Wood, opened the discussion on the annual performance evaluation for the Executive Director, Sheldon Mudd. The Board of Directors had asked Sheldon to provide deliverables and goals for NNRDA's strategic plan for the year. After receiving the goals and deliverables from Sheldon, Alissa emailed an employee evaluation form to the Board of Director's to fill out and return with their comments. The evaluation form contained 6 different criteria: Organization Skills, Communication Skills, Professionalism & Collaboration, Functional Knowledge and Analysis, Innovation and Strategic Adaptability, and Resource Management & Outcome. All responses were positive with members stating that Sheldon is always available and steps up every time he's asked. A merit increase was discussed and a motion was formed.

ACTION: Reece Keener made a motion to increase the Executive Directors pay by a 5% merit increase to be effective on January 1, 2023. Madison Aviles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 3) Review, discussion, and possible action regarding non-routine spending (travel, events, etc.). **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

DISCUSSION: Executive Director, Sheldon Mudd, explained to the Board that at times events occur which require a quick decision. A few years back, the Board had approved a \$2,500 spending limit without needing prior Board approval. Most times this amount is more than enough but there are times when it's not. For instance, earlier this fiscal year the Board approved a \$20,000 budget for the annual NNRDA event but due to staffs personal family business the event will be pushed into the next fiscal year. NNRDA doesn't feel this needs a full Board approval as it was previously approved. Madam Chair suggested to designate the Chairperson as somebody who the Executive Director can reach out to when this type of decision needs to be made. At the last Board Meeting held in January, Sheldon had mentioned the need for traveling more to attend a few different events for marketing and exposure. He was invited to Washington, DC for Select USA, (a foreign direction investment event) to be held in May as well as being invited by the Governor's Office of Economic Development to travel to Vancouver to meet with a prospective lead who is interested in White Pine County. These are examples that could possibly need more than the \$2,500 approved limit and would require arrangements to be made before Board Approval could happen.

ACTION: Matt Miller made a motion to authorize the Chairperson to make necessary decisions on behalf of the Board when quick approval should be needed. Madison Aviles seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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G. REPORTS

- 1) Status Report and Leads:** Staff will provide status on various activities, projects and leads.

Executive Director, Sheldon Mudd, told the Board he separated the updates today into 4 categories: First- Business Development, second-Workforce Development, third-Community Development, and last-Government Relations and Public Policy.

Beginning with Business Development, NNRDA has had discussion with Alex Wolfe, an entrepreneur in Manufacturing, who's going to set up a webinar for local entrepreneurs who are actually building gadgets and widgets. Alex has extensive experience bringing products of this kind into the market and he has connections with manufacturers as well. The webinars should be set up in the next month or so.

Sadie Land Productions are full steam ahead. They are a filming company who will be in Lamoille Canyon for the month of June filming with a rock climbing element. As it gets closer they will be looking for extras, drivers, and production assistants.

Project Krypton had a site visit planned in Carlin for February but had to cancel. They're planning the trip for later in the spring.

Project Hydro-Generate Bravo you might recall is a 400 million dollar project looking the Battle Mountain area but are interested in a site "B" in West Wendover as well. They had a site visit recently and seemed impressed with both locations. This is a manufacturing company that will be processing 20 ton of hydrogen a day to be used in automotive fuel and various other applications.

Sheldon provided a support letter for StartupNV in regards to some entrepreneur projects that they have in rural Nevada.

Sheldon created a Marketing Page for potential Developers and housing builders in and around the intermountain west then broadcasted it out via email about a week ago. We have received some responses already. Next week Sheldon will be meeting with a home builder and an industrial builder out of Utah both of which will be in Twin Falls. We will be discussing potential development for our rural communities. Another developer from Utah reached out but they're interested in high density housing projects, if your community has 10-20 acres available and are looking for this type of development, send us that information so we can pass it along.

Our Vice-chair Mr. Matt Miller suggested a Mining Supply Chain Symposium to once again get our mining companies together to discuss potential supply chain issues and together work to enhance the supply chain and reduce economic leakage out of the area.

NNRDA has given advice/information to GOED and their international division and they asked if they could attend The Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada's (PDAC) Exploration Division that will be held in Toronto. Sheldon told them absolutely. NNRDA has a great relationship with the folks in Ontario and are maintaining that relationship from years past.

MineConnect, USA have moved locations and are now located in the Blohm's Building on Idaho Street in Elko. They have a second cohort of companies who are participating in the project program. They are planning a tour of northern Nevada in April and we are trying to set them up with a few mining tours as they make their way to Reno.

NNRDA has begun putting the final touches on the promotional videos. We have posted the first video which showcases Lander County. You can find it on our Facebook page as well as our YouTube page (which Sheldon created) and of course on our website page under "Our Communities". You can also check out the Carlin Industrial Park video on our website under "Our Communities" Carlin page and click on the "Industrial Park" link located at the bottom of the page. You might recall that we are creating videos for each one of the communities as well as creating a dedicated video for each community industrial park. While watching these, remember they are not for tourism, they are northeastern Nevada's business attraction videos. Special thanks to everyone that supplied extra pictures and video footage. Sheldon also updated some of the website data portals so they are more robust. If you haven't looked at our data center, you should! If you need demographic information or marketing studies, we work with GIS Prospector and you can find some great information. The last few months have been slow with only 1 Lead, 3 RFI's, and 2 Responses.

Workforce Development: NNRDA met with DRI STEM & Robotics Team. They are trying to incorporate some of their curriculum into the local schools. What they have is great; they have some coding curriculum

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along with robotics. We feel it will really excite the youngsters and help them to look at a career that's outside of the norm. They are coding and don't even realize it!

NNRDA has been helping out the NevadaWorks Good Jobs Program with planning and discussions. They are currently in the conference room next to our office holding one of the roundtables.

Community Development: Our Economic Development paperwork is complete. Thank you to Elko County for helping us get across some of the final hurdles.

NNRDA provided a letter of support for the Nevada Northern Railway as well as talked with some of the surrounding counties and cities asking for their support to enhance the overall rail structure.

The CEDS Documents were completed and sent in for review.

NNRDA has been working with Lander County and their Rail Park reengaging Union Pacific after there were complications with the California Trail. Sheldon will be meeting with UP and Lander County tomorrow.

Support letters may be necessary for this initiative as well.

NNRDA provided a letter of support for the City of Carlin for some of their infrastructure projects. Thank you to Madison for providing a template for the letter.

Being a member on the CDBG Committee Sheldon provides support letters on behalf of their communities as well. This year there were \$6 million worth of grant requests but only \$2.7 million available so unfortunately there were quite a few good projects that simply got denied because of a lack of funds.

Government Relations/Public Policy: The Governor's Office of Economic Development drove through Northeastern Nevada for a visit in February. Several community members met and visited them. Having these face to face conversations with boots on the ground folks help to build these much needed relationships. It brings rural Nevada to the table.

From our last meeting Sheldon had shared with the Board the NV-Red Zone proposal for housing and policy changes that had been sent out but unfortunately there hasn't been any feedback from the people that can make those changes.

Sheldon attended the Carson City Legislator Lunch and Learn event. He spoke to some of the legislator's, the Secretary of State, and the Lieutenant Governor. Sheldon feels we need to do this a little bit more as those face to face interaction will yield great dividends.

While in Carson City, Sheldon met with NNDA's Executive Director, Jeff Sutich, to discuss synergies.

Last but not least, Sheldon met with Southwest Gas and some of their new leadership folks in Carson City. We discussed some of the challenges we face as well as some of their projects going on in our area.

REPORT: Shirley Alen-Kellerman, RNDC, Business Lending Representative.

Ms. Kellerman didn't have an update this month.

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: Meeting was adjourned at 2:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Kris Ashdown, NNRDA Executive Assistant