

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

**Great Basin College
VIA ZOOM**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81553160787>

1500 College Parkway

Elko, NV 89801

Wednesday, October 23, at 1:00 pm

A. CALL TO ORDER: By NNRDA Chair of the Mackenna Velez with Southwest Gas.

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:

Richard Braithwaite-City of Carlin

Reece Keener-City of Elko

Beth Savedra-City of Wells

Janet VanCamp-White Pine County

Paula Carson-White Pine County

Mackenna Velez-Southwest Gas

BOARD MEMBERS:

Donna Bath-Silver Lion Farms

Brianne Morfin-WaFd Bank

GUESTS:

Shirley Alen-Kellerman-RNDC

Joe Brown-Coldwell Elko

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.

THERE WAS NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

D. MINUTES:

1) Approval of the August 28, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

ACTION: Reece Keener made a motion to approve the August 28, 2024 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes. Beth Savedra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

E. NNRDA FINANCIALS:

- 1) Review and approval of financials for August and September 2024.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

ACTION: Beth Savedra made a motion to approve the Financials for August and September 2024. Richard Braithwaite seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Review, discussion, and possible approval to endorse political candidates during election cycles.
a. Review, discussion, and possible approval to endorse NV Assemblyman Bert Gurr for the 2024 election cycle.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

DISCUSSION. Mayor Keener commented that he feels that an economic development entity should focus on economic development so unless our economy is threatened, the NNRDA Board should not make political endorsements. Several members of the Board agreed with Mayor Keener. Donna Bath agreed with what Mayor Keener said however she also wanted to add that they appreciated Assemblyman Gurr's support at a recent meeting in Ely. Everyone agreed to take no action.
NO ACTION TAKEN.

G. REPORTS

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

REPORT: Sheldon let the Board know that this month seems to have been the month for meetings.

NNRDA has met several times with the office of federal assistance exploring several projects that could potentially be funded or get support for funding in the future.

Sheldon attended the Ely Small Business Economic Forum on October 11th. It was a great networking opportunity and Sheldon enjoyed visiting with the folks in White Pine County. He later met with some of the White Pine County Commissioners to discuss an energy project that could be on the horizon.

Sheldon made a trip to Fernley to tour the Victory Logistics Center and to discuss alternative energy options with many stakeholders across the state.

Sheldon had been invited to join the Business In Industry roundtable discussion on October 1st where Sheldon talked about our Launch Rural Nevada Competition which is will be held on November 8. This year the event had over 50 applicants which is by far the most applicants we've had sign up to date. We encourage everyone to attend or if you cannot attend then you can register to watch it live online. Go to www.launchruralnevada.com, scroll down the page until you see the 3 WAYS TO PARTICIPATE then choose the "Observe" tab.

The Quarterly Report for GOED was finalized and sent in for approval.

This quarter there was a lot of time spent getting the report done for the EDD as well.

A few initiatives were put together recently. Sheldon shared one with the NGM Housing Committee Meeting on October 22nd. Mayor Keener and Carlin City Manager Braithwaite attended the meeting as well. A few kinks need to be worked out but it's a start. Sheldon is calling it The Victory Housing Initiative; it's a model for housing based off of the WWII subdivision model. In the Executive Summary it says, "To be competitive on a global scale we've got to be able to produce again as a country and in order to produce we have to have a workforce and workforce needs a place to live." It lists some stats regarding the demand for housing in the area. There's an extreme demand outside of our more populated communities. Sheldon has listed an app for Lustron Homes which are considered Post-War houses made of enameled steel and are delivered as a kit where it can easily be put together by a contractor or even family members. There's a company out of Reno that wants to provide a solution so we've introduced them to some local construction folks who are excited about these panel houses that are supposed to be more energy efficient as well as a quick set up time.

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

Another initiative that we've been talking about for a while and Sheldon has gotten it on paper has to do with a vanadium project in southern Eureka County and as it comes to fruition there will be a tremendous opportunity for jobs in the area. The biggest issue is they struggle with energy. They would like to draw their workforce from the Duckwater Tribe which are actually located in northern Nye County but it's close to Eureka where the mine site sits. This idea Sheldon came up with already has stakeholders excited but he needs to contact the Tribe to get their approval because (1) they will be the ones who benefit and (2) they would have to drive it. Sheldon is calling it The Boha Energy Initiative. Boha in Western Shoshone means power/energy hence why he chose the name. The idea here is to provide sustainable energy to the community itself as well as to the mine.

The summary would be energy security and sustainability as well as economic growth and diversification.

The need:

Economic. It's hard for these folks because of location to diversify and have basic staples within the community.

Medical. From 20-30% of the residents are affected by diabetes and when the power goes out there's no way to keep their insulin cool.

The end result would be to have a major battery storage system that would be provided by a Nevada company called NVTX Energy that could hold up to a gigawatt of energy that could keep the lights on. By having the power that would meet the need of the mine would create 100-150 jobs hoping that some of the tribal members who have left for lack of opportunity would want to return to a good job.

There's a new project in the pipeline, a new inquiry that is from Quebec, Canada. They are in the industrial mining space who are looking at the Elko area.

Another project from Mississauga in Ontario, Canada that had been looking in our area has eliminated Nevada from the conversation stating that our property is too expensive.

In Community Development, the Utah developer for Jackpot who are looking at 40-50 units have said they have the green light and will begin to move dirt in the spring.

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

RNDC'S 1ST QUARTER CONTRIBUTIONS				
COUNTY	WEATHER- IZATION	REHAB- ILITATIONS	BUSINESSES FINANCED	DOWN PYMT ASSIST
ELKO			\$ 1,245,650.00	\$ 25,000.00
LANDER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
WHITE PINE	\$ 21,572.00	\$ 63,175.00	\$ 63,700.00	
EUREKA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

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. Reece Keener made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Beth Savedra seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1:46 pm.

**NORTHEASTERN NEVADA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S
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Respectfully submitted:

KA
Kris Ashdown, NNRDA Executive Assistant