

**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, February 26, 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](http://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

Chris Melville-City of W. Wendover

Jason Pengelly-City of Wells

Paula Carson-White Pine County

Anthony Dowling-NV Energy

Mackenna Velez-SW Gas

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Janet VanCamp-White Pine County

Brianne Morfin-WaFD Bank

Amber Donnelly-Great Basin College

**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](mailto: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 October 23, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**ACTION: Richard Braithwaite made a motion to approve the October 23, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. Reece Keener seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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**E. NNRDA FINANCIALS:**

- 1) Review and approval of financials for October thru January 2025.

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**ACTION:** Reece Keener made a motion to approve the Financials for October 2024 through January 2025. Richard Braithwaite seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) Review, discussion, and possible approval of Executive Director Sheldon Mudd's annual evaluation and merit increase of 5%.

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**DISCUSSION:** Madam Chairperson Mackenna Velez informed the Board that she led the performance evaluation for Executive Director Sheldon Mudd, with the review conducted by board members Anthony Dowling (NV Energy), Donna Bath (Silver Lion Farms), and Mayor Reece Keener (City of Elko). The evaluation results indicated that Sheldon consistently ranked as *Exceeds Expectations* or *Far Exceeds Expectations* across all performance categories.

Given these outstanding results, Chairperson Velez stated that this evaluation further reinforces the justification for approving Sheldon's requested 5% merit increase. She then opened the floor for additional board member comments.

Mayor Reece Keener commended Sheldon for his diligence and proactive leadership, highlighting that he does not require board direction to take initiative. Mayor Keener emphasized that Sheldon's self-motivation and strong performance make him an invaluable asset to the organization and that replacing him would be extremely challenging. He fully supports the proposed merit increase, stating that it is well deserved.

West Wendover City Manager Chris Melville echoed Mayor Keener's sentiments, formally stating for the record that he is in full agreement.

Carlin City Manager Richard Braithwaite also expressed his strong support, noting that Sheldon has done an exceptional job in his role. He emphasized that Sheldon's expertise and dedication have significantly elevated the organization's impact and effectiveness.

**ACTION:** Richard Braithwaite made a motion to approve the 5% merit increase for Sheldon Mudd. Chris Melville seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**G. REPORTS**

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

**REPORT:** Sheldon Mudd provided an update on recent events and initiatives that have contributed to regional economic development.

NNRDA recently hosted several events that added value to the region. One notable event was a visit from Tom Burns of the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), where board members had the opportunity to engage in discussions. We appreciate everyone who attended and contributed to this meeting. Additionally, our annual awards luncheon was well received, and we are pleased with the positive feedback.

On the business development front, we have generated several promising leads. One potential project is considering locations in both Elko and Carlin. Another lead is exploring opportunities within the industrial park in White Pine County, while a third is currently being vetted for West Wendover. The marketing efforts we have been implementing appear to be increasing interest in the region, which is an encouraging trend.

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We are also working on expanding small business support initiatives. Plans are underway to collaborate with the Small Business Administration to host a Vendor Ready Workshop, with Ely as the proposed location. Our goal is to rotate these workshops throughout the region to maximize accessibility.

Looking ahead, we anticipate launching the Ready Aim program, which will provide resources and support for new and emerging businesses.

In addition, Sheldon has been in discussions with Jeff Sutich from NNDA regarding a joint effort to develop a Rural Economic Outlook Report for the legislature, which will help highlight the economic landscape of rural Nevada.

Lastly, in collaboration with the Nevada Mining Association, we are organizing a Swedish Trade Mission to Northeastern Nevada in May. Additional details will be shared soon, including an invitation to a special reception we are planning in their honor.

We appreciate the continued support and engagement of our board members and stakeholders as we work to strengthen economic development in the region.

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

Ms. Kellerman was not present today.

### **H. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

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

### **I. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

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### **J. ADJOURN. Meeting was adjourned at 1:26 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

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**Kris Ashdown, NNRDA Executive Assistant**