**RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 13, 2024, 10:00 A.M.**

100 N. 7th Avenue, Suite 400, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Graham Conference Room

1. **Opening Remarks, Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Danny Seiden, Arizona Chamber of Commerce, called the meeting of the Rural Business Development Advisory Council to order at 10:02 AM**.** Heather Escobedo**,** Arizona Commerce Authority, noted roll call.

**Committee Members Present**

* Mayor Tom Murphy, Pima County
* Tony Boone, Cochise County
* Julie Pastrick, Coconino County
* Danny Seiden, Maricopa County (Chairman)
* Deanna Beaver, La Paz County
* Tricia Lewis, Yavapai County Committee
* Nathan Levi Esquerra, Tribal Representative
* Keith Johnson, Navajo County
	+ Paul Ramsey, Apache County
* Keith Watkins, Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA)

**Committee Members Not Present**

* Angie Harmon, Statewide
* Gary Kellogg, Mohave County
* Jaime Chamberlain, Santa Cruz County
* Doug Nicholls, Yuma County
* Dustie Robinette, Greenlee County
* Fernando Shipley, Gila County
* Steven Miller, Pinal County
	+ Danny Smith, Graham County

**Others Present**

* Sandip Bhowmick, VP of Infrastructure and State Broadband Director (ACA),
* Heather Escobedo, Project Manager, HR/Operations (ACA)
1. **Consent Agenda**

**Approval of July 19 and October 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes\***

Chairman Seiden moved to approve July 19th and October 18th, 2023 Meeting Minutes, as is. Mayor Tom Murphy moved to approve, and Keith Johnson seconded the motion; all in favor; the motion approved.

1. **ACA Reauthorization Update, Danny Seiden, Chairman**

Chairman Seiden provided updates and details on the ACA reauthorization and confirmed the ACA will continue. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chairman Seiden. Thank you to all the committee members for their support.

1. **Broadband Update, Sandip Bhowmick, VP of Infrastructure and State Broadband Director**

Sandip Bhowmick provided updates on initiatives. Please see one-page document and link for details.

1. **Arizona Commerce Authority update, Keith Watkins, Sr VP, Rural Development**

Keith Watkins provided updates on Rural initiatives and grants, please see Keith for questions and details.

1. **Roundtable Discussion**

Members gave an update regarding their respective community.

1. **Call to the Public**

Chairman Seiden excused himself early and asked Keith Watkins to take over administering the meeting. Keith Watkins called for comments from members of the public. No members of the public were in attendance.

1. **Adjournment**

Keith Watkins moved to adjourn meeting; Mayor Tom Murphy moved to approve the motion; Tricia Lewis seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 AM.