

## Meeting Minutes: Nominating Committee

**Date:** July 15, 2024

**Time:** 2:05 p.m.

**Location:** Hybrid meeting (in-person at the Bokum Building, 142 W. Palace Ave., Santa Fe, NM, and via Zoom)

### Attendees:

- **William Brancard** - Appointee of EMNRD Secretary, Retired Public & Private Attorney
- **Denise Ramonas** - Appointed by House Minority Leader Jim Townsend
- **Alonzo Baldonado** - Appointed by Senate Minority Leader; Real Estate Professional
- **Rikki Seguin** - Appointed by Alicia Keyes (Economic Development Department Secretary); Executive Director
- **Cydney Beadles** - Appointed by Senator Mimi Stuart (President Pro-Tem); on sabbatical from Western Resources Advocates
- **Catherine Nicolaou** - City of Albuquerque Broadband Manager, joined remotely, appointed by Speaker of the House Martinez
- **Ron Lovato** – Appointee of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, Tribal representative, fulfilling the committee's tribal representation requirement

### Meeting Agenda:

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting called to order by Secretary Baldonado at 2:05 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance & State Pledge**
3. **Approval of Agenda:**
  - **Motion:** Denise Ramonas motioned to move agenda item VIII.D to second in the list.
  - **Seconded:** Cydney Beadles seconds motion.
  - **Outcome:** Agenda approved with the amendments.
4. **Committee Member Introductions:**
  - **Catherine Nicolaou** introduced herself as City of Albuquerque Broadband Manager.
  - **Staff Introductions:** Cholla Khoury introduced Patrick Rodriguez, Sarah Valencia, Miranda Mascarenas, Jordan Gutierrez, and Brian Wood (Chief of Staff) and DOJ Attorney Rebecca Guay.

### Key Discussions:

1. **Committee Rules and Responsibilities Review:**
  - The committee's responsibility is to nominate at least two qualified individuals with professional experience from diverse geographic regions. Names must be submitted to the Governor by December 1.
  - Discussion on drafting a job description, soliciting applications, and following an interview process.

- Must ensure compliance with Open Meetings Act and Governmental Conduct Act.
2. **Election of Chair:**
    - **Nomination 1:** Alonzo Baldonado was nominated by William Brancard (seconded by Ron Lovato).
    - **Nomination 2:** Rikki Seguin was nominated by Cydney Beadles (seconded by Denise Ramonas).
    - **Outcome:** Alonzo stepped aside, and the committee unanimously voted (7-0) for Rikki Seguin as Chair.
  3. **Action Items:**
    - **Job Description:** Reviewed and updated draft of the job description. Key changes include the removal of redundant references and clarification of qualifications. Salary to be determined by Governor's office.
    - **Motion:** Initial motion was moved by Denise Ramonas and second motion was made by Cydney Beadles. Motion was passed unanimously to direct staff to publish the job description as amended by July 22, 2024.
  4. **Discussion of Geographic and Political Diversity:**
    - **Ramonas:** Asked if geographic restrictions apply to sitting commissioners.
    - **Brancard:** Clarified the Governor's responsibility for political diversity.
    - **Seguin:** Suggested ensuring candidates come from diverse areas, including tribal representation and areas served by electric co-ops versus IOUs.
    - **Lovato:** Recommended outreach to tribal and regional communities for representation.
  5. **Timeline and Application Process:**
    - **July 22:** Job description posted.
    - **August 30:** Deadline for applications.
    - **Sept 9:** Review candidates and draft questionnaires.
    - **Sept 27:** Questionnaire submissions due.
    - **Oct 9:** Review meeting to advance candidates to the interview stage.
    - **Oct 23/24:** Interviews scheduled.
    - **Nov 7:** Final meeting to submit names to the Governor.
  6. **Outreach Strategies:**
    - Outreach efforts discussed for reaching tribal communities, Navajo Nation, KTNN Radio, All Pueblo Council of Governors, and regional economic development offices.
    - Each committee member encouraged to engage their networks to spread the job posting.
  7. **Public Comment:**
    - Public comments were invited via Zoom or telephone. No comments were made during the meeting.
    - The Committee discussed the logistics of public comment under the Open Meetings Act.
  8. **Other Business:**
    - The committee agreed to use the questionnaire from the previous process but will allow for new questions to be suggested or edits to be made.
    - Action item for staff to circulate the former questionnaire for review.

**Next Steps & Action Items:**

- **Staff to draft and publish the job description** by July 22.
- **Application Deadline:** August 30.
- **Committee to reconvene on September 9** for candidate review and questionnaire drafting.
- **Interview Schedule:** October 23 and 24.
- **Final Meeting:** November 7 to submit qualified candidates to the Governor.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Cholla Khoury: Chief of Staff

APPROVED:

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Rikki Seguin, Chair