

**Rural Desert Southwest Brownfields Coalition Assessment**  
**and**  
**Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Program**

**Quarterly Meeting Summary**  
**March 14, 2024 11:00 – 12:00 Pacific Time**

**Zoom Conference Call**  
**Topic: RDSBC Quarterly Meeting**

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<b>Attendees:</b>	Lorina Dellinger – Nye County Stephani Elliott – Nye County Arnold Knightly – Nye County Megan Labadie – Nye County Amy Barnes – Northern Nevada Development Greg Zegas – Nevada Clean Energy Fund Dane Bradfield – Lincoln County Power District Bill Brewer – Nevada Rural Housing Tammi Odegard – NyE Communities Coalition Jasmine Williams - EPA Eileen Christensen – BEC Environmental, Inc. (BEC) Stefanie Costa Rica – BEC Brenda Gilbert – BEC
<b>Acronyms:</b>	CDBG – Community Development Block Grant CDFW – California Department of Fish and Wildlife CFAC – Centennial Fine Arts Center DTSC – Department of Toxic Substances Control EA – Environmental Assessment EPA – Environmental Protection Agency ESA – Environmental Site Assessment MOA – Memorandum of Agreement NDEP – Nevada Division of Environmental Protection NNDA – Northern Nevada Development Authority NRH – Nevada Rural Housing NyECC – Nye Communities Coalition RDSBC – Rural Desert Southwest Brownfields Coalition RLF – Revolving Loan Fund SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office SWCREDA – Southwest Central Rural Economic Development Authority SWMP – Solid Waste Management Plan

**I. Announcements**

1. Centennial Fine Arts Center is Complete!
  - a. Roof construction was completed December 9, 2023.

- b. Closure report was submitted to Nye County and EPA January 23, 2024.
  - c. Celebration of the new roof was February 27, 2024, at the Centennial Fine Arts Center
- 2. Outreach to RDSBC Members is complete.
  - a. Member Presentations
    - 1. Mineral County – February 7, 2024
    - 2. Duckwater Shoshone – February 26, 2024
    - 3. White Pine County – February 28, 2024
    - 4. Lincoln County – March 4, 2024
    - 5. Esmeralda – March 5, 2024
  - b. Voting Outcome
    - 1. All members voted to remain within the RDSBC
    - 2. MOA will be sent to all members for signature
- 3. Discussion with Jasmine Williams (EPA) on the opportunity for NyECC and NRHD to join the RDSBC
  - a. Williams said non-profit organizations joining the RDSBC would be beneficial because the amount of planning and projects that could be completed could increase.
  - b. Williams stated there is a \$250,000 cap per site. A project can be divided into multiple sites to achieve cleanup goals.
  - c. Williams advised organizations consider before joining a coalition if joining would exclude themselves from future funding. Williams shared a graphic of *FY2024 Eligibility Charts for Existing Grant Recipients* that shows a non-lead member of an RLF coalition may apply for all available grants. The eligibility chart is attached as backup.
  - d. Odegard asked for clarification of BEC's role in the RDSBC
    - 1. Christensen and Elliott clarified that BEC schedules and facilitates RDSBC Quarterly Meetings as part of the contract with Nye County and on behalf of Nye County.
    - 2. Williams further clarified all members were able to contract with environmental firms of their choosing through the competitive bid process required by EPA.
  - e. Brewer stated the NRHD would consider what they can contribute to the RDSBC due to the Pioche project wrapping up and their focus moving to areas outside the coalition area.
- 4. Presentation by Greg Zegas - Nevada Clean Energy Fund (NCEF)
  - a. Zegas provided an overview of the NCEF and how it can benefit rural communities and homeowners. The NCEF provides capital and

technical assistance to residents, affordable housing developers, nonprofits and others in Nevada to increase access to clean energy.

1. Programs include clean energy measures like building efficiency, clean energy vehicles and solar and energy storage.
  2. Federal funding, tax credits and rebates
  3. NCEF Residential Energy Upgrade Program
    - a. Provides financial and technical assistance for energy efficiency and clean energy upgrades
    - b. Also provides education and support to homeowners in how to access federal and utility incentives
  4. Nevada Solar for All
    - a. Federal Grant program
    - b. NCEF was Nevada's only applicant – applied for \$250 million.
      - i. Solar program would benefit low-income households.
      - ii. Eligible technologies include residential and community solar, storage for residential and community solar, and solar workforce development.
  5. Fleet Transformation
    - a. Program funded through EPA Clean School Bus Program to deploy 25 electric school buses across Nevada.
    - b. NCEF will be awarded \$7.7 million under the EPA and have partnered with NV Energy, NDEP and World Resources Institute.
- b. Presentation slide show attached as backup.

## **II. General Discussion**

1. Public Outreach
  - a. Outreach information located here:  
<https://www.rdsbc.org/outreach/>
  - b. Ideas to improve outreach efforts.
2. RDSBC Website Updates
  - a. Website has been updated with the December 2023 Agenda and Meeting Summary
  - b. Reminder to review and comment on draft agendas and meeting summaries.

## **III. Region Specific Updates**

1. Duckwater Shoshone – no update
2. Esmeralda – no update
3. Inyo – no update
4. Lincoln
  - a. NRH Pioche Housing Project (See NRH Item #8, below)
  - b. Caselton Mine Initiative by Lincoln County Power District
    1. Bradfield provided a summary of the Caselton Mine Initiative.
    2. A Phase I ESA had been completed for a 20-acre site with a goal of redeveloping the site as a solar site by 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2025.
5. Mineral
  - a. Babbitt Industrial Park Update – cleanup is underway.
  - b. County Parcels – 22 County-owned parcels are proceeding with Phase I ESAs
6. Nye
  - a. Nye County Courthouse (EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment) – EPA application
  - b. Nye Regional Medical Center – Buildings with hazardous materials (asbestos/lead) (2020 Revolving Loan Fund) – on hold for the moment
7. White Pine – Centennial Fine Arts Center Project complete!
8. Nevada Rural Housing – NRH Pioche Housing Project (Lincoln County)
  - a. Anticipating closing out financing in April
  - b. Working on a NDEP Brownfields Application for abatement.
9. Nye Communities Coalition – potential sites for assessment
  - a. Old Pahrump Animal Hospital
  - b. Nye County Finance Building
  - c. Nye county Grade School in Tonopah

**IV. Open Discussion**

**V. Action Items**

1. Barnes agreed to present the NNDA Nevada State Site Certification Program in an upcoming RDSBC quarterly meeting.
2. Others?

**VI. Next meeting** is in June, 2024 – BEC will send out a Google poll.