

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

Quarterly Meeting Summary
June 20, 2024, 2:00 – 3:00 Pacific Time

Zoom Conference Call
Topic: RDSBC Quarterly Meeting

Attendees:	Lorina Dellinger – Nye County Stephani Elliott – Nye County Megan Labadie – Nye County Jeff Sutich – Northern Nevada Development Bill Brewer – Nevada Rural Housing Tammi Odegard – NyE Communities Coalition Jess Rosner – NyE Communities Coalition Tracy Johnston – Converse Consultants Racheal Dahl - USDA Jasmine Williams - EPA Eileen Christensen – BEC Environmental, Inc. (BEC) Stefanie Costa Rica – BEC Brenda Gilbert – BEC
Acronyms:	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. Outreach to RDSBC Members is complete.
 - a. Signed MOA was sent out to Coalition Members on April 3rd.

2. Presentation by Jeff Sutich – Northern Nevada Development Authority on the Lithium Tech Hub Project
 - a. Sutich described the creation of the Tech Hub consortium through University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). A Tech Hub designation through the US Department of Commerce will assist in bringing businesses into the region.
 - b. Sutich shared a handout “Nevada Lithium Batteries and Other EV Materials Loop” Tech Hub by UNR (attached as backup).
 - c. The Tech Hub application for Phase 2 was submitted in February, winners will be announced in the next couple of weeks.
 - d. The Tech Hub focused on 6 components
 1. Supply chain enhancements
 2. Work Force
 3. Infrastructure
 4. Commercialization
 5. Lithium Campus
 6. Tribal Initiative
 - e. The Tech Hub consortium is at about 75 members
 - f. A goal through NNDA as a part of the consortium is to bring in 5,000 businesses and 50,000 jobs.
 - g. Christensen asked how can this group share needs and opportunities with the Tech Hub consortium?
 - Sutich suggested contacting the regional development authorities and/or Fred Steinmann and Richard Bartholet from UNR. Contact information is on the attached handout.
 - h. Odegard stated NyECC will be applying for another Brownfields Workforce Training grant. Would love to coordinate with the Tech Hub program to provide training that is aligned with the Tech Hub priorities.
 - Sutich suggested joining the consortium. There is no cost to join and to contact Steinmann or Bartholet for more information.
 - i. Williams asked if USDA Rural Partners are a part of this program.
 - Dahl stated that they are involved in the program.

II. General Discussion

1. Public Outreach
 - a. Outreach Information Located Here: <https://www.rdsbc.org/outreach/>
 - b. Ideas for Improvement to Outreach Efforts?
2. RDSBC Website Updates
 - a. RDSBC website updated with agenda and meeting summary for previous meeting.
 - b. Reminder to review and comment when drafts go out.

III. Region Specific Updates

1. Duckwater Shoshone – No update
2. Esmeralda – No update
3. Inyo – No update
4. Lincoln - No update
5. Mineral – Provided by Johnston
 - a. Babbitt Industrial Park Update
 1. 27 parcels status
 - a. SHPO Consultation is underway and being reviewed by EPA
 - b. Cleanup of non-friable asbestos will occur in areas of old housing
 2. 22 parcels of county land for Phase I ESA's
 - a. Two additional parcels were added from the school district
 - b. The parcels are scattered throughout the county
 - i. Parcels that were adjoining were lumped together to reduce the number of reports.
 - ii. Some Phase II work was recommended after completion of the Phase I ESA's.
 - iii. Several of the properties are being prepped for sale
6. Nye – Provided by Dellinger
 - a. Nye Regional Medical Center –
 1. Nye County Board of Commissioners voted to rescind the \$800,000 loan and \$150,000 grant on May 21, 2024.
 2. Northern Nye County Hospital District also voted to rescind the resolution and Brownfield funds.
 - b. Nye County Finance Building
 - c. Nye Animal Shelter
 - d. Old JPO office
 - Staff are in the process of moving to a new location.
7. White Pine – No updates
8. Nevada Rural Housing Authority – Provided by Brewer
 - a. NRHA Pioche Housing Project (Lincoln County)
 1. Abatement and demolition have started.
 2. Moving people in as new units are constructed, then continuing abatement/demo as units are vacated.
9. Nye Communities Coalition – Provided by Odegard
 - a. NyECC Assessment Grant
 1. The assessment grant is awarded. More info to come by the next meeting!
 2. Potential sites for assessment

- a. Old Pahrump Animal Hospital
- b. Nye County Finance Building
- c. Nye County Grade School in Tonopah

IV. Open Discussion

1. Williams highlighted the Pioche project (#8 – Nevada Rural Housing Authority) and the use of multiple funds to complete a project. The Pioche project utilized funding from the EPA Targeted Brownfield program and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Brownfields. Funding can be flexible and creative. Reach out to Jasmine if you have questions!
2. Christensen asked Williams and Dellinger about revisiting the Old Nye County Courthouse in Tonopah for cleanup. Both agreed to start discussions on the Courthouse.

V. Action Items

1. Meeting with Williams, Dellinger and Christensen to discuss the Old Nye County Courthouse cleanup.
 - a. **Discussions with NDEP Brownfields program and Nye County have begun.**

VI. Next Meeting

1. Next meeting is in September – will send out a poll.



University of Nevada, Reno

“NEVADA LITHIUM BATTERIES AND OTHER EV MATERIALS LOOP” TECH HUB

A Tech Hubs Designation is an endorsement of a region’s plans to supercharge their respective technological industry to create jobs and strengthen U.S. economic and national security.

NEVADA’S ADVANTAGE

- Nevada is home to world-leaders in EV battery development and recycling, as well as the nation’s only operating lithium mine, the largest lithium mine under production in North America, and cutting-edge research infrastructure. This co-location of raw resources, key talent and advanced R&D positions the state to be highly innovative.
- The University of Nevada, Reno is a leader in this regional effort by bringing together diverse stakeholders and ensuring efforts are aligned for the benefit of the state.
- The State of Nevada contains the highest concentration of assets, capital, R&D, labor market, and infrastructure relevant to lithium batteries and other EV materials.
- The University of Nevada, Reno is home to nationally recognized research and education programs related to EV resource and technology.
- In collaboration with relevant industry, Nevada community colleges have well-established workforce development programs that educate, train, and transition the next generation workforce to an economy of the future.
- Nevada-based industries have pioneered cutting-edge innovations in resource extraction, in EV battery technology, in battery reuse and recycling, and in the translational research and development that continuously pushes the boundaries of what is possible.
- Nevada is in a unique position to meet the nation’s growing demand for clean energy through EV technology.
- This large-scale coordination is emblematic of the regional alignment and collaboration that gives Nevada the competitive advantage.

This Tech Hub envisions a region with innovation supported across the lithium batteries and EV materials supply chain, heightened efficiency, cooperation and competition and mitigated economic distress of previously overlooked geographies and communities.

CONSORTIUM DETAILS

- More than 50 consortium partners across the public sector, private sector, and non-profit sector.
- 16 of Nevada’s 17 counties (excluding Clark County)
- 7 of Nevada’s eight regional economic development authorities (excluding the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance)
- Both of Nevada’s two US Economic Development Administration Economic Development Districts
- 12 industry partners, including industry associations
- Academic institutions throughout the state

REGIONAL COORDINATION

- This Tech Hub designation is one part of a highly coordinated, regional public-private push to transform Nevada’s economy to one that is inclusive, reliable, and capable of meeting the needs of Nevadans and the nation.
- The University recognizes the synergistic opportunities presented by aligning multiple federal, state and industry investments, of which the NSF Engines Development award and this EDA Tech Hub designation are examples.
- This multi-pronged effort to build out our region’s capabilities in every aspect of the lifecycle of lithium and other EV materials consists of more than 50 consortium members, including research institutions, community colleges, private industry, state, local and tribal governments, non-profits, and trade associations.

CONTACT

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