

MINUTES

GOVERNOR'S FILM COUNCIL

Friday, June 12, 2026 • 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Cinelease: 9201 Pan American Freeway, Albuquerque, NM 87113

1:36 PM – Call to Order. Chairperson Gollin called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM and welcomed attendees. Roll call was conducted.

The following Council members were present, constituting a quorum: James Gollin (Chair), Jo Edna Boldin, Marj Ergas, Keagan Karnes (via Zoom), Milton Reiss, Jennifer Schwalenberg (via Zoom), Sam Tischler, Paula Dal Santo, Ramona Emerson (via Zoom), and James Lujan.

1:38 PM – Approval of the Agenda. Chairperson Gollin called for a motion to approve the agenda.

- **Motion:** Jo Edna Boldin
- **Second:** Sam Tischler
- **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously. Agenda approved.

1:38 PM – Approval of the Minutes from June 12, 2026. Chairperson Gollin called for a motion to approve the agenda.

- **Motion:** Milton Reiss
- **Second:** Jo Edna Boldin
- **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously. Minutes approved.

New Mexico Film Office Update. Steve Graham, Director of the New Mexico Film Office, presented updates on the online registration process, improved directories, and increased marketing efforts to promote New Mexico as a filming location. The office reported a slight increase in production spend compared to the previous year, with a focus on rural areas, and discussed ongoing workforce development initiatives. Rochelle Bussey, Senior Program Manager at the New Mexico Film Office announced plans for an upcoming two-day film conference in September at the Albuquerque Railyards, featuring general sessions, breakouts, and networking opportunities.

Committee Report Updates. Council Member Jennifer Schwalenberg provided feedback on improvements needed for the film incentives portal, including creating a more specific page addressing the preliminary approval process more clearly communicated on the website. Director Steve Graham confirmed that while the current process requires staff

review within 1-3 days, they will work on improving both messaging and mechanics to make the approval process more transparent and faster. Jennifer Schwalenberg also raised concerns about the casting call page containing tax credit information and suggested removing the talent directory due to concerns about it affecting casting directors' jobs and containing inaccurate information.

Council Member Ramona Emerson provided an update on the Native Film Group's efforts to establish agreements with tribal nations regarding tax incentives, noting slow progress due to tribal elections and lack of internal driving force from production companies like AMC.

Council Member Keagan Karnes provided updates on commercial and small productions, highlighting the success of the website redesign and the actor sizzle reel, and recommended increased film office presence at commercial-focused events.

Council Member Sam Tischler provided updates from the film finance working group and discussed a proposed \$150 million revolving credit fund that would be administered by the New Mexico Finance Authority, with the state receiving 6% interest and borrowers paying approximately 10% total. Sam Tischler reported meeting with the Department of Finance Authority and Senator Peter Wirth, who provided recommendations including seeking support from the next Governor before they take office and gaining support from Legislative Finance Committee members.

Film Industry Task Force Proposal. The group discussed creating a new task force focused on strategic initiatives to help New Mexico stay competitive in the film industry during a period of transition. Sam Tischler proposed forming a task force to brainstorm potential legislative changes to the incentive package and explore new opportunities like post-production incentives. The task force would include up to 5 council members with potential rotation to discuss bringing productions back to New Mexico.

Public Comment. Dr. Elizabeth Stahlmer announced plans to bring Connor Harrington, who was involved in creating Ireland's film incentive program, to Santa Fe on June 24th to share insights on building a local film industry from the inside out. Participants discussed challenges with the rural uplift program, including concerns about local crew hiring requirements, and the need for better coordination between unions and educational institutions. The meeting also covered upcoming production assistant training initiatives in various New Mexico cities and the current state of casting in the film industry.

3:37 PM – Chairperson Gollin called for a motion to adjourn.

- **Motion:** Jo Edna Boldin
- **Second:** Jennifer Schwalenberg

- **Vote: Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:37 PM.**

Disclaimer: These meeting minutes were generated with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance efficiency and documentation accuracy. The content has been reviewed, edited, and approved by the New Mexico Film Office to ensure it reflects an accurate and official record of the proceedings.