

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES**  
**REAP BOARD MEETING**

October 12, 2017

11:45 a.m.

Front Range Airport, Watkins, CO

The monthly meeting of the I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Gary Duke, who welcomed the attendees and called for introductions.

**The following Board Members were present:**

Jeff Baker	Doug Claussen	Gary Duke	Al Holcomb
Kirk Holwell	Norm Johnson	Sandra Johnson	Frank Linnebur
Brad Pierce	Kevin Schott	Tom Turrell	Jan Yeckes
Becky Zierer			

**Guests attending were:**

John	Brackney	Webolutions
Susie	Cook	Lincoln Community Hospital
Craig	Curl	SBDC
Julio	Iturreria	Arapahoe County
Ronnie	Johnson	Financial Architect Network
Jack	Keever	Reap
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Connie	Moos	Guaranty Bank
Stephanie	Mufic	Arapahoe/Douglas Works
Kimberly	Nichols	Joyful Journey
Jose	Rocha	Town of Bennett
Pulak	Sharma	Kazmira
Priyanka	Sharma	Kazmira
Jim	Toft	Edward Jones
Darrel	Vanhooser	Conoco/Phillips

**Approval of the September 12, 2017 Minutes**

Minutes were approved as submitted.

**Chairman's Report:**

Gary Duke called upon Kimberly Nichols with Joyful Journey. Joyful Journeys is a non-profit that enriches community programs. They teach families about cooking and help provide health assistance for low income families. They are asking for donations to help with Christmas for 100 children in the Corridor area.

**Guest Speaker:**

**Pulak Sharma MBA CEO and Priyanka Sharma Ph.D. CEO – Kazmira.** Kazmira is a large-scale production company of THC-free botanical extracts from industrial hemp now located in Watkins CO. A proprietary purification system developed by their parent company Orochem Technologies, Inc. is used for the purification process. Orochem has been in business for over 20 years using their system to purify products like fish and krill oils. The same purification process is being used to extract pure CBD from the industrial hemp. Kazmira is the largest hemp processor in the world. The extracted product is used for pain management, epilepsy, tinctures and is licensed for food products. Kazmira has several hundred acres of industrial hemp growing in the San Luis Valley in Colorado. Because of the demand for product they are currently looking for farmers interested in growing their industrial hemp. Their goal is 1,000 acres. Benefits to farmers are hemp is a low water plant that regenerates the

soil and is very hardy. The company practices zero waste. The waste product is produced into a pellet that is high in protein and may be used for animal feed. The Watkins based company is expanding to keep up with demand. They are currently looking to hire 4 technical operations supervisors, 10 technical operators, 8 chemical & mechanical engineers and 4 analytical chemists.

Kimberly Nichols asked how many acres of land you would consider for farming?  
*They would like to see a minimum of 100 acres.*

Julio Iturreria asked about the water requirements for growing hemp.  
*They explained that very little water is needed as compared to other crops.*

Doug Claussen asked how farmers would be compensated.  
*Participating farmers would get market value for their crop which averages around \$2,000 per acre.*

Jeff Baker commented that he wrote a letter supporting the growth of industrial hemp. The letter said industrial hemp is very well suited for dryland farming requiring less water than other crops and would be a good fit for the eastern plains.

Craig Curl asked about any regulatory process that farmers would have to go through to grow industrial hemp.  
*Kazmira will help with any processes that may be required by the farmer.*

Norm Johnson was interested in how the hemp waste could be used for the output for textiles.  
*This is something they would be interested in exploring.*

Tom Turrell stated the Byers School has a very strong FFA internship program that encouraged business, community and leadership development. Would Kazmira be interested in their program?  
*The answer was yes.*

**Jim Toft, Financial Advisor – Edward Jones.** Jim talked about the recent Equifax data breach and the step by step instructions to protect your credit. The first step is to freeze your credit report with all three credit bureaus, Experian, Equifax and Transunion. He stressed the importance of when you freeze your credit remember to keep your pin in a safe place so you are able to unfreeze your credit when you need to. There is no fee in Colorado to freeze your credit however there is a \$15 fee to unfreeze it. The other recommendation he had was to sign up for the lowest tier of free monitoring through Transunion. He talked about creating a strong password for your email account and to change it annually. He did not recommend using a password manager and the need to be monitored.

**Other Business:**

Jack noted the next meeting will be in January. The November meeting will be for Officers and the Board and there is no meeting in December.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.