

DRAFT
MINUTES
REAP BOARD MEETING

March 9, 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:

Wil Chase	Jeff Baker	Doug Claussen	Cyndi Delany
Kristi Cranston	Rick Cranston	Cyndi Delaney	Gary Duke
Michelle Gayeski	Mark Harding	Mary Hodge	Kirk Holwell
Monica Johnson	Steve Johnson	Matt Reay	Paul Rosenberg
Dave Ruppel	Kevin Schott	Tom Turrell	Kent Vashus
Jan Yeckes			

Board Members not present:

Glenn Conser	Ivy Fischer	Al Holcomb	Norm Johnson
Sandra Johnson	Robert Kiess	Frank Linnebur	Neal Mancuso
Gary May	Theresa NeSmith	Christina Pastori	Brad Pierce
Royce Pindell	Rich Pulliam	Robin Purdy	Glenn Rotkovich
Louis Salazar	Jeff Vogel	Becky Zierer	

Guests attending were:

Zach	Angotti	High Plains Bank
Erin	Brinkley-Burgardt	Hog Haven Farm
Steve	Chevalier	Tri-County Health
Mike	Cranwell	Huberts
Craig	Curl	SBDC
Angie	Graf	Strasburg Parks & Rec.
Bob	Hastings	Prairie View Property Owners
Kevin	Hougen	Aurora Chamber
Julio	Iturreria	Arapahoe County
Ronnie	Johnson	Financial Architect Network
Jack	Keever	Reap
Grider	Lee	Bennett Trustee
Josh	Liss	IREA
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Martin	Metzger	Core Consultants
Connie	Moos	Guaranty Bank
Aaron	Rotkovich	Lead Valley Range
Darrel	Vanhooser	ConocoPhillips
Barb	VerCande	Peak Vista
Norman	Wright	Adams County

Approval of the February 9, 2017 Minutes

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Briefing and Discussion with our new County Commissioners:

Mary Hodge – Adams County Commissioner

Jeff Baker – Arapahoe County Commissioner

Gary Duke welcomed the Commissioners and called upon Kristi Cranston and Kathy Mahan to talk about agritourism.

Agritourism:

Kathy said that through agritourism we are promoting farms, ranches and local business in the Corridor. To better explain what we do we are using pictures. Kathy introduced Kristi Cranston, Agritourism Committee Chair. Kristi presented slides and pointed out activities, events, festivals & sanctuaries that take part in the Colorado High Plains Adventure. Events schedule for 2017 includes the Annual Spring Farm Festival, May 27th, 2017 at Caramel Apple Farm in Bennett and the Annual Farm Festival September 22nd & 23rd, 2017 at May Farms in Byers.

Aviation:

Dave Ruppel reported on improvements to the airport including a newly paved entry road, repairs to taxiways and runways. Record numbers of take offs and landings were recorded at the airport in 2016. Front Range is working closely with ACED on advancing our marketing for the Spaceport & businesses. We are currently waiting on the sign off of the Spaceport environmental assessment and should receive final approval by July. This year there are 4 new businesses: Front Range Flight School which includes 3 businesses, New Deal Airport Deicing, Community Electric Cooperative and Pen Air Repair and Maintenance Shop. All Citywide hangars have been sold and are occupied. Events at the airport for 2017 include the War Bird and Auto Show over the Memorial Day weekend and Colorado Mile Car Race is scheduled for Labor Day as well as numerous smaller events.

Energy:

Jack Keever reported on energy projects in the Corridor. Conoco/Phillips has 130,000 acres under lease for oil and gas development. Wind and solar development continues to grow in the Corridor, through companies like Solar Tac, IREA, Clean Energy Collective and Excel. The Excel Rush Creek Project is a large wind powered facility with transmission lines to move the energy to where it is needed. Reap supported all these projects.

Transit:

Julio Iturreria presented the 2035 Transportation Plan map. He pointed out that there are many North and South connections through the unincorporated areas of Arapahoe County. What they will be looking at in the 2040 Plan is connecting the East and West portions of this area. Due to the cost of building and maintaining roads the county has started using recycled asphalt to lower the costs.

Healthcare:

Gary Duke spoke of the needs for healthcare in the Corridor. He took a survey of people from the area to identify their needs for medical services. The number 1 need was a 24 hour urgent need facility. Other needs identified were a hospital, x-rays, blood testing, ultra sounds, mammograms & OBGYN services. The elderly especially don't like to drive to Denver for their medical needs. Gary asked Barb VerCande from Peak Vista to talk about healthcare needs. Barb said that Peak Vista is in discussion about the needs for an urgent care facility in the Corridor.

Schools:

Julio Iturreria explained how new development impacts public schools. The developer will be required to dedicate land for future schools or cash in lieu. It is up to the schools to make comments through the County's referral process. Comments from these referrals could result in denial of the development request. Currently there are no school impact fees and the County is limited to fund public schools.

Discussion:

Jeff Baker (Arapahoe County Commissioner) - Arapahoe County Commissioners are lobbying for transportation municipal bonds. He said the Denver Regional Council of Government (DRCOG) goals are to have all entities decide how transportation projects are funded for roads and bridges.

Monica Johnson (Strasburg School District) said Strasburg Elementary is at 100% capacity. A school has to exceed capacity to receive bonds or grants for expansion. Students will need to use mobile class rooms once they are past capacity.

Kevin Schott (Deer Trail School District) said that Deer Trail Schools have applied for a BEST grant to build a new school. It will cost 36 million dollars to build. The current school is over 100 years old and the school is currently at 95% of its capacity. A 20 acre site has been dedicated for the new school.

Jack Keever noted that Reap invited the Colorado Rural School Alliance to the January meeting and they discussed the need for schools to partner with businesses. We will meet April 11th from 8:30 – 10:00 to discuss this partnership. Reap will send invitations out to everyone interested in attending.

Tom Turrell (Byers School District) mentioned a program Xcel offers provides rebates for their customers who switch to energy efficient lighting. Does IREA provide rebates for their customers?

Josh Liss (IREA) explained that Xcel is a for profit company and IREA is a non-profit and shares back profits to their customers including schools. IREA does not have a rebate program however in the past they would provide free energy audits for its customers.

Craig Curl (SBDC) introduced Mike Cranwell and Dave Lawson with Huberts. Huberts produces a product for leather goods and they are moving their business from Snowflake Arizona to Adams County.

Ronnie Johnson, a first time visitor to Reap introduced himself. He is the Senior Vice President of Financial Architect Network. His business teaches classes on estate planning.

Kevin Hougen with the Aurora Chamber announced that Gaylord of the Rockies is ahead of schedule and already has 400,000 bookings for rooms and 85% of the bookings have never been to Colorado. The new A-line light rail is a 20 mile stretch from Lone Tree to Aurora.

Jack announced the April meeting date has been rescheduled for April 4th due to the speakers' availability. The speaker for the April meeting is Michelle Mills. Michelle is CEO of Colorado Rural Health Center.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.