

DRAFT
MINUTES
REAP BOARD MEETING

April 4, 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	Kristi Cranston	Gary Duke	Al Holcomb
Kirk Holwell	Neal Mancuso	Theresa NeSmith	Christina Pastori
Kevin Schott	Jan Yeckes	Becky Zierer	

Board Members not present:

Jeff Baker	Doug Claussen	Glenn Conser	Rick Cranston
Kathy Dean	Cyndi Delaney	Ivy Fischer	Mark Harding
Mary Hodge	Monica Johnson	Norm Johnson	Sandra Johnson
Steve Johnson	Robert Kiess	Frank Linnebur	Gary May
Brad Pierce	Royce Pindell	Rich Pulliam	Robin Purdy
Matt Reay	Paul Rosenberg	Glenn Rotkovich	Dave Ruppel
Louis Salazar	Tom Turrell	Kent Vashus	Jeff Vogel

Guests attending were:

Zach	Angotti	High Plains Bank
Julio	Iturreria	Arapahoe County
Ronnie	Johnson	Financial Architect Network
Rhonda	Karsten	High Plains Bank
Jack	Keever	Reap
Josh	Liss	IREA
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Michelle	Mills	Colorado Rural Health Center
Connie	Moos	Guaranty Bank
Peg	Otto	Farm Owner
Aaron	Rotkovich	Lead Valley Range
Bob	Stewart	Hillside Country Homes
Sam	Stewart	Hillside Country Homes
Dana	Talarico	
Darrell	Vanhooser	Conoco/Phillips
Lori	Wisner	Adams County

Approval of the March 9, 2017 Minutes

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman's Report:

Executive Director Report:

Jack asked Kathy Mahan and Kristi Cranston to report on the Spring Farm Festival. Kathy reported that the event will take place on May 27th at Caramel Apple Farm in Bennet. The event will feature local farms and sanctuaries. There are many demonstrations including, goat milking, alpaca fiber spinning and weaving, wild mustang training

and possible a dog agility demonstration. All veterans and their families attending will receive a free meal in their honor.

Jack invited Christina Pastori to report on a meeting being held on April 11th with the Colorado Rural School Alliance, the I-70 Chamber of Commerce and Reap. Christina reported that feedback received from the February Chamber lunch and learn meeting about the challenges of doing business on the corridor. An idea about creating partnerships with our schools and local businesses to create a mentorship/internship program was suggested. The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce, REAP and the Colorado Rural School Alliance, we would like to invite all businesses interested in participating in a mentor/internship program to a planning start-up meeting. Please plan to join with our local school districts and local businesses for discussion to take advantage of regional economic opportunities and to prepare our local students to meet future workforce needs through mentoring and internships. The breakfast meeting is April 11th at the Valley Bank in Strasburg from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker:

Michelle Mills, CEO of the Colorado Rural Health Center (CHRC) came to discuss rural health issues in Colorado rural communities. The Center is a non-profit corporation that assists rural communities on addressing healthcare issues and advocating for policy changes on behalf of its members and all rural healthcare providers.

Their mission is to enhance healthcare services in the state by providing information, education, linkages, tools and energy toward addressing rural health issues. Their vision is to enhance healthcare services available in rural communities to ensure that all rural Coloradans have access to comprehensive, affordable and high quality healthcare. The economic impact of 1 physician in a rural community will create an average of 23 new jobs. Rural hospitals are independent and twelve rural hospitals in Colorado are running in the red. Nearly 70% of patients that use these facilities are on Medicaid or Medicare further burdening these facilities. It takes approximately 1 year to place physicians in rural communities. 50% if the time nurse practitioners are seen at rural facilities.

Many comments were made about the ability to retain doctors and nurses in rural communities and if incentives were available through Federal and State programs for help to pay off student loan debt.

Connie Moos commented that kids are interested in attending medical schools but there were limited slots available.

Jan Yeckes talked about lowering the cost for medical schools allow more money to go back to repayment.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.