

DRAFT
MINUTES
REAP BOARD MEETING

May 12, 2016

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 12:03 p.m. by Chairman Gary Duke, who welcomed the attendees and called for introductions.

The following Board Members were present:

Rod Bockenfeld	Wil Chase	Cyndi Delaney	Gary Duke
Al Holcomb	Norm Johnson	Sandra Johnson	Monica Johnson
Neal Mancuso	Terry NeSmith	Paul Rosenberg	Dave Ruppel
Glenn Rotkovich	Amy Noah	Kirk Howell	

Board Members not present:

Doug Claussen	Glenn Conser	Rick/Kristi Cranston	Kathy Dean
Ivy Fischer	Michelle Gayeski	Kristina Greeno	Mark Harding
Mike LeClair	Frank/Mark Linnebur	Gary May	Jan Pawlowski
Brad Pierce	Matt Reay	Louis Salazar	Kevin Schott
Tom Turrell	Kent Vashus	Dennis Veal	Jeff Vogel
Jan Yeckes	Becky Zierer	Charles Bayley	

Guests attending were:

Zach	Angotti	High Plains Bank
Jeff	Baker	Candidate Arapahoe County
Janet	Cook	Candidate Arapahoe County
Craig	Curl	SBDC
Karl	Dakin	Greenhouse District LLC
Cyndi	Delaney	Orica
Barry	Gore	ACED
Julio	Iturreria	Arapahoe County
Jack	Keever	Reap
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Sara	Morison	Still Water Resources
Royce	Pindell	Mayor Town of Bennett
Jose	Rocha	Town of Bennett
Susan	Ryden	State Representative
Kathy	Smiley	I-70 Scout
Trish	Stiles	Town of Bennett
Melvin	Yarber	ACED
Rebecca	Zamora	Adams County
Grider	Lee	Town of Bennett

Approval of the April 14, 2016 Minutes

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman's Report:

Gary Duke announced an upcoming Arapahoe County public meeting on seasonal farm and ranch events and rodeo regulations scheduled for June 21st, 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Center Street in Byers. This is a

follow-up from an earlier meeting at Longhopes Donkey Shelter on May 5th. Rod Bockenfeld explained the conflicts the County has experienced with rodeo events in rural areas of unincorporated Arapahoe County.

Executive Director Report:

Jack Keever asked Kathy Mahan to update the group on the Memorial Day event taking place on the corridor to promote agritourism. The “One Road – Towns of Fun” event is taking place starting May 27th – May 30th. The event features local farms, ranches and activities to promote agritourism in the Corridor.

Guest Speakers:

Melvin Yarber, Adams County Enterprise Zone Administrator spoke of benefits for businesses operating or locating to the Adams County Enterprise Zone. He explained the qualifying tax credits available to businesses through the Colorado State Revenue Department. See chart below.

EZ Tax Credit	Credit Amount
Investment Tax Credit	3% of equipment (tangible pers. property)
Job Training Tax Credit	12% of qualified expenses
Jobs Credit	\$1,100 per new employee
Health Insurance Credit	\$ 1,000 per job tax credit
R&D Increase Tax Credit	3% of increased R&D expenditures
Vacant Building Rehab Credit	25% of rehab expenditures (hard costs)
Commercial Vehicle Investment Tax Credit	1.5% of commercial vehicle purchase.
Manufacturing Sales Tax Exemption	State-wide tax exemption for companies purchasing equipment.

Melvin encouraged businesses to consult with their tax advisor if they have specific questions about the Enterprise Zone tax credits.

Barry Gore, Adams County Economic Development (ACED) talked about trends and strategies for the future. He spoke about the importance of a skilled labor force, highway access and other supporting infrastructure included in the top reason businesses when looking at a location. Trends are fewer people are living in rural areas and for the first time Millennials now outnumber Baby Boomers. For the first time Americans are spending more of their income in restaurants and bars rather than grocery stores. We are becoming a service oriented society; we prefer to pay others to do things for us giving us more free time. ACED’s strategies are to focus on clusters of activity and build on and around what already exist today. He was pleased with the agritourism promotions featured on the Colorado High Plains Adventure website. Other strategies are to be ready with infrastructure, modern technology and a skilled work force.

Other Business:

The next Reap meeting will be June 9th at Front Range Airport.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.