

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

May 11, 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	Cyndi Delaney	Gary Duke
Ivy Fischer	Mary Hodge	Al Holcomb	Kirk Holwell
Sandra Johnson	Theresa NeSmith	Brad Pierce	Christina Pastori
Paul Rosenberg	Glenn Rotkovich	Jan Yeckes	

**Board Members not present:**

Wil Chase	Glenn Conser	Kristi Cranston	Rick Cranston
Kathy Dean	Michelle Gayeski	Mark Harding	Monica Johnson
Norm Johnson	Steve Johnson	Robert Kiess	Frank Linnebur
Neal Mancuso	Gary May	Royce Pindell	Rick Pulliam
Robin Purdy	Matt Reay	Dave Ruppel	Louis Salazar
Kevin Schott	Tom Turrell	Kent Vashus	Jeff Vogel
Becky Zierer			

**Guests attending were:**

Brian	Alberi	Bennett Mini Storage
Zach	Angotti	High Plains Bank
Sarah	Barkman	May Farms
Steven	Chevalier	Tri-County Health
Craig	Curl	SDBC
Bob	Hastings	Prairie View Property Owners Assoc.
Kevin	Hougen	Aurora Chamber
Lisa	Hudson	SDBC
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Alicia	Melton	Orica
Connie	Moos	Guaranty Bank
Megan	Mosher	Lincoln Community Hospital Hugo
Craig	Piland	
Craig	Rathbor	Sunburst Aviation
Bob	Stewart	Hillside Country Homes
Sarah	Stewart	Hillside Country Homes
Jim	Toft	Edward Jones
Darrell	Vanhooser	Conoco/Phillips

**Approval of the April 4, 2017 Minutes**

Minutes were approved as submitted.

**Chairman's Report:**

Gary Duke called upon Kathy Mahan to announce the upcoming Spring Festival taking place at Caramel Apple Farm on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Gary then called on Christina Pastori to report on the Colorado Rural School Alliance and she reported that the project will start up on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and there will be a push to get an intern program with the schools in place for the fall.

**Executive Director Report:**

**Guest Speaker:**

Kevin Hougen, President and CEO of the Aurora Chamber reported on Aurora and the Eastern Metro Area Economic Development. Over the next 20 years Adams County is estimated to be the fastest growing county in the state. The new Gaylord Hotel is the largest non-gaming hotel and is booked until 2025. 80% of the people that have booked are not from Colorado. Kevin also noted the strengths of the eastern metro area to include: agriculture, tourism, aerospace, bioscience, healthcare, financial services, air transportation, education and energy. The I-225 Corridor's Aurora Line is a 10 ½ mile light rail transit extension that serves Iliff, Aurora City Center and Anschutz/Fitzsimons Campus. The Aurora East Metro area is becoming a hub for higher education such as healthcare, IT, aerospace, and greenhouse technologies. Oil, gas and renewable energies including SolarTAC are other economic drivers to the eastern metro areas. Areas around Front Range Airport have huge potential with the additional growth of the SolarTAC complex and the Front Range Airport spaceport designation. DIA has the largest workforce in the Denver Metro Area and is expected to triple its size in the next 20 years. Colorado aerospace economy is number 1 in the nation. Per capita aerospace companies employ 25,110 jobs in the state. Both direct and indirect employment equates to 162,000 jobs. Another major eastern metro economic driver's is water. Aurora's water supply comes from the Colorado River Basin where it is eventually piped to Quincy Reservoir. Construction begins in 2020 to build the Aurora East Reservoir; plans are to have this second reservoir operational by 2025.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.