

DRAFT
MINUTES

REAP Meeting

May 9, 2019

11:45 a.m.

Colorado Air & Space Port, Watkins, CO

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

The following Board Members were present:

Budd Buchmann	Kristi Cranston	Gary Duke	Dave Gruber
Mark Harding	Mary Hodge	Kirk Holwell	Julio Iturreria
Theresa NeSmith	Peggy Otto Finnegan	Glenn Rotkovich	Dave Ruppel
Tom Turrell	Becky Zierer		

Guests attending were:

Matthew	Beasley	Rocky Mountain Resources
Karissa	Becklund	High Plains Bank
Darcy	Behrens	Tangled Minds
Lois	Buckman	Citizen
Caitlyn	Cahill	Arapahoe County
Tracy	Carter	Fraber Investment
Pam	Collins	Tangled Minds
Craig	Curl	SBDC
Anthony	Files	Vogel & Associates
Bob	Hastings	Hillside Country Homes
Jeane	Hinkle	Military Families Ministry
Russ	Hinkle	Military Families Ministry
Tim	Hurtgen	Generic Racer
Taeler	Houlberg	Bennett
Tisha	Jackson	Reflective Wellness
Jack	Keever	Retired

Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Brian	Molitoris	Photographer
Katherine	Nickerson	Success Mortgage Partners
Craig	Piland	Gateway Realty
Wes	Price	Tangled Minds
Christopher	Rotkovich	Lead Valley Range
Sarah	Sell	Sell Realty
Bob	Stewart	Prairie View HOA
Hollee	Swain	May Farms
Steven	Vetter	I-70 Scout
Wayne	Walvoord	Brighton Citizen

Approval of February 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman Report:

Gary Duke announced that the guest speaker Ellie Reynolds had a family emergency and was unable to present. Gary congratulated Jack on his retirement and read 2 letters, one from Wil Chase and one from Matt Reay. He then gave Jack his retirement gift from Reap which included a train ride on the Rio Grande Railroad, 2 nights stay at a bed & breakfast and \$100 gift certificate.

Executive Director Report:

Julio Iturreria congratulated Becky Zierer for her appointment to the Arapahoe County Long Range Planning Committee. He also mentioned that Arapahoe County is looking for a Planning Commissioner that represents the eastern parts of the County. Julio explained there had been updates to the Arapahoe County Land Use Development Code and suggested anyone interested in developing read the updates first. The Arapahoe County Assessor had forwarded to Reap the 2019 Real Estate Property Assessments. All these documents were handed out at the meeting.

Becky Zierer thanked Jack for all his help with the alpaca community and presented him with an alpaca vest.

Guest Speakers:

Agritourism Update

Kathy Mahan the Reap and Agritourism Administrator started the agritourism update with some history about how agritourism got it's start in the I-70 Corridor and how this movement has expanded

partnerships with local farms and ranches. She talked about the 2018 Spring Farm Festival activities and attendance.

Peggy Otto Finnegan with Eric's Acres talked about how Agritourism was started in the United States and spread to many parts of Europe. She recently visited Italy and she talked about the different things they offer to visitors. Peggy has a farm in Deer Trail and is looking to do overnight stays in vintage Volkswagen busses in the future.

Kristi Cranston of Tall Grass Farms Alpacas does her own spinning, weaving and felting using alpaca fibers. She demonstrated how spinning was once done by using a stick with a hook on the end. She demonstrated this with Kathy. She will be doing these demonstrations at the upcoming Spring Farm Festival.

Hollee Swain the Event Manager with May Farms talked about the history of the Farm and about the many new events they have coming up. They offer farm fresh dinners, events for special holidays, murder mystery dinners, barn dances, festivals and weddings. They will be serving the food for the Spring Farm Festival which will include pulled BBQ chicken sandwiches with chips, a cookie and drink. They will be also serving a vegetarian option using jack fruit in the sandwiches.

Jeane and Russ Hinkle with Military Families Ministry operate a 501c(3) non-profit that helps deployed service members and their families. They ship pillows, blankets, gift bags and socks all over the world to our troops. They will be collecting black crew socks at the Spring Farm Festival. At a previous festival they collected over 650 pair of socks.

Karla Sue Byg with Farm in a Jar was unable to present because of a family illness.

The next Spring Farm Festival is May 25th at Caramel Apple Farm.

Other Business:

Craig Curl announced an award from the SBA for the East Colorado SBDC & our sponsor the Monfort School of Business, University of Northern Colorado, receiving the Excellence and Innovation Award. This is the Highest Achievement for the 2019 SBDC Center in Region 8 for the Excellence & Innovation Award for the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana. Highest Financial Impact and Hours of Business Consulting Time.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.