

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

September 14, 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	Doug Claussen	Kristi Cranston	Gary Duke
Michelle Gayeski	Mark Harding	Kirk Holwell	Neal Mancuso
Gary May	Theresa NeSmith	Brad Pierce	Paul Rosenberg
Glenn Rotkovich	Kevin Schott	Tom Turrell	
Jan Yeckes			

**Board Members not present:**

Jeff Baker	Glenn Conser	Rick Cranston	Kathy Dean
Ivy Fischer	Mary Hodge	Al Holcomb	Monica Johnson
Norm Johnson	Sandra Johnson	Steve Johnson	Robert Kiess
Frank Linnebur	Christina Pastori	Royce Pindell	Rich Pulliam
Robin Purdy	Matt Reay	Dave Ruppel	Louis Salazar
Kent Vashus	Jeff Vogel	Becky Zierer	

**Guests attending were:**

Zach	Angotti	High Plains Bank
Rachel	Bacon	Adams County
Charles	Bayley	Bennett
Lonnie	Clark	Hillside Country Homes
Susie	Cook	Lincoln Community Hospital
Denise	Hopkins	Caramel Apple Farm
Jack	Keever	Reap
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Connie	Moos	Guaranty Bank
Peggy	Otto	Ranch Owner
Mark	Radtke	USPTO
Benjamin	Rathke	Peak Vista
Jose	Rocha	Town of Bennett
Bob	Stewart	Hillside Country Homes
Rachel	Summers	Deputy Town Administrator Bennett
Jake	Zambrano	EIS Solutions

**Approval of the June 8, 2017 Minutes**

Minutes were approved as submitted.

**Chairman's Report:**

Gary Duke called upon Denise Hopkins to talk about the upcoming Fall Farm Festival. The festival is taking place September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> at May Farms. First of all we are honored to have the Military Ministries at the festival to collect socks for our deployed troops. There will be animals, live demonstrations and plenty of fun things to do. The festival is from 10 a.m. – 4 a.m.

Charles Bayley reported the Bennett Fire Department has changed its name to Bennett Watkins Fire Department to more accurately define the response area of the District. The District's area is 325 miles and with the spike in growth an increase to the mill levy is badly needed. Charles asked that individuals in this district area support the mill levy. Bob Stewart asked why individuals receiving services can't be charged. Charles explained that special districts are not structured to charge for services and depend heavily on the mil levy to support the services to the community.

**Executive Director Report:**

Jack reported that over the course of the last couple of months Reap has been contacted by three businesses that are looking to locate to the Corridor.

**Guest Speaker:**

**Mark Radtke, Assistant Regional Director – United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) – Rocky Mountain Regional Office.** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is headquartered in Alexandria, VA. The Office employs 9,000 patent examiners and half of these examiners work from home. The patent examiners have specific qualifications for application review. USPTO has 5 regional offices throughout the Unites States; they are located in San Jose, CA, Denver, CO, Dallas, TX, Detroit, MI and Alexandria, VA. The office was divided into the 5 regions to provide more accessibility to their services. There are more than 650,000 patent applications received annually with a little over half issued. The fee schedule is variable depending on the size of the business. Small businesses and inventors who are unable to afford a patent attorney may be eligible for legal assistance through this office if they qualify. Mark warned against companies that help you with your idea, it is best to contact your regional office directly. The Denver Regional Office is currently looking to hire 25 new employees specializing in computer science technologies. The previous backlog of applications was 1,900 and now is 1,400. The USPTO works globally with other participating countries for researching and issuing patents and trademarks.

**Other Business:**

Jack reported the next Reap meeting is October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Peg Otto announced the Eastern Colorado Bee Club was recently formed and there has been a lot of interest in membership from the community. She wanted to report that the bees were doing very well in Eastern Colorado. She was able to harvest the honey from her first year hive.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.