

DRAFT
MINUTES
REAP Meeting

March 8, 2018

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 Chairman Gary Duke, who welcomed the attendees and called for introductions.

The following Board Members were present:

Wil Chase	Doug Claussen	Gary Duke	Mark Harding
Mary Hodge	Allison Hiltz	Jeff Hopkins	Kirk Howell
Robert Kiess	Josh Liss	Christina Pastori	Glenn Rotkovich
Dave Ruppel	Jan Yeckes	Becky Zierer	

Guests attending were:

Libby	Ary	EIS Solutions
John	Brackney	Webolutions
Doug	Guthrie	Prairie Creeks
Chris	Haas	Core Civil Engineering
Bob	Hastings	Prairie View HOA
Tom	Henley	Xcel Energy
Julio	Iturreria	Citizen
Jack	Keever	Reap
Diane	Kocis	Arapahoe County
Faith	Koetter	Morgan Community College
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Tom	McEniry	Kazmira
Lisa	McKelvy	I-70 CoCC
Martin	Metsker	Core Civil Engineering
Chelsie	Miera	EIS Solutions
Jim	Moravec	Star Haven Observatory
Jenn	Negley	SBDC Consultant
Whitney	Oakley	Anythink Library
Peg	Otto	Eric Acres
Ellie	Reynolds	EIS Solutions
Craig	Rothbun	Marshall Real Estate
Aaron	Rotkovich	Lead Valley Range
Hollee	Swain	May Farms
Daniel	Watts	Muegge Farms
Kathy	Wisner	Morgan Community College
Jennifer	Woods	Adams County

Approval of the February 8, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman's Report:

Gary Duke called upon Dave Ruppel to give a report on the status of the Front Range Airport Spaceport Designation. Dave reported the airport is into the 180 day review period. The FAA is very supportive and should have the environmental assessment back later this month. In April there will be a public meeting to discuss the

findings and get comments. The application should be finalized by August 19th. Dave further said that he feels they are in a very good position for approval.

Gary called upon Christina Pastori. Christina reported that both the I-70 Chamber of Commerce and Reap have recently submitted letters of support for a grant. The grant will pay for a coordinator position to build a mentor internship for the Corridor. Kevin Schott, the superintendent with Deer Trail School District now has a grant writer writing the grant. The coordinator will create relationships with local businesses interested in mentoring students looking for a career path.

Executive Director Report:

No report

Guest Speakers:

Tom Henley, Community & Local Government Affairs – Xcel Energy

Xcel has been a long-time environmental leader. The American Wind Energy Association states that Xcel is the nation's No. 1 utility wind provider and has been for decades. The EPA recognized Xcel Energy with a 2016 Climate Leadership Award for Excellence in Greenhouse Gas Management. Xcel is relying less on carbon emissions and more on renewable energy resources such as, wind, solar and natural gas plants. Today, in Colorado 29% of our energy comes from carbon-free sources. The goal is a 45% reduction in carbon emissions by 2021 and a reduction of 60% by 2030. Businesses and the community continue to show interest in more clean energy choices that are less impact on the environment. Xcel plans to retire early 2 coal generating plants in Pueblo by 2026. This will be done without an increase to customers while saving customers money. Rush Creek is the 1st Xcel owned wind project with an investment of 1.5 billion dollars for the project and acquisition of easements. Currently there is a 30% government substitutes for both wind and solar projects. Renewable energies will bring jobs for rural areas in the Corridor. Many of these jobs will be in the construction.

Josh Liss, Corporate Affairs Manager – IREA

IREA is the 3rd largest utility in Colorado and the largest co-op west of Mississippi. Their 5,000 sq. mile territory stretches from Eastern Arapahoe to Fairplay. IREA is publicly owned and their customers receive annual refunds. IREA refunded \$15 million back to its customers this month. Rates have not increased since 2013 and there is no expected increase for 2018. The Victory Solar Farm went into operation in 2016 and produces enough solar power to power 2,000 homes. Over recent years renewable energy technology has become cheaper with fewer impacts to the environment. A new line will be completed in 2019 to prepare for future growth. This line will loop existing services, allowing for immediate notification of any outages and back feed power to areas in need. IREA gives back to the community through education grants. 21 grants are awarded to students in the amount of \$2,000. They must be a graduating senior from high school and have an acceptance letter from a college, university, vocational or trade school. Grants are awarded to 3 students per district.

Other Business:

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.