

DRAFT
MINUTES

REAP Business Meeting

February 11, 2021

11:45 a.m.

Zoom Meeting ID#761-014-5598

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

The following Board Members were present:

Lynn Baca	Jeff Baker	Wil Chase	Michelle Gayeski
Mark Harding	Kirk Howell	Kevin Hougen	Frank Linnebur
Whitney Oakley	Dave Ruppel		

Guests attending were:

Caitlyn	Cahill	Arapahoe County
Loretta	Daniel	Arapahoe County
Nick	Eagleson	Adams County
Steve	Hebert	Town of Bennett
Holly	Hollembeak	Lincoln Community Hospital
Julio	Iturreria	Reap
Jack	Keever	Retired Reap
Kari	Linker	Senator Hickenlooper's Office
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Stephanie	Mufic	Arapahoe/Douglas Works
Tyler	Shetterly	76 Group
Nathan	Sumner	Sum Financial Service Group
Lynette	White	Town of Bennett

Approval of January 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman Report:

Executive Director Report:

Julio Iturreria thanked everyone for attending and Dave Ruppel for presenting. Julio asked Kari Linker to introduce herself. Kari is the Eastern Director for the Eastern Plains from Senator Hickenlooper's Office. She looks forward to working with Reap in the future.

Guest Speakers:

Dave Ruppel, Director of Colorado Air and Space Port

Dave shared a map of U.S. Spaceports throughout the United States. Colorado is 11 of 12 FAA certified space ports in the United States and there are another 12 possible air space sites and a myriad of other space ports across the United States. Having a space port will drive other economic development in the area. When we look at Colorado, we can see how powerful that aero space economy is. Colorado is the #2 aero space economy in the country. We have 9 of the represented companies here in Colorado with their headquarters or significant operations and aero space jobs. Over 500 companies directly related or in a support role. Our proximity to Denver and Denver International Airport are important options to look at when deciding where to base their operations. There is interest from foreign companies in locating in Colorado. PD Astrospace and NFA want to base part of their companies here in Colorado because of the strength of our economy and other opportunities. What we look at, at Colorado Air and Space Port are the companies that are working on transport vehicles for space tourism and transport vehicles both building the way to point to point travel. All of these companies at one level or another are transportation companies. The ability to transport people at high speeds in space or sub-orbital space to get them around the world is of great interest to business these companies are developing and these technologies. The need for micro gravity experiments extends through all different parts of science, chemistry, and medicine. You can go to the international space station and only so many people can do that, and we do not know how long the international space station is going to be up there. Horizontal launch capabilities provide a unique opportunity for that kind of experimentation. Payload is also another interest to these companies to delivery a payload to another place in space. Astronaut training is another thing. One of the things we are specifically looking at here at Space Port is supporting high performance aircraft. The use of military aircraft to provide high G training for astronaut pilot candidates. We have some companies in Colorado looking at developing training academies to train all different levels for astronauts. Small satellites continue to be a point of interest and possibly the fastest growing part of the aerospace economy. The manufacturing of both the vehicles and support infrastructure that can be used in space and on other planets. We are looking at the testing and evaluation of hardware for vehicles or other types of equipment where they can not do that someplace else but could do it at the Colorado Air and Space Port and we have a company right now that is preparing to do that. We are looking at amendments to our license to support other types of operations like re-entry operations that would support a company like Sierra Nevada with Dream Chaser and be able to bring that vehicle back to land at the Air and Space Port. Hypersonic technology is of great

interest in aviation and supporting space operations. Supporting those types of companies that fly those vehicles out to special use airspace where they can develop those types of technologies. Things like data and fusion centers that take information that is collected from satellites that we put into orbit and bring that information together in a way that is useful to other companies and other users. Then workforce development at all levels from manufacturing and building equipment to the engineers and scientist that are developing these systems. Dave showed an overview shot of the facility. You can see Denver to the west of us and Denver International Airport to the northwest and you can see how much room there is around the facility now and that's very important in our ability to continue to develop and protect our operations and to support the other companies that are coming into the area. We have a large business development to the south called Port and then to the east of us there is another development, Rocky Mountain Rail Park that also is going in. A lot of companies are beginning to see areas around the Air and Space Port as a prime site for development. Right now, we have the FAA commercial site license that allow us to do horizontal launch, two 8,000 ft. runways and are looking to increase one of those. We have available hanger space and a number being built for all levels from smaller aircraft hangers and large corporate hangers, we should be seeing those breaking ground in the next couple of months. We have the control tower for controlling the airspace immediately around the facility and utilities access on the facility. Municipalities are looking at bringing water and sewer to the area around the Air and Space Port as well. Both of the business parks going in are heavy railed served business parks. The ability to have not only access to space, air and interstate and also heavy rail really starts to fill out of that multi-model picture. The license itself is for suborbital launch vehicles which is concept X. Concept X is a dual propulsion type vehicle it has both jet engine operations for around the Air and Space Port and then rocket engines that are used to carry the last bit of flight up into suborbital space. We have a number of companies that work in those kinds of technologies. Concept Y uses a single stage vehicle with a rocket engine to propel all of the way up into space. The concept Z technology is going to be the first commercial vehicle that will be licensed in the next couple of months. We are in the middle of the Space Port Master Plan that dovetails with the Airport Master Plan to support operations in the future. The Space Port Master Plan gives us great information of what to expect in the future and how to prepare for those opportunities. The areas around the Air and Space Port we are looking at what types of land uses that are most compatible and how we protect those areas while ensuring compatibility with other businesses. A lot of exciting things are coming the sub-area around the Air and Space Port. PD Aerospace has been in the news connected with us a couple of times in the last couple years. We initially went out to visit them in 2019 and then they came to Colorado and spent some time here. We developed a great relationship with them, an exciting company with a lot of energy out of Japan. They are currently getting ready to fly a subscale prototype with a patented hybrid type of engine. They expect to fly that anytime within the next few months and follow along with a space capable version the following year. In 2023 they are expecting to begin their business here with a U.S. office, set up a company and begin their licensing process with the FAA. They are planning to have operations at the Air & Space Port by 2024 or 2025. Reaction Engines is a UK company with it's U.S. affiliate company based here in Colorado. They have a high temperature test facility where they test heat exchange technology. They were successful at taking this heat exchanger that could take the temperature of air that you see

at mock 5 speeds and reduce that temperature down from 118,000° to less than 200 ° in about 1 20th of a second. They have tested and protected that technology there at the airport. They use the technology in their rocket engine in their space plane but also to support hypersonic and conventional flight aircraft as well as other activities that produce heat. This technology is the most efficient technology in the world, and it was proven here at the Air and Space Port. We developed a relationship with New Frontier Aerospace about a year ago and they are developing a hypersonic aircraft. That aircraft is designed to use rocket engines and to land and take off vertically. It's not designed for any place where they have a pad to land and take off from. What they are working on their technology. They should be starting their static rocket engine testing anytime here within the next few weeks.

Mark Harding: Is the Concept X a vertical take-off or horizontal landing?

Dave Ruppel: The Concept X is a horizontal take-off so everything we look at for launching from the facility is horizontal take-off and landing. Concept X is a horizontal launch vehicle that uses 2 types of propulsion to use in and out of operations.

Mark Harding: What are the industry leaders for that type of product and from your master plan would you see any of that type of activity of those aircraft taking off facing out of Space Port?

Dave Ruppel: Yes. Both of the companies that we have out there now in terms of PD Aerospace. Their vehicle is a hybrid engine that is capable of operating both in the atmosphere and space. Reactions Engines is another one. Their parent company continues to work on the development of their hybrid engine which is a rocket and a jet engine that takes it into the atmosphere and acts like a rocket when it's out of the atmosphere. We want to look at these types of vehicle and look at the infrastructure to support that.

Dave Ruppel: Mainly for the vertical launch type, we can support other types of operations. We can't support NFA here because they are vertical launch. Hypersonic is not the issue it is how they launch.

Kevin Hougen: What is the relationship with DEN, how are we doing with the Airport?

Dave Ruppel: I think we are doing okay. There are challenges that I think sometimes they are concerned that we will do something that could affect their commercial operations with aircraft. That is certainly not our intent to do that, we take a careful look at everything we do. We are working hard to better those communications. We have included representatives from DEN to participate for both of our plans. When we have a new operation come along, we will hold stakeholder meetings to talk about what those new operations will look like.

Julio Iturreria: In the diagram of the different areas, how many jurisdictions are involved?

Dave Ruppel: It includes Adams County, City of Aurora, Arapahoe County south of I-70, Town of Bennett, and in discussions with Denver and other agencies as well.

Julio Iturreria: Thanked Dave for his presentation. It appears from this presentation that major things are going to be happening on the I-70 Corridor because of Colorado Air and Space Port. With all the dynamics of the types of aircraft, do you have any idea of when they will start? Do you need any special license or FAA requirements you have to meet?

Dave Ruppel: We look at the Space Port Master Plan and the Sub-Area Plan to try and get an idea of what that timeline might look like. Vehicles operation out there right now like the Virgin Galactic Vehicle that could operate to and from the Space Station. We would have to put in an amendment to our

license to be able to do that. They would have to put in a license to specifically do that at the Space Port. Those licenses have been streamlined specifically over the past couple of years. I think there are vehicles out there over the next 5 – 8 years, like the Japanese Vehicle for example that expect to be conducting operations from Colorado Air and Space Port. As we move towards that I think we will see growth with other companies like NFA as well. They may not be launching from the Space Port, but they are conducting various parts of their development and manufacturing on and around the Air and Space Port. In addition to that we have interest in companies to use the facility for parabolic flights, they are not going to space, but they are simulating zero gravity by conducting parabolic flight pattern that provides a few seconds at a time of zero gravity. We can see that kind of testing and training. Companies that are providing training facilities in the area, they will be training astronauts starting here within the next 3 - 5 years here and supporting space operations happening in other places. Over the next decade I think we can see point to point travel developing with companies like Virgin Galactic and PD Aerospace with the ability to move people very quickly all around the world. The Air and Space Port will be able to support those activities.

Development Update:

Kevin Hougen: We have Arapahoe/Douglas Works on today too and we have started a new program for registered apprenticeship. We are working with Stephanie and her team to bring some registered apprenticeship opportunity to our businesses here. We are looking at getting that going over the next month or so, you will hear about that and reaching out to the companies here in Arapahoe County. I did not go to Switzerland with the Governor a few years ago but they looked at apprenticeship programs in Switzerland. They brought that program back and the school systems are excited, and I wanted to thank Stephanie for that opportunity. I think we will get Adams County's Workforce Center to partner in too.

Stephanie Mufic: Dave everything you talked about today is going to change the workforce. We need to make sure we are meeting all the needs of those businesses coming out to the Space Port.

Wil Chase: This is wonderful and more than anything we could have asked for, thank you!

Kevin Hougen: One technology we may look at with a partnership with Japan is with scarcity of water to develop greenhouse farming and techniques. Japan is successful at growing 3 crops a year in their greenhouses. Dave maybe when we get our Japanese partners, we can have them introduce us to some other technologies too? This may help our agricultural community too.

Stephanie Mufic: We are in a partnership with local work centers across the Front Range we were just awarded a 4 year 7.3-million-dollar grant. At Arapahoe/Douglas Works we are supported by Boeing and the goal for this grant is to take mid to high skilled positions and try to build out new pilot pipelines, this will definitely be impacted by the aerospace community, so we are excited about that. Thank you.

Steve Hebert: I can give a quick update of the Town of Bennett. IREA opened their new district facility, they moved in January. FNB Bank is under construction and they will be moving out of the Conoco Station where they are, that building has gone vertical. Comfort Inn has gone vertical and they are at 4 stories now and we hope to have them open later this year probably this summer. The home building industry has taken off as well. LGI are about to build out of their second phase. DR Horton is well under way and Sky View. We just heard this morning that Muegge Farms, Oakwood and Lunar will probably be

breaking ground on their 366-unit sub-division that is just north and west of King Soopers. LGI has also acquired 175 acres that was called Bennett Ranch just north of the school campus. Things are finally now happening. On Tuesday, the Board has approved a contract to hire a consultant to start a retail support and recruitment strategy. We will get a better sense of what our market is and recap analysis.

Holly Hollembeak: We at the mobile health clinic have been working with Arapahoe County and Tri-County and we have access to Covid vaccines. We are starting to talk people and get them scheduled when we are there. Bennett every other Tuesday, Deer Trail three Thursday's a month and Byers every Friday.

Lynn Baca: Today we are kicking off a couple of pop-up clinics for Covid. One is being held at Dick's Sporting Goods Park; you have to pre sign-up for these types of events. We have one today at Dick's Sporting Goods Park and another one on Saturday at Guardian Angel. We had our kick-off meeting for Advancing Adams where we get a look at our 10-year plan for the Comprehensive Plan, Parks and Open Space and the Transportation Plans. Those surveys are open to the public and are available to you. I would be happy to send that link to you. To go along with Dave Ruppel, we didn't look at the Space Port Plan, but we did have a presentation on the conceptual plan with staff and stakeholders. There were a couple of ideas for out there but that is preliminary. I will give an update when those become clear.

Justin Reyher: I've been working with the owner of Comanche Crossing at Strasburg and Exit 310. We are currently working through the rezoning process with Arapahoe County, Tri-County Health and CDOT. The plan currently is to have 6 commercial lots that will be about 2.5 acres along I-70 and 13 residential lots that will 2.5 acres a piece. So, we have dramatically reduced the overall plan for what is currently approved for that area. We look forward to the opportunity to have a little growth for the residents out there and as well for commercial and creating jobs there in Strasburg. We got the second round of red lines coming back this week from Bill Skinner with the County. We are hoping that within the next 30 – 45 days we can be moving forward with the public hearings in completing that rezoning process. The next step would be the final plat phase.

Julio encouraged the guests to sent information to Reap to be distributed to the membership.

Other Business:

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.