

DRAFT
MINUTES

REAP Business Meeting

September 9, 2021

12:00 p.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

Michelle Gayeski

Dave Gruber

Kirk Holwell

Jan Yeckes

Wil Chase

Guests attending were:

Caitlyn	Cahill	Arapahoe County
Tracy	Carter	RE/Max
Kip	Cheroutes	Reap
Loretta	Daniel	Arapahoe County
Lori	Hague	Colorado Air & Space Port
Michelle	Harrell	I-70 Communities that Care
Lisa	Hough	AC Regional Economic Partnership
John	Igbokwe	CMMC Practice Consulting
Jack	Keever	Citizen
Grider	Lee	Bennett Planning Commission
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Kathy	Mitts	US Mechanical
Chris	Pastori	Real Estate Connection
Cooper	Raines	Colorado Home Realty
Justin	Reyher	Beacon Real Estate

Gretchen	Ricehill	Arapahoe County
Robin	Schincke	Morgan Community College
Steven	Vetter	I-70 Publishing
Lynette	White	Town of Bennett
Eric	Zacharias	Anythink Library

Approval of May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman Report:

Kirk Holwell introduced Kip Cheroutes as the new Reap Executive Director.

Executive Director Report:

As of September 1st, I’ve been elected to be the next Executive Director of Reap. My background is business development, political advocacy, and networking. I have had experience in the eastern plains in agritainment something called Riot Fest a few years back in Byers Colorado. I learned great experience during that experience. What makes the eastern plains tick, what makes the I-70 Corridor tick, what are the issues, what are the values there, what is the growth potential there, what is the attitude of people there, no growth, smart growth? Within the first couple of days, I have been heavy into outreach, initial research, opportunities, activities at the County, State and the Federal level that would have some relevance to the Reap organization. I’ve been networking and introducing myself to stakeholders in the region and I’m thrilled to be here. Expect a lot of activity from me and expect a lot of advocacy from me as issues pop up at any level of government.

Guest Speakers:

Lisa Hough – President/CEO Adams County Regional Economic Partnership (AC-REP)

Lisa introduced herself and she has been on the Board now for 4 months. One of the things AC-REP is striving to do is to be a place where businesses and opportunities meet. There are a variety of opportunities with our government, local partners, schools, and opportunities in the community. In 2020, the Metro North Chamber of Commerce and the Adams County Economic Organization merged and became the Adams County Regional Economic Partnership.

Lisa’s Background: I came to AC-REP after 4 years with the Metro Denver Economic Corporation, I was the Director of Strategic Initiatives. I was brought on because of my background in several areas including energy and natural resources, and financial services. I took on new cluster of study there through food, beverages, and agricultural technology. I really began to learn about some major industries for Colorado and worked there to support that through coalitions and outreach through different organizations. I was very involved with the Colorado Economic Council and has been out on the

eastern plains quite a bit. Prior to that I had a background in very heavily regulated industries. Recently before Denver I worked in a start-up out of Boulder doing energy efficiency and a representative on a national basis on regulatory and external affairs issues. I worked for a large financial services firm based in Colorado. Prior to that I worked for BP here in the Rocky Mountain Region. At the time BP was not a large natural gas producer in the state but we had the opportunity to build the Cedar Creek Wind Farm in Northeast Colorado, it was about a 550-megawatt project. I had the pleasure of helping BP expand that business. Prior to that I worked in telecommunications. I've seen a lot of changes and the company was US West. I have a law degree from the University of Denver and my undergraduate degree from Duke University back in North Carolina. I grew up in a small town in New Jersey about 3 miles from New York City, which at the time was very rural and starting to expand. I really care about cities that are outside of the metropolitan area.

We are the economic champions of the Greater Adams County region. We work to amplify business stories, promote job growth, and focus on real estate developments and infrastructure. We empower our members and community leaders to promote and expand economic opportunity through programs and services. Develop a prosperous and sustainable region for business to grow and thrive in the Greater Adams County region. It's changed here quite a bit since I moved here almost 30 years ago. We work very close with our community partners including Adams County Government and cities. The other important part about our organization, are the Board of Directors, they are the ones that really help me with direction and managing day to day. The Strategic plan that was developed focuses on 4 core strategies: economic development, business advocacy & public policy, membership & engagement, and meetings & branding. We are starting a Leadership Program to introduce up and coming leaders or current leaders that are new to the area or people who want more training on how to engage on issues that are important to community, people, and businesses in our region. That program is kicking off next week. This will take 11 different sessions around major topics in our region including manufacturing, energy, healthcare, local government, education, and private services. In branding and marketing, how do we define our region as a place to grow and prosper from a business perspective and how do we attract people to our community? Our 2020 – 2021 Projects includes: Managed COVID mini-grant for Adams County, successfully supported campaign for Adams County Ballot Measures 1A & 1B to protect open space, administered Enterprise Zone program, LEAD Metro North Class, produced Inaugural State of the Region Event, Adams County Economic Profile, and the Annual Site Selection Summit. The LEAD Metro North program is a 11-month business and community engagement/emersion program centered around AC_REP's industry focus area that is rich with leadership training and skills development. I just want to close with our tagline, where business and opportunity meet. I'm still in this learning phase trying to figure out where should we spend our time, what opportunities I have to get to know more of you and what opportunities in the future for me to connect with you and understand the issues you are facing as you look at the region you represent.

Kip Cheroutes: What are the geographic boundaries of the Enterprise Zone is it the entire County or how do you divide that up?

Lisa Hough: It's a program Established through the Office of Economic Development and International Trade. The boundaries are set every 10-years and they are based on census data. They look at areas that need a little more assistance attracting more businesses to those areas. The boundaries are on the ODE website, and we have a link on our website.

Kip Cheroutes: With new census data, do you see those boundaries change and when do you think that will take place?

Lisa Hough: In 2022, will be the next zone alignment.

Kip Cheroutes: You said you had a county economic profile, is that something online?

Lisa Hough: Definitely it's on our website. Kip what are some of your priorities?

Kip Cheroutes: From the research I've done a priority is transportation, what's coming down the pike with the State Bill, how does that new State revenue stream down through the Counties, and what are the chances for revenues flow down to local areas. That's high on my to do list. Federal Transportation money, is there going to be an infrastructure bill? Any Federal COVID recovery funds that would be relevant to this jurisdiction is something I'm going to be focused on. On agriculture, what is the USDA policy, what resources would be relevant to the Reap organization? Locally, Space Port, I expect we will be a strong advocate for Space Port. What are the needs for broadband, what the needs for healthcare water is a concern, how do you balance that with any kind of growth? With agritourism, they have taken a COVID beating. Agritourism is near and dear to our hearts, so what can we do to rev that up? So those are the top priorities I will be researching, advocating, and networking.

Lisa Hough: I met with the Director of Strategic Programming from Anythink Library, Stacey. I talked to her about how we can coordinate some job programs through their 3-prong strategic plan around business. There are opportunities we can do with them in our region.

Kip Cheroutes: For people who come from Bennett, expect to hear from me very soon to introduce myself and take a deep dive about what is going on in Bennett. I've heard very good things about Bennett and Commissioner Baca speaks highly of Bennett.

Lynette White: After this week as we are preparing for Bennett Days this weekend. Anytime when you have time to reach out, I will send you Steve Hebert, he is our Planning Director, and he would be happy to meet with you in person and advise you of what's going on in Bennett.

Kirk Holwell: Asked if there were any Development Updates or Business you would like to talk about?

Chris Pastori: We have our lunch and learn from the Chamber of Commerce next Friday the 17th at May Farms. Lunch begins at 11:30 meeting begins at noon ,and we will have a couple speakers that will be talking about the medical piece. Lincoln Community Hospital is opening a branch over in Byers and they will be one of our main speakers as well as mental health advisor.

Development Updates:

Dave Gruber: I wanted to announce the City of Aurora and the Aerotropolis Transportation Authority and Adams County is building a new road on the eastern side of Aurora. It will be at I-70 and, it will go north and intersect Jackson Gap where Jackson Gap crosses Pena. The road is named the Aerotropolis Parkway and funding is in the works for that right now. This will be a major part of the Aerotropolis and tie into other initiatives going on, such as the Inland Port and to other things happening on the eastern side of Aurora.

Kip Cheroutes: A quick question for Lisa. The Inland Port, I want to find out more about that. How involved were you guys with that?

Lisa Hough: I had a great conversation with Councilman Gruber and that was my first introduction to that.

Kip Cheroutes: I plug into the World Trade Center Denver Karen Gerwitz, and she seems to be a big promoter of that. I would like to keep my ears really close to that process.

Lisa shared an email invitation for a call on Monday with Karen Gerwitz.

Dave Gruber: The World Trade Center Denver will include work going on in north Aurora, also throughout Adams County. Some of the models they have created show a circle around Denver Airport cargo area the 5 mile and 10-mile range. Adams County recently approved a rail spur off the Union Pacific line, on the east side of Colorado Air and Space Port. In that area we will have air, rail, and truck loads as well as the Aerotropolis Parkway that's going in there. There are cities have Inland Ports, Kansas City, Salt Lake City is developing one. The President of the Winnipeg Inland Port briefed 2 meetings ago.

Other Business:

Lynn Baca: I'm Lynn from Adams County and District 5 is my area which includes all of Eastern Adams County, so it's so nice to see everyone here. A couple of quick updates for you. If you want to get a room going mention that 4 letter word mask. I know you have seen in the community I've gotten a lot of email from your area it's been mentioned in the media and Tri-County Health. I and the rest of the Commissioners have received several letters to leave Tri-County Health. I want to ensure you as residents and business owners that the County Commissioners have taken on a study. We have hired a consultant and what would be in that study would be Tri-County Health. So where does that leave Adams and Arapahoe County? This study will look at a couple of models. One model would be Arapahoe and Adams stay the same. The other model is Adams County standing alone and setting up our own Health Department. We are looking at our own financial stability running our own health department. We are starting that discussion. Yesterday we broke ground on a Veteran's Memorial at the Riverdale Regional Park, also known as the Fairgrounds. The inspiration of that memorial is the US Colorado Battleship. We look to have this done by next fall. We look for having a big opening celebration for that next year. The next thing I want to touch on is transportation. A lot of information coming out about 270. CDOT and I would suggest we have the regional director, Adams County is region 1, come and talk with you about transportation. They have funded years 1 thru 4 on their 10-year list. One of those pulled

off the list was important to Adams County and that is Interstate 270. Interstate 270 was pulled off and is not fully funded at this time. When you start the clock on money you got to start breaking ground. We are just not there on that corridor. They have ensured us that the 270 corridor will be funded on the next tranche funding they look at. We still have a lot of design work to do on 270. When we met with Colorado Air and Space Port this summer, we were looking at some Federal earmark money. We have 2 Federal funded projects that will come to the Space Port. One of those is going to be perimeter security fencing for the space Port that's very important. From an economic standpoint, we can take advantage of all of the business and peripheral businesses that are allowed by our FAA Licensing. The second project we have at the Space Port is improvements to the runway. We don't have all of the details on that. I will get the details to Kathy and hopefully update you at next month's meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.