

DRAFT
MINUTES

Annual Officer and Board Member Meeting

November 11, 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 12:05 p.m. by Chair Kirk Howell, who welcomed the attendees.

The following Board Members were present:

Kirk Holwell

Gary May

Glenn Rotkovich

Tom Turrell

Jan Yeckes

Guests attending were:

Kip	Cheroutes	Reap
Loretta	Daniel	Arapahoe County
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Kathy	Smiley	I-70 Publishing
Steve	Sundberg	Aurora Chamber

Approval of October 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman Report:

Executive Director Introduction:

Kip referred to two documents he had sent to the Board defining initiatives for Reap in 2022 that speaks to economic development. Kip referred to comments Reap sent to Arapahoe County on their Transportation Plan for the public comment period. Kip will be looking for the final Infrastructure Bill coming out of Congress, and it will be signed by the President. Kip plans to take a deep dive into that Bill to do the analysis on what is best for the I-70 Corridor.

Election for Officers and Board Members in 2022

The Reap Board of Directors approved the 2022 Slate (See Exhibit A)

On a Motion by Gary May and seconded by Tom Turrell. It passed unanimously.

Discuss 2022 Reap Priorities:

Kip talked about the direction he sees Reap is going in 2022. In Byers we have a hemp enterprise. The reason he sees this as a major initiative is it steps into an agricultural related campus of development. The campus is not exclusively for hemp. Construction may begin as early as this winter. The Governor's Office is highly supportive of hemp enterprises in Colorado. In 2022 the Governor's Office will be venting hemp enterprises for specific spotlighting by the Governor, and perhaps funding by the General Assembly in the next budget cycle. We want to position the hemp enterprise in Byers as one of the spotlighted enterprises in the state. Priority #2 is EV (electrical vehicle) charging stations. The State passed a Bill that sets up an enterprise that will be funded starting in 2022. The money will be available to plan, construction, and operations of EV charging stations. Deer Trail would be a prime candidate for a recharging station, due to its proximity from Metro Denver. Kip discussed the possibility an EV recharging plaza with businesses and markets for people waiting for their vehicle to get charged. The money for this comes from a .06 cent home delivery charge. This idea was included in comments made on the Arapahoe County Transportation Plan. Priority #3 has to do with education and workforce development. This is a development and economic mission to get these kids exposed to career and job opportunities. Kip has reached out to Core Electrical and DIA asking about tours for Corridor kids to go out and learn about all of the job possibilities. This is a development and economic mission to get these kids exposed to career and job opportunities. Priority #4 is membership enhancement.

Kip congratulated Jan Yeckes on her retirement and asked who would be taking her place. They haven't started the recruitment process yet, but Jason Reynolds will be interim Planning Division Manager. Jan will be leaving by the 1st of December. Jan introduced Loretta Daniel who will be replacing Jan as the Arapahoe County Alternate. Loretta heads the group in the Long-Range section of Planning. working on a long-range vision study and it called the Watkins Bennett Area Vision Study. The study has been detained due to water issues between Watkins and Bennett.

Kip noted that in 2022 everything will be accelerated due to the infrastructure money coming. He also wants to work on an agritourism strategy in 2022 for military farm visits.

Gary May asked Arapahoe County if they would be interested in working on a new sub-area plan for the Byers area. Jan explained it falls within Loretta's group and they have all the materials to work on that. Gary asked Loretta and Gretchen to come out to the farm and he would take her out for a tour of the area. Jan suggested that Jason and Caitlyn Cahill who runs the zoning group, may be interested in hearing more about Gary's campus and would benefit from the tour.

Other Business:

Kip notes the Arapahoe County Transportation Plan draws out areas of sub-areas transportation plans such as Byers and Strasburg. In the plan they talk about pockets of growth. In the eastern part of I-70 there is not going to be wholesale growth, there is just not enough water. Pockets of growth is a

wonderful tool to define how growth can happen. Kip thanked Loretta and Jan for being open to go in this direction.

Adjournment:

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