

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES**

**REAP Business Meeting**

October 13, 2022

12:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID# 615-031-3051

The monthly meeting of the I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Kirk Holwell

**The following Board Members were present:**

Wil Chase	Loretta Daniel	Michelle Gayeski	Kirk Holwell
Frank Linnebur	Gary May	Tom Turrell	Becky Zierer

**Guests attending were:**

Angie	Binder	CO Advocates
Kip	Cheroutes	REAP
Aracely	Escauaute	Arapahoe County
Sarah	Gist	AC-REP
Dan	Hoff	Strasburg Schools
Sherry	James	
Jack	Keever	Citizen
Kathy	Mahan	REAP
Tim	Morgan	Adams County
Robert	Osborn	CORE Electric
Gretchen	Ricehill	Arapahoe County
Ethan	Rouse	Adams County
Robbin	Schincke	Morgan Community College
Kathy	Smiley	I-70 Scout
Hollee	Swain	May Farms

Shanelle	Watts	Adams County
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**Approval of September 8th, 2022 Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes were approved as submitted.

**Chairman’s Report:**

**Executive Director’s Report:**

Kip introduced Robert and thanked CORE for hosting the REAP meeting.

**Guest Speaker(s):**

**Robert J. Osborn, Esq. – CORE Director of Business Development**

Robert explained CORE’s Mission as connecting lives and communities through choice and innovation. The vision is to be the premier energy provider for an everchanging future. Core is local Coloradans serving Coloradans, we are partners to the communities we serve, we donation to and supporting hundreds of charitable programs and local nonprofits. CORE Electric Cooperative is member owned and each has a say in how we operate and who sits on our boards. No other business model offers such a direct relationship between the utility and the people it serves. CORE does not operate for profit. Our margins are invested back into the distribution system and returned as capital credits to members whenever possible. Over \$120 million have been returned to our members over the last decade. CORE is the largest electric cooperative in Colorado and among top in the United States. CORE has 170,000 meters in 11 counties serving 5,000 square miles. CORE has many sources of energy supplies. In 2021 coal made up 59.7% of the energy source with wind, solar and natural gas making up the remaining 40%. The projected energy sources by 2026 eliminates coal with increases to natural gas, wind, hydro and solar with the largest increases in natural gas and solar sources. CORE has a growing solar commitment and will be contracting for another 100 – 150 MWs of solar/battery storage by 2025. CORE’s average bill for a household that uses 700 kWh of energy is lower than the average among Colorado’s other electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and inventor-owned utilities. A chart showed the comparisons of other Colorado electric utilities at \$102.66 and CORE at \$99.04. The new focus in 2022 and long-term is to generate additional revenue by increasing commercial and industrial services, growth in service territory and developing revenue-generating programs such as vehicle programs and infrastructure. CORE gives back to the community through their many programs. CORE awards \$2,000 in grants to 35 high school seniors each year, totaling \$70,000 annually. They have made \$500,000 in donations to charitable donations across their service territory. Employees can spend a workday volunteering at local nonprofits or charitable organizations. Additional funds are available for community events, programs and chambers. CORE received approval for \$124,000 in Charge Ahead Colorado Grant funding for charger locations. CORE members have access to free charging at the Bennett CORE location. The next steps include performing site designs in partnerships with municipal partners, complete design, secure land lease agreements, precure materials and construct sites. The

supply chain for charger suppliers is 10 – 22 weeks. Members can trust CORE to serve as their energy use experts. CORE will provide data-driven guidance to help members make the right choices and get the maximum value from distributed energy resources. Members will view data analysis as an added service above and beyond traditional utility services.

**Becky Zierer, President of the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce**

Becky talked about the benefits of joining the Chamber and reminded everyone to join the monthly lunch and learn events held at May Farms. The I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce is happy to assist with ribbon cutting ceremonies for brand-new, newly renovated, or relocated businesses. The Chamber provides these services for free to Chamber members. To schedule your ribbon cutting ceremony, contact the Chamber.

**Other Business:**

Kip thanked CORE for the use of the conference room and for providing the lunch. The next REAP meeting is the annual board of directors meeting and not a public meeting. REAP will not be meeting in December but will resume again in January.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.