

MINUTES
REAP BOARD MEETING
DRAFT

December 10, 2009
11:45 a.m.
Front Range Airport

The monthly meeting of the I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chairman Wil Chase.

Roll Called with the following Board Members present:

Rod Bockenfeld	Wil Chase	Doug Claussen	Gary Duke
Ivy Fischer	Dennis Heap	Kirk Holwell	Sue Horn
Mike LeClair	Alice Nichol	Matt Reay	Jerry Rohlfis
Paul Rosenberg	Tom Turrell	Bob Yaich	

The following Board Members were absent

Chad Argentar	Glenn Conser	Patty Doyle	Frank Fields
Al Holcomb	John Knight	Frank Linnebur	Gary May
Stuart McArthur			

Guests attending were:

Charles Bayley	Town of Bennett
Terrye Hoffman	Prairie Skies Technical Services
Don Hulse	Comanche Crossing
Julio Iturreria	Arapahoe County Planning
Virginia Jones	I-70 Publishing Company
Jack Keever	REAP
Luanne Lown	REAP & I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce
Jeff Marck	Vogel & Associates
Abel Montoya	Adams County Planning
Larry Pace	Adams County Commissioner
Ed VanderTook	Strasburg School District
Steven Vetter	I-70 Publishing Company
Greg Wright	Edward Jones
Jan Yeckes	Arapahoe County Planning

A quorum was present.

Minutes Approved

The Minutes of the November 12, 2009 Board Meeting were submitted for approval. Motion was made by Jerry Rohlfis and seconded by Sue Horn to approve the Minutes as written. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Review 2009 Business Plan

Jack Keever reviewed the Business Plan for 2009. .He is very pleased that we met 5 of our 6 goals for the year.

Business Locations

Reap continues to assist developers and communities with business prospects. Relocation leads from the state and others have been forwarded to interested parties throughout the I-70 Corridor.

Planning

A regional plan is being developed for the I-70 Corridor. The plan will help create a corridor-wide vision, provide direction, create buy-in for residents, provide some predictability, assures business about opportunities and investment, and help market the corridor. Arapahoe County Planning will lead the effort with active support from Adams County. REAP will help bring interested stakeholders to the project. A Balanced Housing Plan is currently being developed separately by both counties. When finished, the data will be combined into a special corridor report. Adams County Planning will manage production of this report.

Development Forums and REAP Meetings

Reap has scheduled presentations of major interest to the economic well being of the corridor. January will feature the Railroad Relocation Study (to the eastern plains) by the Colorado Department of Transportation. February through May will center on the existing town and small area plans of the corridor. These will form the basis of the new overall Regional Plan.

Small Business Seminars

The Chamber and REAP sponsored a series of Small Business Development Center seminars from February through June. They will include subjects of interest to new, established and home-based enterprises, and workshops by The Arapahoe County Library District using their newly acquired specialized data bases for business.

Youth Entrepreneurship

REAP will continue encouraging corridor school districts to expand entrepreneurship training in their classes and youth activities. This year because of budget constraints, we were not able to do some of the planned activities.

Community Profile

A new profile and updated demographics was provided by the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation and given to us for our use.

Other Activities

Reap will continue to increase corridor visibility by participating in state and regional economic development events; will publicize REAP activities as appropriate; and other activities as directed by the Board Of Directors.

Water Summit Forum

The recent Water Summit held at May Farms was well attended. Wil Chase spoke along with others and did ask for some State funding to help all of the towns work together for developing a renewable water source. It was commented by many of the people that water holds the key to developing our area and we need to work to create storage, recycling and better use of our water resources.

New Corridor Economic Assessment

Jan Yeckes stressed they did not have a contract yet, but had chosen a company to develop the New Corridor Economic Assessment. As soon as the information is available, she will let us know. A press release will be issued at such time.

Design, Printing, Distribution of Corridor Study and Mapping

Jack Keever led a discussion of what type of printed materials we would like to have. He was envisioning a map with the demographics on the other side. Some of the people preferred the brochure that was designed with reference made to the website and maps available there. The idea of having maps available on a CD was also discussed as an option. Rod Bockenfeld suggest that

Jack contact their printing department directly to see what could be done. The suggestion was made to try to contact local television stations for coverage of what is happening good in the area was also brought up. .

Suggested topics for 2010 REAP meetings

Many topics were suggested for presentation for the 2010 calendar year. Among them were:

Banking Industry

Solar tech – solar research facility

Union Pacific – looking for Rail access availability for building sites

Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation

School District updates from superintendents

Water providers – Mark Harding, Bob Lembke

Plains Medical Center

Local Rec Districts – keeping kids occupied and attracting families to the area

Other items that were brought up included inviting board members for local water providers to attend our meetings. Expanding our invitation list to include other community members.

How to get on a site selection radar? How to market our area more aggressively? Can we get some of our local sites listed on Adams County Economic Development site and on Metro Denver site? Without water how can we compete to get development?

Announcements

Jan Yeckes invited everyone to attend the meeting on December 14 at May Farms. They will host an open house with a buffet to get input form the community members from Byers and Strasburg. They will be sharing the subarea plans, as well as have representatives from Open Space and Transportation Departments. It is a good way to be heard.

Rod Bockenfeld announced that through SCFD there would be a symphony concert coming out here. They are looking for a location to host it. Alice Nichol told that members on the committee included Marilyn Elliott and Kelli Englesman. The upcoming Kieko .

Adjournment

Motion was made by _____ and seconded by _____ to adjourn the meeting at _____ p.m.