

MINUTES
KIOWA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
MEETING OF April 21, 2015

PRESENT: Donald Oswald, Mike Lening, Kelly Courkamp, Dennis Pearson, Jerry Weber, Sean Lening and Jan Richards. Jimmy Brown was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM with the above parties present. Minutes of the March 17, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Kelly Courkamp moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Oswald and passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report was then reviewed. Jan noted she was still having difficulty receiving approximately \$36,000 owed to KCEDF by the Federal government due to difficulties with accessing the website that initiates payment. The Town of Eads has paid their \$7500 yearly dues and \$10,000 was received through a grant from Cooper-Clark. Weber moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Kelly Courkamp and passed unanimously.

Jan presented a written Coordinator Report for review. Jan also noted she had arranged for Tom Haskell to remove tumbleweeds from Jackson's Pond prior to Kids Fishing Day, which is scheduled for May 3, 2015. Some of the FFA youth had also cleaned up trash around the pond.

Jan noted Eads Consumer Supply had approached her about going to the Town of Eads and discussing possible incentives that might be offered to local businesses interested in expanding. There was also discussion about the possibility of a Love's Truck Stop being constructed north of Eads and a new regulation involving 'grease traps' that may be required of food preparation sites such as restaurants.

Discussion was held regarding offering support to the Town of Eads toward operation of the swimming pool. The Board was reluctant to contribute funds toward the operation of the current pool, but wants the Town of Eads to know it is supportive of having getting a new pool. Oswald moved to approve a \$1000 contribution toward the construction of a new pool, or as matching funds for a grant to purchase a new pool. Weber seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding maintenance of Kiowa Creek Natural Area and Jackson's Pond. Jan reported Bob Howerton is willing to help maintain the equipment. Bob has asked for a key to the storage area in the barn where some of the equipment is stored. The Board agreed to let Howerton have possession of a key and to assist with maintenance of the grounds and the equipment. There was discussion of possible ways to keep people from driving onto the handicapped fishing pier at Jackson's Pond. Law enforcement has suggested a hidden camera and has agreed to patrol the pond area more often. There was further discussion regarding the possible purchase of a tractor to use for maintenance. It was noted the Town of Sheridan Lake had a tractor they might be willing to sell, but no action was taken.

After discussion, the date for the KCEDF Annual Meeting was set for July 27, 2015. There is some thought to having the meeting held at the theater this year and the Board liked that idea. Jan did note that membership in KCEDF was down this year. She plans to make some follow-up calls to businesses in an effort to get them to join.

Business of the Year nominees were discussed and a winner was selected.

Jan reported the FBLA Club at Eads High School is preparing another 'Shop at Home' flyer for distribution.

The USDA grant for the feasibility study for a potential business on the east end of Kiowa County was discussed. Jan reported the USDA representative had indicated the grant application was strong and approval looks promising. Jan also reported the USDA representative indicated the grant would be considered even stronger if a request for an Administrative Fee was removed from the grant application. After discussion, Oswald moved to leave the Administrative Fee in the grant application. The motion was seconded by Sean Lening and passed unanimously.

The board then held a lengthy discussion regarding incentives the county or town might put in place to help attract new businesses to the county. Oswald stated the county commissioners would discuss the possibility, but stressed he desired such an incentive to benefit even existing businesses, not just to attract new ones. The matter was tabled for further discussion.

Jan announced a new book has been written about the Sand Creek Massacre and the author will be at the Plains Theater on June 14, 2015 for a special 'book launch'. Arrangements for food, etc. are being made through KCEDF.

The Eads FFA is looking for sponsors to help purchase new stock panels for the FFA animal facility. The panels cost \$500 each and if an entity or business donates the funds to purchase a panel, a plaque will be attached to the panel providing the donor recognition. After lengthy discussion, the Board tabled any decision, noting the time Jan was spending assisting the FFA in obtaining grant funds for the project was a form of donation.

The upcoming Entrepreneurship Expo that will be held at the theater on May 6, 2015 was discussed. The school is seeking sponsors to help defray the cost. Weber moved to donate \$1000 toward the event. The motion was seconded by Sean Lening. The Board all voted in favor of the motion other than Kelly Courkamp, who abstained due to her affiliation with Eads Schools and the event.

Jan reported 'Kids Fishing Day' would be held May 3, 2015 and that KCEDF was supplying a number of prizes to be given away at the event. The Eads Chamber of Commerce will be providing lunch. Jan invited Board members to attend and assist if needed.

Jan notified the Board she intended to take a few days of vacation time toward the end of April in order to travel to St Louis to visit her family. The Board approved her absence by consensus. There was no Agriculture Committee report provided, although it was noted grass had been planted on the KCEDF ground no longer being farmed.

The Housing Committee report indicated there was some interest in a couple of the lots in Kiowa Creek estates.

The Resource Committee report reiterated the need for security measures at Jackson's Pond to prevent vandalism and improper use of the facilities. It was also noted that KCEDF now has approximately 80-90 acres of ground left to sell.

There being no additional business to discuss, the next meeting was scheduled for May 18, 2015 at 6:30 PM. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.