

## MINUTES

### KIOWA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

MEETING OF MAY 20, 2014

PRESENT: Mike Lening, Kelly Courkamp, Jerry Weber, Donald Oswald, Dennis Pearson and Jan Richards. Absent were Jimmy Brown and Sean Lening. Guests present were Cindy McCloud and Charlie Collins.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM with the above parties present.

The Board thanked Collins, Tom Olsen and a friend of theirs named "Bubba" for the work they did at Jackson's Pond prior to the Kids Fishing Day. Collins stated he and his friends would like to continue maintaining the pond area if it is acceptable to the Board. Discussion was held regarding the type of equipment needed. The Town of Eads will be asked if Collins can use the tractor they own to do mowing. The Board also agreed to pay for fuel used by Collins and the others for mowing. Collins stated he would donate his fuel. Jan also noted Roger Saffer and Craig Kerfoot had apparently sprayed weeds prior to the event. Collins stated he just needed to know what he could and could not do at the pond. Collins left the meeting at 6:50 PM.

Minutes of the special meeting of April 15, 2014 and the regular meeting of April 15, 2014 were reviewed. Kelly moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Oswald and passed unanimously.

Jan provided a written Treasurer's Report which the Board reviewed. Jan explained for the new members how the National Park Service 'pass-through' operated and noted two new memberships had been received---from Cobblestone Inn and Kiowa Health Mart. Weber moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Kelly seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Board then reviewed Jan's written Coordinator Report. There were no questions or comments.

The intended farm ground re-seeding was then discussed. It has not happened yet, so Mike Lening will follow up to determine the delay.

Work needed at Kiowa Creek Natural Area was briefly discussed. Jan noted at the moment there is nothing urgent needing attention. Jan mentioned there were some sheets of plywood in Sharon Johnson's garage she would like moved, since they were purchased for the Natural Area. Steps will be taken to move the plywood to a different location. Jan also stated there were four (4) youth who had volunteered to do work at KCNA this summer.

Proposed changes to the KCEDF By-laws were reviewed. It was determined further clarification needs to be made concerning Section 3.303.1 before the Board will approve the changes. The matter was tabled until the June meeting.

Jan reported Eunice Weber and Jack Howard of the ambulance service had examined the site of the proposed Flight for Life helipad and determined the location would work just fine. Weber and Howard will bring a proposal to the Board in the near future concerning construction of the helipad.

Jan noted the party that had previously expressed an interest in possibly expanding the size of the lot they currently own or possibly purchasing a second lot had not gotten back to her regarding the matter. Jan will keep the Board informed.

Kids Fishing Day was discussed. It was noted the number of kids registered was down from last year, possibly because of the state track competition held the same weekend. It was also noted the east end of the county was looking into reviving a Kids Fishing Day at Sheridan Lake.

Jan provided a brief update on the future of the Snow Goose Festival. Colorado Parks & Wildlife will still support the idea and assist where they can, but it will be up to the Lamar Chamber of Commerce to ‘take the lead’ in coming years rather than DCPW. The Eads Chamber of Commerce will continue to monitor the situation.

Terry Laird, who has previously leased KCEDF land to graze cattle, currently has no cattle, but has asked for “first right of refusal” for leasing the pasture when he does obtain cattle. Following discussion, the Board decided by consensus to grant Laird’s request.

Pete Koch, who has previously leased KCEDF land to farm, is not certain he received official notice that the land would no longer be available. Weber moved to send Koch official notice. The motion was seconded by Oswald and passed unanimously.

The idea of creating a ‘Lodging Tax’ was then discussed. Oswald stated the Kiowa County commissioners had not discussed such a tax and didn’t think it would be because it was too late to get it on the ballot since voters would need to approve it. Jan requested Oswald take the idea to the other commissioners for discussion, noting a lodging tax did not typically affect local residents because it was only applied to rented motel rooms. Oswald agreed to do so. Discussion followed since such a tax is not universally agreed upon because it increases the amount paid for a room, which could conceivably cause people to stay elsewhere.

With the seating of the new Board of directors for KCEDF, new Committee assignments were made as follows:

Agriculture Committee: Mike Lening, Jerry Weber, Donald Oswald

Housing Committee: Dennis Pearson, Donald Oswald, Kelly Courkamp

Resource Committee: Jimmy Brown, Sean Lening, Mike Lening

Oswald moved to approve the appointments as noted. The motion was seconded by Kelly and passed unanimously.

Kelly Courkamp then asked if KCEDF had taken an official position regarding designation of Southeast Colorado as a regional heritage area. The KCEDF Board has not done so pending clarification of what it actually means to the area. There is some concern among landowners such a designation could lead to government takeover of their land.

Discussion returned to maintenance of the Jackson's Pond area and KCNA. Weber moved to appoint Charlie Collins as the lead for providing maintenance as long as he consults with Jan for approval of what he is planning to do. The motion was seconded by Kelly and passed unanimously. It was also decided to purchase a trimmer for Collins to use. Pearson will also check with the Town of Eads to see if Collins can utilize the town's tractor for mowing. The Board will meet at Jackson's Pond for the initial portion of the June meeting to view the area and determine what needs to be done as far as on-going maintenance.

Eunice Weber and Jack Howard arrived at the meeting at 8:15 PM. Further discussion was held regarding the proposed site of the permanent helipad. The Board reiterated their desire to make the site permanent with the intent of having it well-constructed and not just a place for helicopters to land. Weber and Howard left the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Jan noted David Marble still has not paid for hay bales he purchased from KCEDF. Mike Lening stated he would get in touch with Marble in an effort to collect.

There were no Committee reports provided.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 18, 2014 at Jackson's Pond to view the KCNA before returning to KCEDF office for balance of the meeting.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, Weber moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Oswald and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.