

MINUTES
KIOWA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2015

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

The meeting was called to order by Kelly Courkamp at 6:35 PM with the above parties present.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 4, 2015 were reviewed. Oswald moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Sean Lening and passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report was then reviewed. Jan reported a computer issue has delayed payment to KCEDF from both the NPS and NAWCA, but will hopefully be fixed soon so funds can be received. Jan also noted she will go onto Medicare in April and that will reduce the Health Insurance cost to KCEDF, as private health insurance provided by KCEDF will no longer be needed. Oswald moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Sean Lening and passed unanimously.

Jan provided a written Coordinator's Report which was reviewed. Jan noted she is still working only part-time in the office, but is also doing what work she can from her home as she recuperates from surgery. Jan also noted the Artists of the Plains continues to have a difficult time and may have to close. One option discussed is for the gallery to move into the same building that currently houses the NPS as that location draws a lot of traffic. If the art gallery closes or moves, there has also been some discussion about turning the current gallery location into a fitness center for the community. Sean Lening moved to approve the Coordinator's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Oswald and passed unanimously.

A short discussion was then held regarding KCEDF support of the swimming pool operated by the Town of Eads. It was suggested by Kelly Courkamp that the town send out notices about swimming lessons and the pool schedule prior to school letting out in May. Pearson stated he would pass the suggestion on to the town.

Jan noted the seeding of some KCEDF land to grass has finally been completed. Sean Lening moved to pay the bill for doing so. The motion was seconded by Oswald and passed unanimously.

The KCEDF Annual Meeting was briefly discussed. It was decided to table the discussion until the April meeting since three Board members were absent. The Business of the Year discussion was also tabled for the same reason.

Jan reported on the USDA grant being worked on in conjunction with a new business being developed in the east end of the county. USDA is making changes to their scoring method for grants, so a decision on the USDA grant will be delayed by two to three months. Jan is trying to figure a way to move forward with the business project without waiting for the USDA grant. It

was also noted there is \$2600 listed in the USDA grant application for 'Administration' and if that is removed from the application it improves the grant's score by ten points when reviewed.

Work on the restaurant continues. The new owners hope to have it back open sometime in April of 2015.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has some paperwork that needs to be signed on behalf of KCEDF. The Board decided to wait for Board President Mike Lening to review the paperwork before signing. The paperwork is due by March 31st.

Jan reported a local resident has expressed interest in setting up a 'Poker Run' for motorcyclists in the summer of 2016. Jan asked the Board if there would be interest in supporting such an endeavor, which could conceivably bring several hundred riders into Kiowa County for the event. The Board stated they would be supportive of such an even, subject to learning more details as it develops.

Jan also reported there is the possibility of a dairy being built along the Prowers/Kiowa county line. The information available is the dairy will be built in whichever county offers the most business benefits, such as tax-breaks etc. Oswald stated the Kiowa County Commissioners would be willing to discuss some possible incentives.

There was discussion about the continuing potential for a new truck stop being considered by Love's Stores north of Eads. The project is still being considered by Love's, but no firm decision to build the truck stop has been made.

There was no Agriculture Committee Report. Jan noted in the Housing Committee report there has been some interested expressed in another lot in Kiowa Creek Estates.

The Resource Committee report noted there has been some vandalism at the barn and also around Jackson's Pond. The Kiowa County S.O has agreed to patrol the area more often. Jan suggested using some of the funds in the Rod Johnson Memorial Fund to purchase a large rock to place in front of the handicap fishing pier in order to stop people from driving out onto the landing.

There being no additional business to discuss, the next meeting was scheduled for April 21, 2015 at the KCEDF office beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.