



WCEDC Mission Statement: *To Improve Wood County's Quality of Life by Promoting Economic Development*

WCEDC BOARD MINUTES
WOOD COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING/ELECTIONS OFFICE
300 W. Bermuda Street
Quitman, Texas 75783

Minutes of January 25, 2023 Board Meeting

Attendees: Tom Keenan (Chair), Stephen Eggleston, Gwen Winters, Lee Smith, Thomas Callan, Adam Ehlert, Craig Lindholm (Vice Chair), Steven Steele, Pam Swanner, Allene Doggett; Quorum present.

Members not present: Mike Simmons.

Staff Present: Jim Berry, WCEDC Interim Executive Director; Drew Deatherage, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Wood County Judge Kevin White, Larry Tucker with Wood County Monitor, Kent Huffman with East Texas Marketing LLC, Airport Manager Dr. John Wisdom of Wood County Airport, Assistant Airport Manager Erin Mason of Wood County Airport, Mineola City Councilwoman Cassandra Sampson, Chana Gail Willis, Jim Bailey of Mineola, Yantis City Alderman Gerald Schmidt, and Ashley Barner of the Winnsboro News.

Call to Order

Chairman Keenan called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Citizen Comment:

There was no citizen comment made at this meeting.

Consider/Approve of December 7, 2022 Minutes: Mr. Lindholm made a motion to approve the December 7, 2022 minutes with requested amendment to "Chairman's Report" section. Mr. Smith 2nd the motion; motion carried.

Administration:

- Financial Reports: Mr. Berry presented the financial summary for the month of December as presented. Mr. Berry said the Marketing Committee will be reassessing the marketing budget over the next month. This is also mentioned under the Marketing Committee report. Mr. Deatherage presented the Sales and Use Tax and Hotel Occupancy Tax revenues for the month of December.
- Executive Director Search Committee: Mr. Berry discussed the ongoing search for a new Executive Director. The members of the Search Committee are: Mr. Keenan, Mr. Smith, Mr. Steele, Mr. Lindholm, Mr. Berry, Judge White, Commissioner Simmons, and Mrs. Winters.

Chairman's Report:

- Board Member Terms: Chairman Keenan presented an amended document for board member terms. This was due to an error previously depicting board members serving terms more than two years. The document was signed by Mr. Keenan, Mr. Berry, and Judge White to officially amend the terms.
- Executive Committee Rotation: Chairman Keenan announced that Mrs. Winters would join the Executive Committee as the committee has a 6-month rotation seat.
- Strategic Plan Update: Chairman Keenan presented an update on the strategic plan with additional information from Judge White. At this time, the WCEDC plans to pursue an economic development strategic plan, however all contracts with the selected firms will be put before the Commissioners Court for approval.



Featured Committee Reports – Additional Reports as Needed

- **Marketing:** Mr. Eggleston presented the Board with an update from the Marketing Committee. Mr. Eggleston introduced his business partner, Kent Huffman, who is a co-owner of East Texas Marketing LLC. Mr. Eggleston also presented the travel brochures to the board, and will begin a distribution process for them.
- **Infrastructure:** Mr. Smith presented the Board with an update from the Infrastructure Committee. Mr. Smith said ETCOG Executive Director David Cleveland received support from the Commissioners Court for a broadband project ETCOG has been pursuing in Wood County.

Mr. Smith introduced Dr. John Wisdom and Mrs. Erin Mason of the Wood County Airport. Dr. Wisdom serves as the Airport Manager and Mrs. Mason serves as the on-site Assistant Airport Manager. Mrs. Mason gave a presentation about the current status and future for the airport. Mrs. Mason said construction will be wrapping up in early February for the new apron. The new apron will triple the current parking space and allow larger aircraft like jets to access the fuel pumps easier and allow overnight parking on the new ramp. Mrs. Mason said one of the future projects the airport will pursue is expanding the runway to 5,000 feet to allow larger aircraft to land at the airport and attract corporate clients. Mrs. Mason also explained that the airport serves as an economic development and tourism hub for Wood County as corporate aircraft and recreational pilots utilize it.

- **Government Affairs:** This committee report will be held in February.

Adjournment & Announcements

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:09 p.m. 2nd by Mr. Callen; motion carried.

Approved by WCEDC Board of Directors

Approval Date: February 22, 2023

Tom Keenan; WCEDC Board Chair