

**Wood County Economic Development Commission**

P.O. Box 578, Quitman, Texas 75783  
311 County Road 2355, Mineola, Texas 75773  
Phone: 903-768-2402 Fax: 903-768-2400



**Executive Director: Roger Johnson**

rjohnson@mywoodcounty.com  
www.woodcountytx.com

WCEDC BOARD Minutes  
Thursday, November 5, 2020, 5:30 pm  
QUITMAN CIVIC CENTER  
602 S Mcallister St.  
Quitman, TX 75783

Minutes of October 1, 2020, at 5:30 pm

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Attendees: Jim Berry, Tom Callan, Neal Duncan, Tom Keenan, Mike Simmons, Gwen Winters, and Lee Smith. Quorum Present.  
Members not present: Gregg Hollen, Allene Doggett, Craig Lindholm, Vic Savelli, and Rodney Kieke.  
Others Present: Larry Tucker with Wood County Monitor, Roger Johnson WCEDC Executive Director  
Citizen Comment: None

**Old Business**  
**Consent Agenda**

September 3 Minutes: No discussion. Motion by Neal Duncan and seconded by Lee Smith to approve. A vote carried unanimously

Financials: Jim Berry presented the Financial report. Jim Berry brought out financials definitions by discussing funds available to the EDC of Hot Funds and General Fund. Jim explained how he was handling the financial report to show how we could track the figures easier. No vote was taken.

All the invoices were considered and approved unanimously. Motion to approve by Tom Callan and seconded by Neal Duncan

**New Business:**

The Bassmaster tournament is moving forward, but it will not be as big as it has been in past years. We will be having a meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup> to finish up the tournament.

The Airport Appreciation dinner was canceled because of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The Business Relief program is finished, and the checks have been sent to the recipients. The total dollar figure was \$103,850, with \$96,750 leftover from the UCC funds.

Neal Duncan demonstrated Committee Tracking Software. This is the Trello program to have all of our reports joined together. This will help us with our Strategic planning for Wood County. Information is beginning to be shared, and the various boards and cards will be available for the development of the Annual Report and the County Master Plan. The boards include the WCEDC function baseline and tracking goals with individual committee input. Also included is information on the HOT fund audit, business incentive program, and more.

The UCC application program will be looked at again and will be set up on a date in January.

**Chairman's Report:**

The report was incorporated with the Committee Tracking Software given by Neal Duncan.

**Committee Reports:**

Tom Callan brought in the Wood County District Clerk Donna Houston to give us an update on Criminal Dispositions for the last two years in Wood County for crimes of misdemeanors and felony cases.

Gwen Winters reported on her Health and Human Services Committee to set up a commission that will gather information to develop an online survey that will capture data from the entire Wood County for ongoing public health issues to improve the quality of life.

Lee Smith gave an update on his Infrastructure & Transportation Committee and will present the first kickoff meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Neal Duncan presented his meeting with UT Tyler with the East Texas Entrepreneurship Center and the Hibbs Business and Economic Institute to help with the WCEDC in future programs.

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**Executive Directors Report:**

We discussed the finishing up of the Coronavirus Relief Fund program. I brought in Mike Simmons on a discussion of what Wood County will be doing to improve the Wood County tax abatement programs. The WCEDC needed a tax abatement and job incentive program. The work being done by Roger and Mike Simmons would tie into Craig's Economic Development Committee.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm



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Executive Director's Report  
Board of Directors Meeting of the  
Wood County Economic Development Commission

November 5, 2020

As you all know, we have finished our Coronavirus Relief fund that has helped many businesses in Wood County, and we keep on receiving "thank you" from the companies we have helped. We still have \$96,650 in our fund. There may be a possibility of doing the third round because of the businesses that need help.

The abatement education program we did with Dr. Felecia Herndon, Executive Vice President of Finance and Operations of the Tyler Economic Development Council, we had was a success. Those are the things that help us to start getting Wood County moving forward. I want to plan another one just for the city councils, mayors, and anyone who would like to participate in a program that would undoubtedly help their community. I also have a recording of her Tax Abatement program to make copies of to give out to anyone who wants it.

As I sure you know about the Toyota Bassmasters Texas Fest this weekend at Lake Fork. It will be interesting to study what type of participation and how many will be there because of the Coronavirus pandemic. This event can be something we can learn from regarding other programs we will be looking to do. We did furnish for the tournament an ambulance, helicopter, and a 20x20 tent given by UT Health – Tyler.

I did call Corellas/Bass Pro Headquarters to see who I would need to talk to get a store here at Lake Fork. She explained that they were not expanding now because of the Coronavirus, and they are part of Corellas. She did ask me to send them information on the location.

Finally, Tyler's Small Business Development Center Small Business Seminar Series from TJC will setup business classes for individuals in the Wood County area. It is no cost to us or the individuals. The program will let us give out education classes to the individuals who need it at no price to them or the WCEDC.

Thank You,

Roger Johnson  
Executive Director Wood County EDC  
Phone 903-768-2402 Mobile 903-497-7366  
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