

# WOOD COUNTY INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

May 4, 2017

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

AJ's Fish House in Alba, Texas

## Members Present:

Sue Hitzemann	Sam Scroggins	Martha Scroggins	Gary Edwards
Gerald Elliott	Lowe Ann Elliott	Allene Doggett	Janna Castloo
Dan Kirk	Ben Hudman	Joanne Wisdom	Miste Davis
JR Simpson	Richard Pearce	Ken Donahue	Dana Donahue

## Members Not Present:

Marcella Smith	Neal Duncan	Robby Fair	Jason LaRue
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**Others Present:** Executive Director Kiki Bettis; guest, Gwyn Kirk; Media: Terry Matthews, News Writer for the Winnsboro News; and Tommy Anderson, News Writer for the Wood County Monitor.

- 1. Call To Order/Welcome:** Chairwoman Sue Hitzemann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Chairwoman Hitzemann welcomed guests Gwyn Kirk along with media representatives Terry Matthews and Tommy Anderson and thanked them for attending the meeting. The invocation was led by Gerald Elliott.
- 2. Open Forum:** Martha Scroggins asked that the board and executive committee consider funding a feasibility study for a multi-purpose expo center during its upcoming budget process.
- 3. Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by JR Simpson and seconded by Sam Scroggins to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held April 6, 2017. Motion carried- unanimously. A motion was made by Ken Donahue and seconded by Lowe Ann Elliott to accept the financials for the month ending April 30, 2017 as presented. Motion carried-unanimously.
- 4. The Executive Committee:** Chairwoman Hitzemann selected Neal Duncan and Richard Pearce to serve on the Executive Committee along with Vice Chairman Dan Kirk and Secretary Janna Castloo. No action was taken.
- 5. BSA 'Welcome to Beautiful Wood County' Signs:** The agenda item be tabled until the next board meeting.
- 6. Executive Directors Report:** Bettis reminded the board the deadline for HOT Fund Projects is May 12. On Saturday, May 27 the Wood County Airport Board will host a ceremony to rededicate it as Wood County Airport Collins Field, in honor of Wayne Collins. Mr. Collins has been very instrumental in developing the Airport into the valuable asset it is today. It was because of Mr. Collins that Wood County received the award for "Airport of the Year" in 2010. He has served as the Chairman of the Airport board from its inception in 1978 until 2008 and continues to serve on the Airport Board in an Advisory Role. Bettis also reported that the Mock Disaster Drill held April 28 was a huge success. Several students from the Quitman and Mineola districts were on site along with the County Emergency Management Coordinator, volunteer fire departments, EMS, NET Health, Wood County Sheriff's Department and Airport Board members.
- 7. Chairman's Report, Texas Parks & Wildlife/HOT Fund Grants, Disclosure of Chairman's April 25 meeting:** Chairwoman Hitzemann requested the Disclosure of the April 25, Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPW) /HOT Fund Grants all be lumped into her report. Hitzemann began her report stating she had met with Winnsboro Mayor Randy Parrish and City Administrator Craig Lindholm after she said a complaint was lodged against the Executive Director. She also met with County Judge Bryan Jeanes, Wood County Airport Board President Randy Bateman and her personal lawyer to discuss the complaints. Hitzemann claimed she received complaints with regards to Bettis not returning telephone calls and that she was not in the office as much as she should be which was ultimately effecting her duties with the Airport. Hitzemann also said after speaking with Mayor Parrish, it was brought to her attention that the WCIC does not have a lawyer. The WCIC has been utilizing the district attorney and in going forward with several projects and/or incentives agreements, Hitzemann suggested the WCIC obtain a lawyer to help look over contracts- to make sure all of the WCIC's ducks are in a row. Hitzemann also said she had called a meeting on April 25 in regards to a possible committee, which she was calling an "oversight committee" to handle issues that were brought up by a member, the chair or the ED. After talking with the five board member committee, they decided there was no need for the committee. Martha Scroggins took the floor and stressed on the importance of transparency of the WCIC as well as the board members. Scroggins stated that board members should not be calling on special friends (on the board) to have a little committee meeting, even if it's in our authority to do so. New board member Joanne Wisdom also spoke to the board with regards to the complaints and suggested the WCIC board question the Airport board members as to whether or not the

airport board was that upset. Wisdom told the board she spends a lot of time at the airport and with those members and she had not heard of any complaints or displeasure with Bettis. Ben Hudman, who also serves on the Airport Board agreed saying he had not heard a peep regarding Bettis and her performance. Bettis addressed the board stating she had not heard of any complaints and that she is diligent in notifying the board members when she is out of the office. She also stated that the office phone transfers to her cell phone when she is not in the office. Bettis also requested a copy of the job description given to Hitzemann, reportedly by the Airport Board President Randy Bateman, as Bettis was only given a green notebook at the time of her employment with the WCIC which included a list of job duties and responsibilities for the WCIC and the Airport. Before wrapping up her discussion, Bettis asked the board members to notify her of any issues or problems with regards to the WCIC including her position stating she cannot fix something if she is unaware of the problems. Sam Scroggins addressed the board with his concerns in regards to the Chairwoman's actions. Scroggins feels it was inappropriate for the chair to attempt to form a committee without the board members knowledge as it certainly violates the decorum of the WCIC. Hitzemann also reported that with the budget process around the corner, she had contacted TPW to find out what were the chances of getting the Toyota Bass Classic to return to Lake Fork. They also spoke about TPW reworking their Sharelunker program and how they were looking for sponsorships for the program. Hitzemann said the sponsorships would run \$10,000 and asked the board if that would be something they would consider sponsoring and implementing such into the budget. A discussion ensued about whether or not the sponsorship would qualify for HOT Funds and if TPW would have to follow the same channels as other grant applicants. The board members agreed that TPW should have to apply just like everyone else. Hitzemann also reported on the airport expansion project stating the need for a 500 ft. runway is necessary for Sanderson Farms, along with other companies, to land their jets on. Gary Edwards suggested that if the WCIC planned to assist with one of the two projects he would request the money be spent on the airport as TPW can get money from the state.

8. **Community Reports:**

*Alba-* The annual Legends of Lake Fork Fishing Tournament will be held May 19-21. Members of the Alba EDC are working on the upcoming Country Fair. Also, several high school fishing teams have advanced to the state level which the competition will begin May 22.

*Golden:* The annual Kids Day will be held at the Community Center on May 19. Last weekend a fundraiser benefitting Carter Cash Mason who was recently diagnosed with a form of cancer. More fundraisers are expected to take place within the coming weeks.

*Holly Lake Ranch:* The golf course is undergoing several renovation improvements. There will be Golf Tournament held at the Ranch on Tuesday, June 6 and there are currently more than 100 teams registered.

*Hawkins-* The High School Baseball team has advanced to Regional Play where they will go head to head against Kernes in Malakoff this Friday.

*Mineola-* Sunnyman's has officially opened their gourmet restaurant. Cowburner's will officially open for business in their new facility in downtown on May 17. Farmers Market opens this Saturday. Showing at the Select Theater this weekend is Guardians of the Galaxy. The annual Kid Fish Tournament will held Saturday, June 6 at the Sabine River Authority headquarters on Lake Fork. The tournament will be held from 8 a.m. until noon. Wood County Crimestoppers are looking for volunteers. The group meets on Mondays at 6 p.m. at the Justice Center located in the Wood County Sheriff's Department. In honor of Wayne Collins, the Wood County Airport will host a dedication ceremony, officially naming the Airport "Collins Field" on May 27. The event will be held from noon until 2 pm.

*Quitman-* The City Pool will open Monday, May 29 with the annual celebration hosted by the Kiwanis Club. The event will be held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. followed by the opening of the Splash Pad at the Governor Jim Hogg City Park. The Rotary Club will be selling Chick-Fi-La sandwiches on the downtown square on Friday, May 19. The Speakeasy Coffee Shop is open and appears to be a huge hit and success. Downtown revitalization is underway with hopes of breaking ground officially in June.

*Winnsboro-* The Bonnie and Clyde Walking Tour will be held May 11 in downtown. The Farmers Market will open on Saturday. BTH Band has moved from Winnsboro and City National Bank has planned to move into the former BTH building. The new Madison Oaks Apartments are full and already looking to expand.

*Yantis:* The annual Catfish Classic Tournament will be held this weekend on Lake Fork along with a concert, raffle and parade. Everyone welcome and encouraged to attend.

9. **Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 1, 2017 at East Texas Burger Company in Mineola.

10/ Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



Kiki Bettis, Executive Director