



**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), Pam Swanner; Quorum present.

Members not present: Mike Simmons, Steven Steele, Allene Doggett.

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

Others Present: Christine Thomas of the Quitman Chamber of Commerce, Larry Tucker with Wood County Monitor, Ashley Barner and Allen D. Fisher both of the Winnsboro News, Dr. Dorothy Langley with the Jarvis Workforce Board, and Jolene Wallace of the Jarvis Workforce Board.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Keenan called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**Citizen Comment:**

There was no citizen comment made at this meeting.

**Consider/Approve of January 25, 2023 Minutes:** Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the January 25, 2023 minutes. Mr. Lindholm 2nd the motion; motion carried.

**Administration:**

- Financial Reports: Mr. Berry presented the financial summary for the month of January.
- Introduction of Christine Thomas as new Executive Director: Mr. Berry introduced Christine Thomas as the new Executive Director. Mrs. Thomas is currently the Executive Director of the Quitman Chamber of Commerce and will begin with the WCEDC on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Chairman's Report:**

- Strategic Plan Update: Chairman Keenan presented an update on the strategic plan. Chairman Keenan presented the components of the strategic plan as well as an update on the process. Chairman Keenan said he will present the strategic plan to the Commissioners Court on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Featured Committee Reports – Additional Reports as Needed**

- Marketing: Mr. Eggleston presented the Board with an update from the Marketing Committee. Mr. Eggleston announced that distribution has begun on the new travel brochure advertising Wood County. Mr. Eggleston also stated that he and Mrs. Thomas had an interview with KETK in Tyler on February 17<sup>th</sup> discussing the travel brochures.



- Economic Development Committee: Mr. Lindholm presented the Board with an update from the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Lindholm said that himself and Quitman Mayor Randy Dunn met with State Representative Cole Hefner and State Senator Bryan Hughes to discuss appropriations funding through the current legislative session for the Memory Care project in Quitman. The Memory Care board of directors is seeking \$50-\$60 million in funds to complete the project from the State. Mr. Lindholm also said they will be meeting with U.S. Congressman Lance Gooden to discuss appropriations from the U.S. Congress.
- Government Affairs: Dr. Langley and Mrs. Wallace presented an overview and progress of the Jarvis Workforce Board. The Workforce board is comprised of several employees of the largest industries in Wood County, school officials, retired workforce professionals, WCEDC board members, and leading professionals representing Jarvis Christian University. Their goal is to identify and create solutions to workforce issues in Wood County including lack of labor and soft skills. The board identified several of these issues and are working with county leaders and state workforce to help bring attention to these needs and bring in funding. Currently, JCU is proposing a large project that will allow their campus to host a workforce office and training center in Wood County. Mrs. Wallace and Dr. Langley presented this project to the WCEDC board as they seek funding for it.

**Adjournment & Announcements**

Mr. Ehlert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Smith; motion carried.

Approved by WCEDC Board of Directors

Tom Keenan; WCEDC Board Chair

Approval Date: March 22, 2023