



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 March 22, 2023 Board Meeting

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

Members not present: Mike Simmons and Adam Ehlert.

Staff Present: Christine Thomas, Executive Director; Drew Deatherage, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Phil Major with Wood County Monitor, Gerald Schmidt with the City of Yantis, Erin Mason with Wood County Airport, Mayor Randy Dunn with Quitman, and Darrell Slabough of the Wood County Memory Life Center Board of Directors.

Call to Order

Chairman Keenan called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Citizen Comment:

Mr. Schmidt made a public comment regarding advertising of hotels and motels near Yantis and Lake Fork for when the solar eclipse in 2024 will occur. Mr. Schmidt inquired on ways the WCEDC may be able to market these sites as East Texas has been named a premium area to view this.

Consider/Approve of February 22, 2023 Minutes: Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the January 25, 2023 minutes. Mr. Lindholm 2nd the motion; motion carried.

Administration:

- Financial Reports: The financial report was presented to the Board.
- Wood County Real Estate Forum: Mrs. Thomas presented a report from the Wood County Real Estate Forum on March 1st. The forum consisted of local and regional real estate agents and developers who took part in the discussion with the development of property around Wood County. Chairman Keenan and Mrs. Thomas presented an overview of the Commission to the forum.

Chairman's Report:

- Strategic Plan Update: Chairman Keenan presented an update on the strategic plan. Chairman Keenan announced the contract between Wood County and the University of Texas-Tyler was submitted and approved at the March 7th Commissioners Court. The next step will be to complete a new RFP for the rest of the study. Chairman Keenan also expressed interest in amending the old SWOT analysis as some components have allowed the county to grow.



Featured Committee Reports – Additional Reports as Needed

- Economic Development Committee: Mr. Lindholm and Mayor Dunn presented a slideshow to the Board regarding the Memory Life Center facilities proposed to be built in Quitman. The Memory Life Center Board of Directors have been discussing funding through the Texas State Legislature with both State Representative Cole Hefner and State Senator Bryan Hughes, as well as through the U.S. Congress with Congressman Lance Gooden. The estimated project will cost between \$60 and \$70 million dollars, and will have multiple facilities on the property including the resident's homes, a training center, connecting roadway to UT Health Quitman, and recreational activities.
- Health & Human Services Committee: Ms. Winters presented the Health & Human Services Committee report to the board. Ms. Winters discussed the ongoing efforts to reach out to the public regarding the Wood County Health Survey.

Adjournment & Announcements

Mr. Callan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:54 p.m. 2nd by Ms. Doggett; motion carried.

Approved by WCEDC Board of Directors

Approval Date: April 26, 2023

Tom Keenan; WCEDC Board Chair