

**Wood County Economic Development Commission**

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**Executive Director: Christophe Trahan**

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

WCEDC BOARD Minutes  
CAROL GREEN CIVIC CENTER  
602 McAllister St,  
Quitman, TX 75783

Minutes of April 21, 2021 Board Meeting, at 12:00 pm

**Attendees** Tom Keenan (Chair), Jim Berry, Craig Lindholm, Vic Savelli, Gwen Winters, and Allene Doggett. No Quorum Present.

Members not present: Neal Duncan, Dr. Danna Beaty, Tom Callan, Commissioner Mike Simmons, Greg Hollen, and Lee Smith.

Staff Present: Christophe Trahan; WCEDC Executive Director

Others Present: Yantis City Council Alderman Gerald Schmidt, Mineola Chamber of Commerce Board Member Jim Bailey, Larry Tucker with Wood County Monitor, John Ring with Wood County Now, and Improvement Recommendation Program Champion Steve Straznicky

**Call to Order**

Chairman Keenan called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. A quorum was not present for the meeting.

**Citizen Comment:** Public comment was given by Yantis City Council Alderman Gerald Schmidt on the topic of a community development program he is launching for the city of Yantis aimed at improving the quality of life for the community through spiritual guidance.

**Consider/Approve of March 17, 2021 Minutes:** Tabled due to no quorum present.

**Executive Director Report**

**Administration**

- **Financial Report:** Mr. Berry presented the WCEDC Board with a Financial Summary of the General Fund and HOT fund budgets as of March 30, 2021. Mr. Trahan highlighted the expense for the April Bass Master Elite tournament host fee that is to be reimbursed by the Sabine River Authority.
- **Invoice Report:** No Report.

**Marketing**

- **Marketing Committee Report:** Mr. Savelli presented the marketing committee's executive summary of their marketing strategy for attracting business and industry to Wood County. Mr. Savelli's report detailed his committee's strategic planning process, risk implications, success factors, & marketable elements of the county. Mr. Savelli emphasized the need for cohesive long-term strategies that supersede any short-term, political goals in order to have a sustained effort for the benefit of the citizens in Wood County.

**Programs**

- **Bass Master Elite Tournament:** Mr. Trahan and Mr. Keenan updated the board on the upcoming Bassmaster Elite tournament at Lake Fork. With production and marketing goals having been achieved, WCEDC volunteers would be arriving on Saturday and Sunday mornings to assist with the event.



- Improvement Recommendation Program: Steve Straznicky detailed the history of the Improvement Recommendation Program, Blue Ribbon Task Force, the launch of the program, the receipt of over two dozen recommendation forms, and shared a few early success stories that the program has experienced.

### **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Keenan discussed research being conducted by WCEDC staff and executive board members into planning & zoning regulations currently in force in Hunt County for possible application in Wood County.

### **Featured Committee Reports**

#### Healthcare & Human Services Committee:

Ms. Winters identified seven committee members who have agreed to join the Healthcare & Human Services Committee. She detailed that the committee would be collecting data to distribute to the Commission regarding healthcare such as life expectancy rates and emergency response times. Ms. Winters also reported that her committee has partnered with Tyler Junior College to collect & assess data relevant to Wood County.

#### Financial Committee:

Mr. Berry gave an update regarding the Real Estate sub-committee overseen by the finance committee. Mr. Berry detailed quarterly real estate reports that had been obtained via a new member of the sub-committee and stated the mission of the sub-committee which is to assess available housing in Wood County and determine what real estate growth needs to take place within the county to compliment the economic development efforts of the Commission.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Approved by WCEDC Board of Directors

Date

Tom Keenan; WCEDC Board Chair

4/21/21