



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

WCEDC BOARD MINUTES  
WOOD COUNTY VOTING ANNEX  
200 W. Bermuda St.  
Quitman, TX 75783

Minutes of January 19, 2021 Board Meeting, at 12:06p.m.

Attendees: Jim Berry, Lee Smith, Thomas Callan, Craig Lindholm, Allene Doggett, and Steven Steele. Quorum Present.

Members not present: Tom Keenan (Chair), Gwen Winters, Mike Simmons, Steve Eggleston,

Staff Present: Christophe Trahan; WCEDC Executive Director

Others Present: Larry Tucker with the Wood County Monitor, Randy Dunn the Mayor of Quitman, Orval Lindsey, and Annette Simpkins

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Craig Lindholm called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and established a quorum.

**Citizen Comment:** None.

**Consider/Approve of December 15, 2021 Minutes:** Mr. Lee Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steven Steele, Motion carried.

**Executive Director Report:**

Mr. Trahan briefed the board on House Bill 390 that went into effect on January 1, 2022. This new legislation affects lodging businesses in Wood County by requiring human trafficking prevention training for new employees within 90 days of hiring and existing employees by the end of 2022. The WCEDC coordinated with the office of the County Judge to circulate letters notifying local lodging businesses about the new law and included posters developed by the state Attorney General's office that are also required to be posted as part of the law. Mr. Trahan also notified the board regarding the public hearing set on February 8, 2022 during Commissioner's Court to vote on the Abatement issue for Wood County.

**Administration:**

- Financial Report: Mr. Berry presented the financial report for the period ended November 30, 2021 to the board. Financials for the period ending December 31, 2022 were not yet available from the county auditor's office.

**Programs:**

- Presentation by the Wood County Health Care Foundation: Quitman Mayor Randy Dunn made a presentation to the board regarding the proposed pre-development phase for a Center for Memory Health & Education in Quitman, TX. Mayor Dunn presented the initial site plan to the board along with the financial commitments that had been made by the Quitman Development Corporation (QDC) and the Wood County Central Hospital District (WCCHD). Mayor Dunn asked the WCEDC board to consider funding this project with UCC funds as this project would create a healthcare destination in Wood County thus further diversifying the local economy while also creating jobs through construction, administration, and staffing—in addition to residual jobs added to the local economy. Ms. Doggett made a motion to allocate \$50,000 of Unclaimed Property Capital Credit funds from the Economic Development Projects budget for the purpose of paying invoices to third parties for the pre-development phase of the Center for Memory Health & Education in Quitman, Texas. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steven Steele, Motion carried.



- Bassmaster Elite at Lake Fork 2022: Mr. Trahan updated the board on progress being made in the planning and production of the Bassmaster Elite at Lake Fork for 2022. The WCEDC is working in conjunction with the Sabine River Authority and the Pilot's Club of Quitman to produce the event. WCEDC staff is currently collecting quotes for event insurance and the host contract with B.A.S.S. LLC has been approved and signed by the Wood County Commissioners Court.
- Wood County Master Planning Initiative: Mr. Trahan briefed the board regarding a meeting that the WCEDC Executive Committee held with Mr. Tom Mullins—Division Director of Business Development with U.T. Health East Texas to discuss Wood County's comprehensive master planning initiative. Mr. Mullins gave the group guidance on certain aspects of the initiative and provided information to help the group design a term sheet for use in acquiring consultants to facilitate the project. Mr. Trahan shared a draft of the term sheet with the board and asked for each board member to review and submit input within the next 7 days.

**Chairman's Report:** No report at this time.

**Featured Committee Reports:**

- Health & Human Services Committee: No report at this time
- Marketing Committee: No report at this time.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Lee Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Tom Callan, Motion carried.

Approved by WCEDC Board of Directors

Tom Keenan; WCEDC Board Chair

Approval Date: February 16, 2022