## **Kiowa County Fire Protection District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 15, 2025**

**Attendance:  
Present Board Members: Monte Billheimer, Eunice Weber, Branden Dunlap (via phone), Josh Vanderpool (via phone)  
A quorum is present.  
Staff Present: District Chief Russ Watson, Secretary Raina Lucero**

**1. Call to Order**Meeting called to order by Monte Billheimer at 7:03 PM.

**2. Roll Call**Present: Monte Billheimer, Eunice Weber, Josh Vanderpool (via phone), Branden Dunlap (via phone)

**3. Agenda**

* Addition of Ray Gonzales to Public Input for a presentation and information sharing.  
  Motion: Eunice Weber  
  Second: Branden Dunlap  
  Motion carried.

**4. Minutes**

* Approval of previous meeting minutes.  
  Motion: Eunice Weber  
  Second: Branden Dunlap  
  Motion carried.

**5. Public Input**Ray Gonzales, Fire Chief from Rocky Ford, presented information on the Wildland Response Program and other topics discussed included:

* **Wildland Program Overview**
* **Partnership with John Brewer (Colorado Division of Fire)** He can help the district with a variety of projects.
* **Red Card Certification Process**
* **Equipment and Grant Opportunities:**Grants such as VFA, Firefighter Safety, and Disease Prevention are available. The district needs a point person to handle the process, including grant writing and data collection.
* **Action Required:**
  + Approval from the board to move forward with the implementation of a Wildland Program and collaboration between Ray Gonzales and the District with Chief Watson being the point person.

**6. Chief Report**

* + Breaker at Eads: No update yet. The Chief will provide information once someone has checked the issue.
  + East Door at Eads Station: The door has been replaced with three doors to form one large door.
  + Appreciation Dinner: Scheduled for July 19th, 6-8 PM at the Community Building.
  + Menu: Prime Rib or New York Strip, potatoes, salad, rolls (Eunice has offered to make), and dessert (Raina will contact Christina Wolf about a large cake) Russ will work on a rough estimate for the meeting and can submit to the Board of Directors via email for consideration if needs to be approved prior to the next meeting.
  + Comedian performance followed by a dance. All Volunteers and invitees from the district will be free of charge for all events. The public will be invited to the Comedian and Dance ticket prices pending.
  + Raina will work on Invitations once we have a list of volunteers and others to send to.
  + Motion: Branden Dunlap to approve comedian fee of $800.  
    Second: Eunice Weber  
    Motion carried.
  + Russ and others will work awards for Volunteers to be announced at the appreciation dinner portion of the meal.
  + CPR Certification/ICS Update:  
    Haswell is the only station with 100% of the required CPR certifications in accordance with our bylaws, which will be critical for grant applications. Sheridan Lake and Towner are at approximately 60-65% completion, with further work needed. Chief Watson will reach out to individuals to ensure completion. The remaining certifications required are as follows: 3 in Towner, 2 in Sheridan Lake, and 2 board members. Eads still need 9 certifications. Eunice will work on doing a class for all those people.

**7. Old Business**

* + FPPA Update: No progress on login assistance. Tabled until next meeting.
  + Bank Update: AJ removed from the account. A new access setup will be sent out soon.
  + WEX Card: Application submitted. Vehicle assignments and descriptions needed from Russ.
* Board Vacancy Search: Continued effort to find a new member. Ads will be published in the newspaper weekly for 1 month or until the position is filled.

**8. New Business**

* Wild Land Program with Ray Gonzales:  
  Motion: Branden Dunlap to approve collaboration between Russ and Ray to get started on the program.  
  Second: Eunice Weber  
  Motion carried.
* State Funds Budget: Cleared up, no further issues.

**9. Approval of Accounts Payable:**

Amendment to AP:  
1. Digicom $1,886.10  
2. Weston Meardon $45.98

Motion: Eunice Weber  
Second: Branden Dunlap  
Motion carried.

10. **Announcements**Next Meeting: May 20, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

**11. Adjournment**Motion: Eunice Weber  
Second: Branden Dunlap  
Meeting adjourned at 10:09 PM.

**Signed this date: April 15, 2025, by,  
Kiowa County Fire Protection District**

**Attest: Raina Lucero**