

Information Network of Kansas Board Meeting Minutes

January 2025 Regular INK Board Meeting January 8, 2025

Opening

A meeting of the INK Board was called to order in the Department of Revenue Secretary's conference room on the fourth floor of the Mills Building in Topeka, Kansas at 10:00 a.m. by INK Board Chair Tom Sloan. The following other members of the Board were present:

Bruce Chladny, representing the Kansas Association of Counties (*Joined via Zoom*)
Jennifer Cook, representing the Kansas Secretary of State (*Joined via Zoom*)
Greta Funk, representing the Kansas Library Association (*Joined via Zoom*)
Kyle Niemann, representing the Kansas Association of Realtors
Kayla Savage, representing the Kansas Department of Commerce
Ted Smith, representing the Kansas Department of Revenue

Others Present

Murray McGee, INK Executive Director; Dusti Cerca, INK Chief Administrative Officer; Susan Mauch, INK Board Counsel; Ashley Gordan and James Adams, representing the Kansas Information Consortium.

Guests Angela Hurt, Founder/CEO of Veracity Consulting, and Perry Henry, Senior Consultant of Veracity Consulting.

Consent Agenda

The presented Consent Agenda included the draft minutes from the December 5, 2024, INK Regular Board Meeting; November 2024 Financial Statement; and December 2024 Network Manager Report.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Savage made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Niemann seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Regular Business

1. Network Manager Report

Gordon reports that Nolan Jones's last day with KIC was December 31st, and Ryan Weber has been appointed as the new General Manager. The transition was expedited to allow for overlap between Jones and Weber to facilitate knowledge transfer before Jones's retirement. Weber is looking forward to his first official Board meeting in February.

Gordon reports that changes to the Department of Revenue Web File system began on January 2nd. Most changes were statutory involving simple booklet and calculation changes. KIC is gearing up for a significant initiative planned for tax year 2025, that will integrate with the IRS single sign-on. The integration will allow users to automatically transfer their information from the IRS to the Web File application for online Kansas Individual Income Tax and Homestead Tax filing.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. There were no other questions or actions taken by the Board.

2. Presentation by Veracity Consulting

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Angela Hurt, Founder/CEO, and Perry Henry, Senior Consultant of Veracity Consulting presented their proposal to the INK Board of Directors to study the INK business model and vendor contract. Veracity plans to focus on the Scope of Work document and key points discussed with McGee and Mauch, particularly the inclusion of both RFI (Request for Information) and RFP (Request for Proposal). The focus areas have been refined to 11 items as detailed on page 3. The evaluation process begins with assessing the current business model and processes, gathering feedback from stakeholders on their satisfaction, and discussing potential improvements.

Henry states that regular communication will be vital to ensure broad vendor responses. The timeline for responses is anticipated to span six months, based on similar past efforts. Henry will provide monthly updates to the board of directors.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. There were no other questions or actions by the board.

3. INK Executive Director Report

McGee reports that he has been working closely with Weber to familiarize him with INK projects and procedures. They have established a good line of communication and are reviewing old projects for status and movement toward a contract. Once Weber returns from vacation, McGee plans to introduce Weber to various agencies.

McGee states that all demonstrations with the Department of Corrections have been completed.

Weber will be submitting a scope of work or proposal for VIN inspections to the Highway Patrol.

INK has obtained a signed contract from the Board of Pharmacy to use Engagement Builder for upgrades to their payment portal.

McGee states that INK and KIC have engaged with the KBI to create a conference registration site at no cost as it was done in the past. INK will manage the payment processing for conference merchandise sold through their platform. This will generate a small revenue stream while maintaining a positive relationship with KBI.

KBI's article in the Kansas Prosecutor Magazine highlighted recent Amber Alert enhancements and emphasized INK's support for the program.

Miranda Ramona from the law firm, Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds & Palmer, LLP, filed INK's request for relief from filing a corporate tax return with the IRS.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Chair Sloan requested an update on projects with the Department of Corrections, the Department of Transportation, and the Kansas Corporation Commission.

McGee states that the meeting with the Department of Corrections is planned for the middle of the week.

McGee has consistently reached out to the Kansas Corporation Commission, but they have not responded.

There were no other questions or actions from the Board.

4. 2025 Business Plan

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This agenda item was not addressed during the meeting.

Action Taken: There were no other questions or actions from the Board.

5. Grant Tracking Update

McGee has provided the written grant update to the Board. The first grant reporting for the Department of Commerce and Wichita State University will be due on January 10, 2025.

McGee disclosed that the Kansas State Historical Society has not provided a grant report since their presentation a year ago and has not responded to multiple outreach attempts. A letter will be drafted for Chair Sloan to sign, stating that failure to submit a report could lead to termination of funding, as outlined in their contact.

The Dodge City project is moving forward with submitted plans. They have installed and tested the conduit for the kiosk. They plan to finish the project once weather conditions improve.

The Kansas Biological Survey Grant, KU Nested Hex Framework, has consistently submitted detailed reports. They have shared some of the PowerPoint presentations from various conferences giving credit to INK.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Savage inquired if INK grantees are required to provide a demonstration of their completed project to the Board. McGee states that the Board has a right to request a presentation, but it is not a contract item. There were no other questions or actions from the Board.

6. Proposals for Updating Strategic Plan 2026-2028

McGee reports that he has received three proposals for updating the INK Strategic Plan. The company that INK contracted with for the prior Strategic Plan quoted a high cost exhibiting possible reluctance to renew the contract. The University of Kansas and Wichita State University also submitted proposals with WSU being slightly higher due to travel expenses. Chair Sloan and McGee question whether it is the right time to develop a strategic plan for 2026-2028 while INK is contracting a consulting company to assist with the direction that INK is taking. Sloan suggests waiting for the recommendations from the consulting team which is expected in late June before proceeding.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. There were no other questions or actions from the Board.

Committee Reports

- A. **Finance/Banking/Accounting Committee** – Chladny states that signature banking forms are ready to be signed.
- B. **Policy and Procedures Committee** – No Report.
- C. **Personnel Committee** – No Report.

Other Business

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Chair Sloan asked if there was any other business to come before the Board before entering the executive session. Niemann made a motion for the Board to enter an executive session to discuss attorney-client privileged information to include INK staff and attorney for 15 minutes. Savage seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Board entered executive session at 11:07 am. The Board came out of executive session at 11:22 am. Savage moved to extend the executive session for an additional 15 minutes. Niemann seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Board entered executive session at 11:22 am. The Board came out of executive session at 11:37 am.

Smith made a motion for INK to contract with Veracity with modifications to the proposed program subject to a reasonable contract. Savage seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. There was no other action by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further action for the Board to consider, Chair Sloan adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Submitted by:

Dusti Cerca
Chief Executive Administrator