

Information Network of Kansas Board Meeting Minutes

April 2025 Regular INK Board Meeting April 3, 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:

Kate Butler, representing the Kansas Bar Association
Bruce Chladny, representing the Kansas Association of Counties
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; Ryan Weber, representing the Kansas Information Consortium.

Guests Perry Henry, Senior Consultant of Veracity Consulting, Paul Finster, Infrastructure Lead Consultant of Veracity Consulting, and Melissa McCoy, Assistant City Manager/Public Affairs for the City of Dodge City.

Consent Agenda

The presented Consent Agenda included the draft minutes from the March 6, 2025, INK Regular Board Meeting and the February 2025 INK Financial Statement.

The contracts for approval for the Kansas Highway Patrol-VIN Inspection (Phase II-Forms), Kansas Corporation Commission-Payment Processing Amendment, City of Ellis-Payment Processing, City of Delphos-Payment Processing, and Geary County Register of Deeds-Payment Processing were also included.

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

Regular Business

1. Grant Presentation/Dodge City

Melissa McCoy, the Assistant City Manager of Dodge City, Kansas, presented an update on the Downtown Streetscape project. The installation of interactive displays was funded by various grants, including a \$155,000 grant from a partnering organization. The overall project is part of a larger \$15 million initiative, which includes facilities to enhance visitor experiences in the area.

The installation of the first display screen at the Dodge City Visitor Center is expected to be operational before the travel season, which begins on Memorial Day weekend. The interactive kiosks are located at key avenues in Dodge City and are part of the final phases of the streetscape project, scheduled for completion by 2026.

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Additional advancements in the project include new artist renderings and plans for the kiosks to support various community events. The project aims to improve local tourism and community engagement.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Sloan inquired about the project's expected completion date. McCoy states that the project aims to replace outdated infrastructure in the downtown area, including water and sewer lines that are over 100 years old. This replacement work has caused delays. The expected completion date is April 2026.

Chladny inquired whether Dodge City is planning any initiatives to attract visitors during the 2026 World Cup Event in Kansas City to Dodge City. McCoy reports that she recently attended a conference and met with FIFA staff in Kansas City. They discussed organizing a watch party at the United Wireless Arena in Dodge City, which can accommodate around 4,500 people. Soccer is a popular sport in the area, and the plan includes promoting not only local information but also regional content.

There were no other questions or actions from the Board.

2. INK Executive Director Report

McGee announced that Wichita State University plans to present an update on their grant application and the upcoming phase two of their project at the next Board meeting in May.

Weber and McGee recently met with Cara Hendricks and Shelly Shores from KDHE. They are working on a pilot project for wastewater operator certifications in partnership with community colleges. They intend to use a scheduling tool for testing. They currently conduct about 600 tests annually, focusing solely on wastewater. INK and KIC are considering if this would generate enough revenue to cover the costs associated with developing the project.

A meeting was conducted with Connie Owen and Matt Unruh from the Kansas Water Office. The previous Water Hub project and possible future collaborations were discussed. The goal is to develop a resource, possibly a portal, to help the public access available information about water programs and geological surveys.

A meeting is scheduled for this afternoon with the new secretary for Wildlife and Parks and eight of their staff members. The meeting could present several opportunities and possible integration with KU's hexagonal data project related to the geological survey.

There have been recent meetings with the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission regarding the development of a new website and creating multiple employee and vendor licensing forms. Progress is ongoing, with action anticipated after July 1st.

Champ Title presented about electronic lien processing to the Kansas Department of Revenue motor vehicle staff. Champ Title will provide the software and setup at no charge. Revenue will be generated through transactions.

McGee met with Joe Connor, the new director of the Kansas City County government procurement platform. Connor has previous experience with INK as the former Board chair. They have built the platform through a company called Civic Market. They need assistance encouraging Kansas businesses to sign up to become vendors to enhance government operations and support local businesses in Kansas. A follow-up meeting is planned to identify INK's role.

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Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Sloan inquired about which agencies may be applying for INK grants. McGee anticipates grant applications from the Kansas Department of Corrections and the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Noxious Weed Division.

Chladny asks what type of project the Department of AG and the Noxious Weed directors are looking for or need. McGee states that there are reporting requirements for chemical sales and usage, including inventory reports and a voucher program. Most counties have a very small budget for this. The Department of Agriculture wants to create a platform at no cost to counties.

There were no other questions or actions from the Board.

3. Network Manager Report

Weber reports that in March, significant progress was made across various projects, particularly in payment integrations with Shawnee County, KREC, KDADS, and KCC. Key milestones were met with projects nearing final testing and acceptance, including the Delinquent Tax Portal for KDOR and the Amber Alert system with KBI. Both are undergoing updates while in active development stages.

Project highlights include the completion of the KBI criminal history or criminal record search update, Shawnee County's payment project, and KREC licensing renewals, which are set to launch in April.

The Department of Corrections' appointment scheduler project is on hold for various reasons, but all necessary work has been completed by KIC.

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

4. INK/KIC Fee Structure

McGee presented the need to increase INK's fee structure by adjusting the blended hourly rate for services. Currently, the blended rate is set at \$100 per hour, with a suggestion to increase the rate to either \$125 or \$150 per hour. The increase would better cover development costs while remaining below typical market rates that are \$175 to \$200 or more.

INK does not want to offer free services because it reduces its perceived value. McGee also recommends including clauses in long-term contracts allowing for fee increases over time, particularly due to past experiences with long-term contracts where agency fees increased but our fees did not.

Weber confirmed that the current blended rate of \$100 per hour is not a break-even rate and an increased rate of \$150 per hour is incredibly affordable.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Smith states that a fixed price of \$150 is low and a blended rate is simpler to use from a contracting standpoint. Smith moved to increase the blended rate from \$100 per hour to \$150 per hour. Chladny seconded the motion. A call for a vote was made. The motion was approved by the majority of six in favor, Butler and Niemann voted in opposition to the motion. There were no other questions or actions by the board.

5. Presentation by Veracity Consulting

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Perry Henry, Senior Consultant of Veracity Consulting, and Paul Finster, Infrastructure Lead Consultant of Veracity Consulting, provided a presentation to the board during the executive session.

Butler moved for the board to enter an executive session under KOMA Section 4 to discuss matters concerning data related to the financial affairs or trade secrets of corporations, partnerships, trusts, and individual proprietorships. And, under Section 12 to discuss matters relating to security measures to protect: systems, facilities, or equipment used in communication services. Also, under Section 2 for attorney-client privilege to include INK attorney, INK staff, and Veracity Consulting for 20 minutes. Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. The Board entered an executive session at 11:27 a.m. The Board came out of the executive session at 11:47 a.m.

Butler moved to extend the executive session by an additional 15 minutes. Niemann seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. The Board entered an executive session at 11:48 a.m. The Board came out of the executive session at 12:03 p.m.

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

Committee Reports

- A. Finance/Banking/Accounting Committee** – No Report.
- B. Policy and Procedures Committee** – No Report.
- C. Personnel Committee** – Butler reports that she has discussed the insurance issue with Syndeo. They covered the extra insurance costs, and INK did not pay anything. They provided screenshots indicating their disappointment with the situation, but acknowledged their error on the effective date, which has since been corrected. They also confirmed that there was never a gap in McGee’s insurance coverage. McGee will need to repay Syndeo for the amount they covered. The board will need to decide whether it will cover this cost or if McGee will be subject to repayment. Butler will be the point of contact during the next renewal to ensure the situation does not recur.

Butler moved for the Board to enter an executive session to include INK attorney, without INK staff, to discuss personnel and compensation matters for 10 minutes. Neimann seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. The Board entered an executive session at 11:16 a.m. The Board came out of the executive session at 11:26 a.m.

Savage moved for the Board to cover the medical premium increase from October 2024 to January 2025 directly to Syndeo. Chladny seconded the motion. A call for a vote was made. The motion was approved by seven to one vote with Smith voting no.

Other Business

Chair Sloan asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. There were no other questions or actions by the board.

Adjournment

With no further action for the Board to consider, Chair Sloan adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

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Submitted by:

Dusti Cerca

Chief Administrative Officer