

Information Network of Kansas Board Meeting Minutes

January 2026 Regular INK Board Meeting January 8, 2026

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 (*Joined via Zoom*)
Greta Funk, representing the Kansas Library Association (*Joined via Zoom*)
Jennifer Cook, representing the Kansas Secretary of State
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. Bob Sanders (*Joined via Zoom*), James Adams, and Ashley Gordan representing the Kansas Information Consortium.

Guests: Perry Henry, Senior Consultant of Veracity Consulting (*Joined via Zoom*); Paul Finster, Infrastructure Lead Consultant of Veracity Consulting.

Consent Agenda

The presented Consent Agenda included the draft minutes from the December 4, 2025, INK Regular Board Meeting; the November 2025 INK Financial Statement; the December 2025 Network Manager Report; recognition of Kayla Savage's graduation from the 2025 Certified Public Manager Program at the University of Kansas Public Management Center; and recognition of Murray McGee for receiving recognition as a Certified Public Manager with Distinction from the 2025 Certified Public Manager Program at the University of Kansas Public Management Center.

The contracts for approval included the City of Linn – Kan Pay Counter and the County of Ford-Willroads Garden Improvement District – Kan Pay Counter.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Butler moved to approve the consent agenda. Niemann seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

Regular Business

1. INK Executive Director Report

McGee addressed an ongoing issue concerning one bank in Oberlin. An erroneous \$18,000 charge between Crawford County and the City of Oberlin was resolved with KIC advancing funds to correct the error. INK will reimburse KIC upon recovery of the funds.

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The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) VIN Inspection Project has stalled. KIC planned to use the "Engagement Builder" tool, which has been deemed insufficient for VIN inspections and scheduling. INK is exploring alternative vendors for the project to move forward.

McGee has met with the Shawnee County Treasurer's office. They are intent on switching payment vendors despite other county departments moving to INK for services. INK's receipt of the agency-issued 60-day notice sent by certified mail was delayed by 3 weeks, reducing INK's response time.

McGee announced a possible new business project with the State Gaming Agency, with a meeting scheduled to define the scope.

The two presentations for the State Fire Marshal's office have been rescheduled for next week.

Cerca is addressing ongoing issues with UMB, including missing statements and the NOC Manager Reports. She is also collaborating with Aprio (formerly Mize) to develop a new, more detailed financial report format. New reporting formats will break down finances by state agencies, counties, cities, schools, etc., making it easier to analyze.

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

2. Network Manager Report

Bob Sanders, regional vice president with Tyler Technologies, announced that Melissa Baker has been chosen after a nationwide search based on her background managing state parks in North Dakota, Wisconsin, Montana, and Virginia, where she is currently a director. She has strong references and is experienced in working with government officials and prioritizing customer service. Melissa will be relocating to Topeka over the next few months and will begin her new position next Wednesday.

Adams presents that the KIC team remains busy, actively meeting with partners and helping agencies solve complex problems. Payment integrations projects are progressing well due to strong API documentation, making the process repeatable and streamlined. Testing is running smoothly, and they are making improvements based on external developer feedback.

The annual WebFile update for the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) has been completed ahead of schedule. All legislative changes have been incorporated. An update this year included a transition from legacy EFT transactions to ACH/Credit card API integration. This will improve reliability and modernization.

Adams further reports that the KIC development team is actively adopting AI tools to review code, write test cases, and modernize legacy systems. The initiative has dramatically increased efficiency, improved developer morale, and empowered junior developers to understand and contribute to new projects more effectively.

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

3. Budget and Business Plan Report for 2026

McGee reports that INK revenues for 2025 are expected to be slightly higher than in 2024 but will likely fall just short of the budget goal. The shortfall is due to projects being stalled and restarted, along with a decline in interest income. The grant program also impacted finances. For 2026, new expenditures are planned, including

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hiring a vendor manager as the organization transitions to a multi-vendor model. This will increase accounting, legal, and payroll costs, but all are within budgeted expectations.

McGee anticipates a decrease in banking and portal fees and states that the grant pool has been reduced from 40% to 25%. Unused grant funds will be reallocated to the operating balance. INK is working to create template contracts to reduce legal expenses. Revenue from the KDOR Champs project is not included in the forecast since the “live” date is unknown. INK plans to incorporate virtual showcase events, with some in-person events to support the multi-vendor approach and to increase the number of contracted projects in 2026. The finance committee has reviewed and supports the proposed budget and strategic plan.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Cook moved to approve the INK 2026 Budget. Niemann seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion. There were no other questions or actions by the board.

4. Strategic Plan Proposal From WSU

McGee has finalized the Wichita State Strategic Plan proposal for \$23,250, which is less than expected. Payment will be split into two payments, with 50% due at contract execution and 50% due upon completion. The goal is to start work by the end of the month and to finish by May. Richard has been identified as the project manager, and Misty Bruckner, the director, is expected to be the primary contact. McGee requested board authorization to sign the contract.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Butler moved to approve the Strategic Plan Proposal from WSU. Cook seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion. There were no other questions or actions by the board.

5. Presentation-Veracity Consulting

Perry Henry, Senior Consultant of Veracity Consulting, and Paul Finster, Infrastructure Lead Consultant of Veracity Consulting, presented to the board during an 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 KOMA 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, including INK attorney, INK staff, and Veracity Consulting, for 45 minutes. Cook seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion. The Board entered an executive session at 10:35 a.m. The Board exited the executive session at 11:20 a.m. Butler moved to extend the executive session for an additional 10 minutes. Smith seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion. The Board reentered the executive session at 11:20 a.m. The Board exited the extended executive session at 11:32 a.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.

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C. Personnel Committee –

- i. Vice Chair Butler moved for the board to enter into an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel, to include only the Board Council for 15 minutes. Sloan seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion. The Board entered an executive session at 11:34 a.m. The Board exited the executive session at 11:49 a.m. Butler moved to extend the executive session for an additional 10 minutes. Niemann seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion. The Board reentered the executive session at 11:49 a.m. The Board exited the extended executive session at 11:59 a.m.

Cook moved to increase the INK Executive Director's salary by 5%. Niemann seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

- ii. Savage moved for the board to enter an executive session to discuss an employment contract, to include INK staff for 10 minutes. Niemann seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion. The Board entered an executive session at 11:59 a.m. The Board exited the executive session at 12:09 p.m.

Sloan made a motion for INK to negotiate a contract with Veracity Consulting to hire Paul Finster as a temporary employee for 6 months, subject to Mauch's review and approval of the contract. Smith seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

Other Business

Chair Sloan, based on board consensus, instructed McGee to negotiate with Veracity Consulting to secure Perry Henry for an additional three months, half-time, to assist INK with contract negotiations with a contingency to extend if needed. There was no other business to come before the board.

Adjournment

With no further action for the Board to consider, Chair Sloan adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Submitted by:

Dusti Cerca

Chief Administrative Officer