

Information Network of Kansas Board Meeting Minutes

February 2026 Regular INK Board Meeting February 5, 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
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 (*Joined via Zoom*)
Kayla Savage, representing the Kansas Department of Commerce

Others Present

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

Guests: Perry Henry, Senior Consultant of Veracity Consulting (*Joined via Zoom*); Renee Zwahl, Agency Grant Writer for the Kansas Department of Commerce; and Whitney Tempel, Director of Communications and Policy for the Kansas Secretary of State.

Consent Agenda

The presented Consent Agenda included the draft minutes from January 8, 2026, INK Regular Board Meeting; the December 2025 INK Financial Statement; and the January 2026 Network Manager Report.

The contracts for approval included the payment processing contract for the Board of Tax Appeals and the City of Everest – Kan Pay Counter.

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

Regular Business

1. Introduction of Vendor Manager

McGee reintroduced Paul Finster in his new role as INK Vendor Manager.

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

2. INK Executive Director Report

McGee introduced Melissa Baker as the new KIC (Kansas Information Consortium) General Manager, having joined four weeks prior.

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McGee, Finster, and Baker met with the Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division, for an introductory meeting. Jessica Tyson expressed interest in a platform for Driver's Education Programs.

The Champ E-Liens platform is projected to be operational by July.

A new agreement with Veracity Consulting has been reached, allowing Perry Henry to work with INK with a minimum of 40 hours per month.

McGee met with Misty Bruckner from Wichita State University. The executive committee and staff will meet with her on the 23rd, and she will meet the full board in March to help update INK's strategic plan.

INK's accounting firm Aprio has indicated that its current system cannot accommodate INK's request to reformat budget and financial reports. Their system is tailored to restaurants and entertainment businesses. They are checking if alternative software is available within Aprio.

NDAs have been sent to about eight of the largest banks in the state as part of payment processing evaluations. INK will compare services with those of UMB and CoreFirst. Responses and questions are being received as banks react to the NDAs. The RFI will be sent out to those banks that respond with a signed NDA.

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

3. Network Manager Report

Baker introduced herself as the new General Manager of KIC. She shared that she is impressed by the depth of experience and talent within the KIC office, as well as the established relationships with internal and external partners.

Recent project updates include readiness for the 2025 tax season, modernization of the Racing and Gaming website, and progress on 13 additional projects.

The KIC team is focused on accessibility compliance and strong engagement with state IT leadership.

Scheduled security updates and ongoing monthly patching have ensured reliability, with 99.9% system uptime.

Baker's short-term priorities include learning more about the organization, its clients, and building key relationships.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Sloan inquired about the adequate staffing of project managers. Baker states that the KIC team currently has 2 project managers and is in the process of backfilling a third open position. She does not have a timeframe for when that position will be posted.

Sloan requested an update on the project with the Department of Corrections. Baker reports that Amber Purcell is managing the project and has recently reviewed a previously developed form with her team. She wants to ensure that it still meets the agency's needs.

Sloan additionally asked if there is any project that KIC is significantly behind on. Baker and Adams confirmed that all projects are on track.

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Baker states that an extension was requested by the Shawnee County District Attorney for their payment processing integration project to allow for additional testing. Progress is reported bi-weekly, with issues highlighted and solutions suggested. The project is on track except for the approved extension.

There were no other questions or actions by the board.

4. Grant Project Presentation – Kansas Department of Commerce

Renee Zwahl, Agency Grant Writer for the Kansas Department of Commerce, provided a presentation of the agency's progress on centralizing and modernizing the agency's grant management and transparency systems.

The key goal is to centralize all grant programs into Salesforce to manage the entire grant lifecycle and provide real-time updates to the transparency database. The agency aims to create a public map and add economic development data to the transparency database for better context and visualization. Also, they intend to develop an internal mobile app for staff and legislators to access data in the field.

Project achievements so far include migrating 63% of grant programs to Salesforce, standardizing and simplifying the grant application process, creating a reusable application template, and implementing agency-wide standard operating procedures. The team also overcame vendor and cost challenges by choosing more effective and affordable partners, resulting in a new public map and additional data visualizations that will be accessible to both staff and the public.

The project is on track to finish ahead of schedule, with the final integration and data migration expected by the end of June.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Chladny asked about additional data that is included in the transparency database and if it is county-specific data. Zwahl states that a user can browse by county, but until every county responds to a new state law that was passed, KDOC will not have county-specific information.

There were no other questions or actions by the board.

5. Grant Project Presentation – Kansas Secretary of State

Whitney Temple, Communications Director at the Kansas Secretary of State's Office (SOS), provided an overview of the transition from a paper-based system to a digitized process for approving regulations in Kansas.

The traditional process was implemented in the 1960s, and involved multiple agencies, including the Department of Administration, the Attorney General, the Department of Budget, and the Secretary of State. The process includes numerous physical copies, manual edits, and storage of regulations in file cabinets. Problems with this system included missing pages, human error, inefficiency, lack of ADA compliance, difficulty tracking regulations, and loss of institutional knowledge.

In 2022, the SOS office researched solutions, consulted with partner agencies, and launched an RFP to find a software vendor. In 2025, after receiving a grant, they selected ESPER to create a digital system for drafting, reviewing, approving, and publishing regulations. The new system will digitize the entire process, improve transparency, and provide public access to both current and expired regulations. Additionally, it will address longstanding issues regarding version control and regulatory tracking. The system's "Go Live" date is set for late March 2026, and feedback from agencies has been positive.

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Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Sloan asked if the public would be able to find out where a proposed regulation is, and whether they would be able to read the language there. Temple states that the public will not know where a regulation is in the approval process but will know that it has been submitted for approval. They will not see the language of the regulation but will see the topic.

There were no other questions or actions by the board.

6. Strategic Plan Update

McGee states that he will send a summary of the existing strategic plan to the board as a starting point for discussions with Misty Bruckner of WSU. The executive committee meeting with WSU is confirmed for February 23, from 1 PM to 4 PM.

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** – No report.

Other Business

McGee was congratulated on his appointment to a vacant 8th District City of Topeka Council seat. His oath of office is scheduled for the 17th. 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 10:59 a.m.

Submitted by:
Dusti Cerca
Chief Administrative Officer