May 2026 Regular INK Board Meeting
May 7, 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 10:01 a.m. by INK Board Chair Tom Sloan. The following other members of the Board were present:

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 *(Joined via Zoom at 11:17 a.m.)*
Ted Smith, representing the Kansas Department of Revenue

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 and Ashley Gordan, representing the Kansas Information Consortium.

Guest, Perry Henry, Senior Consultant of Veracity Consulting *(Joined via Zoom)*.

Consent Agenda

The presented Consent Agenda included the draft minutes from April 9, 2026, INK Regular Board Meeting, the March 2026 INK Financial Statement, and the April 2026 Network Manager Report.

The contracts for approval included the Kansas Judicial Council – Website Enhancement and KanPay, Crawford County EMS – KanPay, Ness County Treasurer – KanPay, and Reno County Clerk – KanPay.

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

Regular Business

1. INK Executive Director Report

In addition to the written report, McGee reports that the Kansas Judicial Council contract is now signed, clearing the way for the project to proceed.

All requirements have been confirmed for the KHP ignition interlock project. Engagement Builder has been identified as the solution needed.

INK and KIC traveled to Hutchinson to meet with the State Fair. The project is very large and will need to be completed in phases and possibly over multiple years. Priority will be given to their RV campground reservation and payment system to address problems with unpaid usage. Additionally, they will need better systems for managing event sponsorships and facility reservations. Their current systems do not communicate with each other, which is an immediate want.

Invitations for the INK Showcase event are at the printer and will be hand-delivered once completed.

INK has talked with five groups interested in submitting grant applications.

Wichita State University will be presenting the finalized INK Strategic Plan at the next board meeting in June.

Perry Henry with Veracity has been assisting with data analysis and graphing. Cerca presented financial trends and revenue tracking for the years 2024 through 2026. INK's cumulative and net portal revenues are slightly down compared to prior years. In the first quarter of 2026, INK's gross revenue is down 3.3% and down 5.2% in net portal revenue compared to last year. A contributing factor is that $104,000 of the total $119,000 spent in the first quarter of 2026 occurred in February, mainly from grant expenditures. Cerca emphasized the importance of adhering to the 2026 grant budget set at $220,000 to avoid negative impacts on overall revenues for the remainder of the year.

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

2. Network Manager Report

Baker reports that the KIC team maintained over 99% uptime while updating software, applying security patches, and advancing accessibility improvements. A recent NIST assessment showed strong security practices, with 19 of 20 areas rated as "defined."

KIC has secured several new municipal contracts and is focused on completing accessibility work. Despite receiving an extension for accessibility deadlines, the team continues to work diligently to ensure all tasks are completed promptly.

The Department of Corrections project has been delayed due to challenges with implementing Teams connectivity. As a result, the focus has shifted back to the original scope of room scheduling. A revised timeline aiming for an early June "go-live" date has been provided to the agency. It is dependent on DOC's ability to meet certain requirements. A meeting is scheduled for today to discuss the path forward. The project is now considered reduced and manageable. An update on the timeline will be provided next month.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Cook inquired about the ADA compliance deadline and the timeline for completing the work. Baker indicated that Adams was unable to attend the meeting today and has the information.

Sloan asked what percentage of KIC's work was completed before the deadline extension. Baker states that they were in the high 90s.

Smith inquired whether the State Fair project is preliminary or an approved project. And, if the project will be a payment processing system or a provided service. Baker confirmed that the project is in a preliminary stage and will be a combination of a service and payment processing project.

There were no other questions or actions by the board.

3. Business Center Project

Cerca states that INK met with KIC staff and Jennifer Cook from the Secretary of State's Office regarding the Business Center Project. Cerca asked Baker and Cook to provide an update on the project.

Baker reported that the meeting focused on modernizing and improving the Business One-Stop service by promoting agency partnership. There is a need to clearly define roles and responsibilities to maintain institutional memory in the event of turnover at the administration level. Baker and Cook identified two potential plans that include implementing Single Sign-On and KIC's Resident Assist tool. Resident Assist is an AI-powered tool by Tyler Technologies that helps citizens navigate business licensing and registration by providing answers and citations from selected websites. The plan is to gather more information and schedule a follow-up meeting.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Sloan asked if a conceptual timeline had been established. Cook replied that the team needs time to review KIC's materials to determine project viability. The current one-stop website was developed in 2019 with input from Cabinet Secretaries. Maintenance of the site has become the responsibility of SOS's staff, which involves coordination with Revenue, Labor, and Commerce to update information. The team is exploring ways to improve consistency in maintenance and to expand the site's content. There is also potential to include smaller agencies to contribute to licensing or enforcement roles. The team aims to assess the viability of these enhancements by next month or identify further questions.

Smith inquired if the Resident Assist tool is a large language model (LLM) or an expert-client-side application. Baker replied that one challenge with LLMs is their tendency to hallucinate. The Resident Assist tool avoids these issues by having strict control of data sources through defined boundaries.

There were no other questions or actions by the board.

4. Banking Recommendations

Cerca reports that INK evaluated five banks, receiving proposals from four. After review, the Finance Committee selected Commerce Bank and Capital Federal to provide presentations. Commerce Bank withdrew, leaving Capital Federal as the sole finalist. Capital Federal's presentation highlighted strong customer service with a dedicated account manager. Their interest rates were not comparable to UMB Bank rates but were better than rates at CoreFirst and Kaw Valley Bank. The initial step is to transfer lockbox payment processing from CoreFirst to UMB and move $75,000 from CoreFirst to Capital Federal as a test of their service. Once this is completed, the CoreFirst account will be closed. This approach allows INK to assess Capital Federal's performance and interest rates over time. The final recommendation is to transfer the INK operating account from Kaw Valley Bank to Capital Federal and set up a secondary account for grant funds.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Sloan asked how long it will take us to close out the Kaw Valley account? Cerca states that Kaw Valley is a basic checking account and will be the easiest to close. With board approval, a timeline would be established to be presented to the board next month.

Sloan also inquired why INK is continuing business with UMB? Cerca responds that UMB interest rates are superior to those offered by any other bank. Henry added that UMB offers an interest rate close to the federal funds rate minus 0.25% (around 3.38%), which is much higher than the rates currently offered by CoreFirst and Kaw Valley, which are under 1%. Moving accounts to Cap Fed would yield about 2.5%. There is also consideration of transferring excess funds from Cap Fed to UMB to maximize returns.

Cook inquired about the breakdown of where INK funds are situated and how they will shift. Perry states that Kaw Valley had roughly $1.7 million at the end of March, CoreFirst had around $350,000, and UMB held $8.5 million. UMB offers the best interest rate but lacks in customer service. The main reason for continuing with UMB is to avoid disrupting systems that are already working, as all revenue from Tyler systems is aligned with

UMB accounts. The only imminent change is closing the lockbox account at CoreFirst due to its minimal use and shifting it to UMB.

Cook moved to close the bank account at Kaw Valley and transfer funds to Capitol Federal, move the CoreFirst lockbox payment processing to UMB, and transfer the remaining account balance from CoreFirst to Capitol Federal Bank. Smith seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion. There were no other questions or actions by the board.

5. Quarterly Grant Update

Murray reports that all current grantees are doing well with sending in their quarterly reports. The Department of Agriculture is developing an online reporting tool for annual reports, which is significant progress since many of the 20 participating counties previously completed reports manually. Participants are optimistic about the project's status. Additionally, the Secretary of State's regulation modernization project is nearly ready to launch, with an expected go-live date within the next 2 to 3 weeks.

To date, Wichita State has not used any of its grant funds. They provided a board presentation in March, and the project is doing very well. They have begun fundraising for Phase 2 with a goal of $1 million.

The Biological Survey also provided a presentation to the board in April. They do not have plans to utilize their remaining grant balance of $3,118.87. Action is requested to close the two grants and reallocate funds.

The Governor's Office has an available grant balance of $191,019.70, which remains available to them.

The Business Center Project has an available balance of $437,000. The project has been restarted. A reassessment of the project cost will need to be completed as INK will potentially be the owner and will fund the project.

Action Taken: Chair Sloan opened the floor for questions. Smith moved to close the KU Biological Survey grant. Neimann seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

Sloan recommended closing the grants awarded to KSU and Dodge City, since there have been no agency reports or activity on the grants. Mauch states that INK has a grant contract with the agencies, and documentation would need to be constructed before proceeding with closing the grants. McGee and Mauch will construct a letter notifying each agency that their grant will be closed, with the effective date of closure before the next board meeting.

There were no other questions or actions by the board.

6. Showcase Event

Murray states that the object of the Showcase Event is to stimulate discussions with agencies about their needs and to showcase tools that can help them achieve their goals. The Annual INK Showcase Event is scheduled for June 4th, after the monthly board meeting. The event will be hosted at Townsite Plaza and will begin at 1:30 pm.

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

Committee Reports

A. Personnel Committee – No report.

B. Finance/Banking/Accounting Committee – No report.

Other Business

Smith reports that KDOR has initiated the process to replace its 40-year-old driver's license printer with a new system by October next year. This change will require updates to payment systems.

Executive Session: Smith moved for the board to enter an executive session to discuss attorney-client privileged information, including INK staff, INK council, and Perry Henry of Veracity Consulting, for a duration of 30 minutes. Cook seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion. The Board entered executive session at 11:04 a.m. The Board ended the executive session at 11:24 a.m.

Adjournment

With no further action for the Board to consider, Chair Sloan adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Submitted by:
Dusti Cerca
Chief Administrative Officer