

DRAFT
MINUTES

REAP Business Meeting

October 8, 2020

11:45 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

The monthly meeting of the I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chair Kirk Howell, who welcomed the attendees and called for introductions.

The following Board Members were present:

Jeff Baker	Wil Chase	David Gruber	Kirk Holwell
Peggy Otto Finnegan	Glenn Rotkovich	Jan Yeckes	Becky Zierer

Guests attending were:

Karissa	Becklund	High Plains Bank
Patricia	Bisant	Citizen
Tracy	Carter	SBDC
Pam	Collins	Windsong Foundation
Carl	Gerber	Carl the Computer Guy
Steven	Hebert	Town of Bennett
Lisa	Hudson	SBDC
Julio	Iturreria	Reap
Jack	Keever	Retired Reap
Cynthia	Kiyotake	Arapahoe County Libraries
Kathy	Mahan	Reap
Jenn	Negley	SBDC
Pulak	Sharma	Kazmira
Priyanka	Sharma	Kazmira
Rachel	Shuck	Peak Vista
Hollee	Swain	May Farms

Joyce	Thomas	Adams County Candidate
Loretta	Unknown	
Kristy	Unknown	
Integrity Main	Unknown	
Steven	Vetter	I-70 Publishing
Eric	Zacharias	

Approval of March 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman Report:

Executive Director Report:

Guest Speakers:

Kazmira – Hemp Industry Update

Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Ph.D., CEO, Kazmira LLC

Mr. Pulak Sharma, Co-CEO, Kazmira LLC

Dr. Sharma has a PH.D. in chemical engineering, from the University of Illinois at Chicago and Mr. Sharma has a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from Purdue University and a master’s in business administration from Indiana University Kelley School of Business. The goal of Kazmira is to democratize CBC and other hemp derived compounds from the industrial hemp plant. Kazmira has been in the CBD processing and manufacturing business for 4 years. At a high level Kazmira is creating a very different kind of dietary supplement company that has not existed yet, they are fully integrated, and they do the manufacturing of the molecule in house. The goal is to bring these cannabinoids to the world that are safe and high quality, that is what makes Kazmira different than other CBD manufactures. They started the business in 2017 and recently announced a very exciting partnership with Perrigo. Perrigo is a company that makes consumer selfcare products like muscle gel, transdermal patches and unique delivery systems. This partnership leads Kazmira into to a new era of dietary supplementing that includes cannabinoids and therapies coming from hemp derived products. They recently launched a direct to consumer line called Dr. Diol. These products are focused on CBD, they are making a move into consumer products with Dr. Diol. We welcome you to this facility to try these products. The new line includes tinctures, gummies, softgels and topical products. These products are from technology that fully extracts THC from the CBD. These products contain higher concentrations of CBD and consumers are seeing the benefit of that already. Kazmira is doing a huge expansion to the facility in Watkins for future needs.

Q & A

Jeff Baker: After recently visiting Kazmira on a tour we found out that there are many components other than CBD. For example, TLA is an extracted strain that has a lot of the same properties as melatonin but is more effective than melatonin for sleep.

Dr. Priyanka Sharma: In North America industrial hemp is very rich in CBD, it has become a popular cannabinoid to extract and add in the finished products. What Mr. Baker is referring to are the minor cannabinoids and those offer different benefits that are now being studied in various clinical studies that are happening in the US. One of the interests is studying sleep therapies and cannabinoids. Cannabinoids would be a natural way of helping with sleep or aiding with that. Studies on CBG and CBN which are minor cannabinoids and have shown to be effective with helping sleep.

Mr. Pulak Sharma: There are over 80 cannabinoids found in the industrial hemp plant CBD is being found as the highest concentration. We are working to identify the other cannabinoids and their concentrations. How do we provide the infrastructure, not only from a technology standpoint to purify those cannabinoids but how do we commercialize them, study them and market research, there is a lot that goes into that. Studies in Israel are showing that many of these cannabinoids are having a strong therapeutic benefit that have been largely undiscovered and unexplored due to the arcane laws around CBD and industrial hemp. That is where a lot of work needs to be done and there is a lot of evidence coming out now and we are very excited for the future of the cannabinoid industry. First thing is to democratize CBD and work on the rich science, and we are very excited to dig into that and enable these supplements to make a huge impact on society.

Jack Keever: You mentioned the farm in Grand Junction I thought you were originally buying from southern Colorado farmers in the south have you changed now or expanded? And a \$50 million infusion from a partner is significant, can tell us what that means for your workforce and expansion in the future.

Dr. Priyanka Sharma: We used to work with farmers out of Alamosa. Now we are working with a coop rather than with one company. We like this method because we are getting to know many different farming families, and each has responsibility of with various parts of the cultivation. The company we are working with in Grand Junction has a nice hold on the genetics. And they know how to continuously breed many new varieties each year.

Mr. Pulak Sharma: The bigger the dream the more important the team. We really wanted partners that could democratize CBD. Perrigo was originally a pharmaceutical company, so they have very strong ties with drug companies and the FDA. The path of CBD has been everything but democratic. We understand the FDA wants to ensure the safety of these products and they will not make people sick. There is proof that even small amounts of THC can accumulate in your system and you could fail a drug test. Those and the FDA are the challenges that we will work with Perrigo to solve.

Becky Zierer: Did you do anything with the animal feed?

Dr. Priyanka Sharma: At the moment it is going back to the farm for composting because they have found it very useful in the production for the next cycle of industrial hemp when you compost with the spent materials. I think there is still an opportunity once the hemp is converted to pellets to use it for bedding. We are looking at benefits for feed, I think there are several institutions around Colorado possibly CSU for testing. We do have somebody that works on the farming side of this business and he would be interested in doing the test for you.

Wil Chase: I have an overall question. This is a large component, I look at the supplies, scientific parts, manufacturing, distributing and retailing are you in all of that?

Mr. Pulak Sharma: After looking at our core values, we feel we must be in all of that to democratize CBD in a way that will allow CBD and other cannabinoids flourish. There are a lot of snake oil salesmen that bring down the value and that is one of the reasons that Perrigo is involved. We want to clean up the supply chain and work with the FDA and other agencies to introduce CBD and other cannabinoids into the supply chain and into commerce.

Wil Chase: I have talked to some farmer friends in Grand Junction and our farm here in Byers, May Farms and everybody is excited about it. On the farming side of it, growing and harvesting it is a tough thing, what you do with it is nothing like what they are used to.

Dr. Priyanka Sharma: US was the leader in industrial hemp cultivation before 1930. Then when the marijuana act in 1930 the industrial hemp was then coupled in with that as being a scheduled drug. So they lost the know how it basically skipped a generation of farmers. The technology they had has been lost so they are having to start over so that is why you are hearing frustration.

Wil Chase: I am a retired pharmacist and in this business I'm glad to see what you have done.

Julio Iturreria: What does it take to create what you are looking for, say climate, soil, irrigation? What is the menu for a good hemp product?

Mr. Pulak Sharma: The farmers that we work with live at the farm. There is a lot of automation that is coming into play that is helping the industry scale. Large equipment companies are looking at what kind of equipment they could build for the industry. On the genetic side there is going to be a tremendous amount of work done on how you create richer minor cannabinoid strains this could take several years of trial and error and a lot of failed experiments but that's where the richness is of understanding the benefits of the compounds to the world. It comes from a plant, this is fundamentally different from the drug industry where everything is synthetic or derived from techniques, very few are coming from a plant. We believe that these cannabinoids have a tremendous potential for human health and wellness.

Julio Iturreria: Several years ago, I was in New Mexico and I picked up a hemp shirt, and I haven't seen one since. Where are you planning to still go?

Dr. Priyanka Sharma: There are businesses that are started from industrial hemp and Becky and I were just talking about the pellets that are possible use in farming operations or in feed. What you are referring to are textiles, there are a lot of avenues for the hemp plant beyond extraction into CBD molecules and into products. There a huge industry forming around textiles and ancillary businesses for industrial hemp.

Jenn Negley: Do you have any insight into consumer trends with this product?

Mr. Pulak Sharma: People really want to use CBD not just as a lotion. They are seeing more benefit from consuming the product. That is the trend that we are seeing, and people are wanting higher doses. That is where we really excel at, we can deliver very high doses of CBD. There are studies that show that CBD is not psychoactive it has a positive effect or a neutral effect.

Jenn Negley: Are your products sold domestically or around the world and what kind of demand is that?

Mr. Pulak Sharma: Right What we have done is specific to the US and other countries have their own standards. Now, our focus is the United States.

Becky Zierer: What do you mean when you say democratize?

Mr. Pulak Sharma: If you look at how CBD and other cannabinoids are created in the United States, it is not held up to a level that is acceptable. There is a lot of stigma associated with CBD, they think it is THC and they will get high from it. The FDA is not very kind to the industry. When we filed our permits with the county, they classified us as a marijuana company. We tried to educate them on the differences between industrial hemp, marijuana, and CBD. Again, that is the work we must do to see that CBD is something that is rooted in science and has the benefits for society and humans. We have a lot of work to do because we are passionate about the benefits. Thank you for your time.

Dr. Priyanka Sharma: We would love to have the Reap group come for a tour in the fall.

Other Business:

Julio reported next month will be our Board Meeting. Julio thanked the presenters.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.