



South Central Illinois Regional Planning Development Commission

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Serving the Illinois Counties of Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, and Marion since 1972

MINUTES MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Joe’s Pizza & Pasta

Salem, IL

TUESDAY, February 24, 2026

Commissioners Present

Chris Rinehart	Clay County
Michael Gill	Clay County
Herb Henson	Clay County
Mike Delonshaw	Clay County
David Johnson	Clay County
Robert Bohnhoff	Effingham Co
Larry Taylor	Effingham Co
David Campbell	Effingham Co.
John Roberts	Fayette Co.
John Lotz	Fayette Co.
Jessica Barker	Fayette Co.
Mack Payne	Fayette Co.
Ben Bollman	Jasper County
Angela Fehrenbacher	Jasper County
Mike Hall	Jasper County
David Armbrust	Marion County
Rob Jackson	Marion County
Tony Smith	Marion County

Commissioners Absent

Mike Stanford	Clay County
Norbert Soltwedel	Effingham Co.
Sasha Althoff	Effingham Co.
Mike Brown	Effingham Co.
James Scott	Fayette Co.
Doug Knebel	Fayette Co.
Karen Booker	Jasper County
Austin Francis	Jasper County
RJ Lindemann	Jasper County
Bill Halfacre	Marion County
Debbie Smith	Marion County
Cody Rose	Marion County

Guests Present:

Staff Present:

Luke Eastin, Executive Director

Brooke Frederick, EDA Planner/Loan Portfolio Manager

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:56 p.m.

ROLL CALL *(Taken by signature sheet – see the list of attendees and absentees above)*

Eighteen voting Commissioners attended and the Executive Director, constituting a legal quorum.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS/HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Eastin mentioned that former SCIRPDC board member and Effingham Economic Development Director, Todd Hull, will be retiring at the end of March and asked if there were any discussions or changes concerning the October 28, 2025 Minutes. Taylor entertained a motion made by Hall to approve the

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Enhance Economic Development and Quality of Life for its Regional Citizens

✦ An Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider ✦

minutes as amended. A second was made by Payne. *(Approved)*

BILLS & COMMUNICATIONS

Upcoming Grant Deadlines & Submissions

Eastin noted that the CDBG program has a potential cycle opening date of July 2026. USDA Rural Development does not currently have funding for the CFG program but is encouraging applications to be submitted from small communities if there is a dire need. Eastin highlighted a grant that would cover establishment of business incubators. Gill inquired about the purpose of incubators.

Program Spotlight-IDOA Local Food Infrastructure Grant

Eastin introduced the Local Food Infrastructure Grant that would help cover the purchase of grocery store implements (freezers, shelving, etc.). Buying merchandise or paying staff costs are ineligible expenses.

TREASURER'S REPORT

11/1/2025-1/31/2026

Checks written for January were \$41,513.74. General fund balance was \$586,459.54 with \$171,166.62 in ERTC as of 1/31/26. YTD Revenues were \$121,912.28 with \$89,356.55 in expenses. Total balance of CDs was \$556,786.59. As noticed by Rose, the loan portfolio showed a balance of over \$200,000 less than the previous month. There was an error in the Excel sheet that prevented Arizona Realty's balance from being calculated. Actual total under RBI is \$947,605.03 bringing entire loan totals to approximately \$1,479,698. Taylor entertained a motion made by Payne to approve the November, December, and January Treasurer's Report. A second was made by Roberts. *(Approved)*

STAFF REPORT

9/1/2025 – 9/31/2025

All grants with communities outside of the region are now closed. In December, the commission worked with the City of Salem and Village of Central City on tree planting grants that were awarded. The City of Flora's OSLAD grant was approved; the remaining five submitted were denied. Competition is increasing for this program within the state. There are ongoing conversations with the grocery store in Newton to complete a Local Food Infrastructure Grant. SCIRPDC is partnering with the Marion County Genealogical Society for a Historical Records Grant to assist with the purchase of a microfiche machine that would digitize centuries-old documents. Barker asked for further information on the program. Eastin and Jackson worked together to submit a TIF extension for the City of Centralia. A long awaited project, SCIRPDC will be completing a Hazard Mitigation Plan for Marion County.

Gill asked what the board could do to assist the commission in finding more loan opportunities. Eastin remarked that there were a some prospective projects but most weren't a good fit for current commission lending policies. He mentioned his plans to call the loan committee together to review and update the program now that SCIRPDC has deferalized their programs. Henson noted a need for oversight on the available funding levels; Gill requested information be put on pamphlets or flyers for the board to pass out to potential business owners.

COMMITTEE REPORT

No committee report.

New Business

Resolution Authorizing EDA-2026-2028 Partnership Planning Grant

Every three years, EDA requests SCIRPDC apply for continued funding. \$210,000 is being offered with the commission required to provide a 40% match of \$140,000 (down 10% from previous years). Taylor entertained a motion made by Hall to approve the resolution. A second was made by Campbell. *(Approved)*

OLD BUSINESS

SCIRPDC FY-2024 Audit

Eastin indicated that the audit still had not been completed but could verify that work was being done on it. There had been staffing turnover issues at Leymone-Hardcastle that slowed down the process. Payne indicated that this had been a common issue for many communities. The lead CPA at the firm had previously said that the audit would be completed by 2/19/26, however, nothing had been sent over as of yet.

Eastin indicated that he had plans to schedule committee meetings in the spring to review current policies with members. A new commissioner orientation was held earlier this month with Jackson, Rose, Knebel, and Rinehart in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Taylor entertained a motion by Payne to adjourn the February board meeting at 7:48 p.m. A second was made by Gill. *(Approved)*

APPROVED THIS, THE 28th DAY OF APRIL 2026 AD.

Doug Knebel, Corp. Secretary
SCIRPDC

Larry Taylor, Chairman
SCIRPDC