



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

The Harvest Room

Salem, IL

TUESDAY, July 30, 2024

Commissioners Present

David Johnson	Clay County
Michael Gill	Clay County
Robert Bohnhoff	Effingham Co
Norbert Soltwedel	Effingham Co
Larry Taylor	Effingham Co
Mike Brown	Effingham Co
Ricky Gottman	Fayette Co
Michael Kleinik	Fayette Co
John Roberts	Fayette Co
John Lotz	Fayette Co
Mack Payne	Fayette Co
Jessica Barker	Fayette Co
Angela Fehrenbacher	Jasper County
Mike Hall	Jasper County
Tom Brown	Jasper County
Janie Grimes	Marion County
Tony Smith	Marion County
David Armbrust	Marion County
Debbie Smith	Marion County
Gary Purcell	Marion County

Commissioners Absent

Mike Delonshaw	Clay County
Herb Henson	Clay County
Barry Adair	Clay County
Michael Stanford	Clay County
David Campbell	Effingham Co.
Sasha Althoff	Effingham Co.
Ben Bollman	Jasper County
Karen Booker	Jasper County
RJ Lindemann	Jasper County
Derek Sherman	Marion County

Guests Present:

Staff Present: Luke Eastin, Executive Director
Brooke Frederick, EDA Planner/Loan Portfolio Manager

Vice Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

ROLL CALL (*Taken by signature sheet – see the list of attendees and absentees above*)
Twenty voting Commissioners attended and the Executive Director, constituting a legal quorum.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS/HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

The Mission of the South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission is to
Enhance Economic Development and Quality of Life for its Regional Citizens

✦ An Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider ✦

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 25th, 2024 Monthly Meeting

Eastin asked if there was any discussion or changes concerning the June 25, 2024 Minutes. T. Brown requested that the minutes be amended to denote the first initial of board members with the same last names. Taylor entertained a motion made by T. Brown to approve the Minutes as amended. A second was made by Hall. *(Approved)*

BILLS & COMMUNICATIONS

Upcoming Grant Deadlines & Submissions

CDBGs will be due on December 4th for both housing rehabilitation and public infrastructure. At the moment, there are about 4 applications the commission is planning to submit with room for more. The OSLAD grant is due on September September 13th. There are 2 confirmed projects but SCIRPDC is open to taking on additional submissions. ITEPs are due September 30th that will help cover transportation enhancement projects. The maximum grant award is \$3 million.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report from June 16, 2024, through July 15, 2024

There is no official treasurer's report due to the bookkeeper being out of the office for a family matter. One will be provided next month. An abbreviated version was reviewed.

YTD revenues are \$\$513,287.09. The grant writing/planning revenues are higher than planned and EDA drawdowns are less than expected due to lack of staffing. Grant Management is down due to projects moving slower than anticipated. Eastin noted expenditures are way down due to staffing. Total expenditures for the year are \$483,440.89.

ERTC funds are at \$128,474.64 in the general account.

STAFF REPORT

6/16/2023 – 7/15/2024

The Vandalia Association of Churches' CFG application is getting ready for submission. Their "community center" is needing a new roof. Newton and Jasper County ETCG are moving along. Jasper County's Capital Grant is making headway to reimburse them for the jail project. Four RDMS grants were submitted on the 22nd of July. Crawford County Disaster Response is over with now and has been taken care of. There were small fees paid for by the county for this. Effingham County has received their funds from the Business Resiliency program. These expenses are going to approved small businesses for their purchases during COVID. LSLI grants are wrapping up and the communities will next have to come up with a plan to replace the lead service lines. Vice Chairman Taylor entertained a motion made by Gottmann to approve the staff progress report. A second was made by Payne. *(Approved)*

COMMITTEE REPORT

No Committee Meetings.

New Business

"Grant of the Month" – IDNR OSLAD Grant Program

The OSLAD grant pays up to \$600,000 for upgrades to parks or land acquisition to be used for an outdoor space. Most communities have to provide a 50% match, however, those that are identified as being “distressed” can have 100% of the grant covered. These include Bingham, Brownstown, Clay City, Kinmundy, St. Elmo, Wheeler, and Vernon. The Brownstown and St. Elmo Park Districts are also the list and can apply. The grant is due on September 13th. Project engineering is covered under this program as well. Gill asked about the process for the acquisition aspect of the grant. Lotz asked about smaller playground equipment projects.

Soltwedel asked about the money sitting in CDs. Eastin noted that all of it is limited for use in loan-only projects. Soltwedel asked about using it to fund a data center. Gottman replied that it doesn’t create many jobs which would disqualify it for a loan opportunity.

FY-2024 Audit Engagement Inquiry-Lemoyne Hardcastle & Co. Ltd

The previous auditor is retiring and has attempted to line up Lemoyne Hardcastle & Co. LTD to take on the commission as a client. There has been no official agreement made yet, but Eastin is in conversations with them. Due to EDA funds now being under ownership of SCIRPDC, there will no longer be a need for a Single Audit which will hopefully keep down costs. A conversation ensued regarding the need to seek bids for this service. However, the cost for an audit would not exceed the federal limit.

OLD BUSINESS

Employment Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) Update-IRS payment refund received

Innovation Refunds sent a check for \$9,715.13 (25% of the total amount) to SCIRPDC to cover a portion of what had to be sent back to the IRS. According to the attorneys, there is a chance that the commission is eligible under Section 115.

No new updates on the roof project.

Gottman asked about the required number of meetings in a year. Eastin noted there was none that he knew of. Soltwedel was concerned with missing out on hearing about grants as they come available. Hall mentioned a newsletter could be sent out for that purpose. Bohnhoff asked about meeting locations being in Effingham/Salem vs. rotating through each county. T. Brown noted the benefit of in-person meetings as opposed to the virtual ones that took place during the pandemic. Gottman suggested every other month meetings. Gill requested it be put on next month’s agenda for a vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Eastin asked if anyone had anything to comment on or questions regarding the agenda. There being none, Taylor entertained a motion by M. Brown to adjourn the July board meeting at 7:42 p.m. A second was made by Gottman. *(Approved)*

APPROVED THIS, THE 27th DAY OF August 2024 AD.

Jessica Barker, Corp. Secretary
SCIRPDC

Barry Adair, Chairman
SCIRPDC