



Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission

10 West Main Street - P.O. Box 209 - Albion, IL 62806

Tel: 618-445-3612

Fax: 618-445-3629

www.gwrpc.com

**MINUTES: Board of Directors Meeting
March 26, 2020
Via Conference Call**

Attendance:

Present:	Absent:
Alex Pleasant	Jonathan Goff
Roger Pethel	Kim Carlson
Randy Hallam	Mike Knight
Charlotte St. Ledger	Betty Brian
Roy Kissel	Dennis Graves
Jim Brewer	Steve Hartsock
Rodney Ranes	Robert Dean
Larry Miller	Gary Sloan
Rob Anniss	
Joe Judge	
Jim Pfeister	
Gerald Edgren	
Scott Merkle	
Brent Maguire	
Wes Harris	
Don Price	
Andrea Hays	
George Bohman	

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Joe Judge, Board Chairman.

Approval of Minutes

Joe Judge, Board Chairman, asked for approval of September 26, 2019 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Larry Miller to approve the minutes as presented. A second came from Roy Kissel and the motion passed.

Approval of September 2019-February 2020 Financial Report

Joe Judge, Board Chairman, asked for approval of the September 2019 – February 2020 Financial Report.

A motion was made by Randy Hallam to approve the Financial Report as presented. A second came from George Bohman and the motion passed.

RLF Committee

Joe Judge, Board Chairman, presented the RLF loan to the board. Famous J's in Mt. Carmel has requested \$16,000 at 2.44% for 15 years. He is seeking a \$16,000 2nd mortgage loan to fund the purchase of the real estate

An EDA Designed Economic Development District

Crawford-Edwards-Lawrence-Richland-Wabash-Wayne-White

where he operates from. His equity in the deal is his inventory and equipment. The First National Bank is willing to provide financing. GWRPC will have the second mortgage after First National Bank of Allendale.

Finance Committee

Randy Hallam, Committee Chairman, presented the FY 2020-2021 budget. Rodney Ranes made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Brent Maguire seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Nomination Committee

Larry Miller, Committee Chairman, presented the slate of officers: Joe Judge, Chairman; Rob Anniss, Vice-Chairman; Scott Merkle, Secretary; and Randy Hallam, Treasurer. Nominations were requested from the floor. None were heard, a motion to close nominations from the floor came from Larry Miller with a second from Charlotte St. Ledger. Motion carried.

Old Business- None

New Business

RLF Committee- Charlotte St. Ledger made a motion to approve the Famous J's RLF loan in the amount of \$16,000 for 15 years with an interest rate of 2.44% with a second mortgage behind the First National Bank of Allendale. Andrea Hayes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance Committee- Rodney Ranes made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Brent Maguire seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Nomination Committee- Roy Kissel made a motion to approve the slate of officers and a second came from Roger Pethel. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Open CDBG Projects:

Applied for in 2017, awarded in 2018:

- Carmi – rehab and construction of sewer lines, septic tank and hookups along Marguerite Street. The construction is ongoing weather permitting.
- Big Mound – grant closed in December 2019.
- Bridgeport – sewer lagoon rehab. The construction is ongoing.

Applied for in 2018, awarded in 2019:

- Lawrence County – construction of waterlines within the Petrolia Water District. The pre-bid meeting will be set in April.
- Lawrenceville- relining sewer lines in the southeast quadrant of the City. They are finishing up construction and our office will be starting the closing documents soon.

Applied for in 2019, awarded in 2020:

- Grayville – replacement of waterlines. The grant amount is \$500,000 and GWRPC will receive \$35,000 in admin. Our office is currently working on the environmental.
- Olney – replacement of waterlines. The grant amount is \$411,530 and GWRPC will receive \$28,807 in admin. Our office is currently working on the environmental.

CDBG RLF Closeout projects

- Carmi – wastewater treatment plant. They are currently finishing up the project, hoping to be done within the next couple weeks weather permitting.
- Carmi – Industrial Avenue road project (50/50 EDA and CDBG RLF), hoping to start construction the beginning of April.
- Olney – rehab of Elliot Street bridge, hoping to set a bid opening date in April.

- Mt. Carmel – Oak Street sidewalk. The agreement has been signed and the City is working with the railroad company.

IDOT RTP

Mike is working on bike path feasibility study located in White County from Grayville's Rest Up Camping & RV Coral to the road leading up to the New Harmony bridge in Crossville. Our office received an extension on the grant making the new expiration date September 30, 2020. The reason we requested the extension is because President Trump signed the Restore the Harmony Way Bridge Act. The Act will transfer control to the bridge authorities of Indiana and Illinois. Our office would like to participate in this and incorporate the new information into the bike path study.

Executive Director Training:

I have been working with Sarah to learn the aspects of the director position. In January and February, Sarah and I worked on preparing the budget and submitting the annual EDA performance report. In April, one of the semi-annual reports to EDA will be due. Sarah and I will be working on a Saturday in April to prepare that report.

On October 5th I attended the Small Business Development Center stakeholders meeting. We discussed the new laws that will take place Jan. 1st and how it will impact the workplace.

On October 16th Heather and I attended the Regional Disaster Conference in Marion, IL. This year's theme was "weathering the storm." We discussed preparing businesses and homeowners for earthquakes, preparing safety zones and shelter within a community, and communication services during the disaster.

On November 21st I attended the Hoosier Energy South Eastern IL Roundtable. We learned about the updated economic impact software and different funding opportunities Hoosier may be able to offer. Heather and I were awarded the 2020 Hoosier Energy Scholarship. The scholarship will pay for the Midwest Community Development Institute registration costs, which is \$550 each. I attended the training in August 2019 and I'm looking forward to returning. This will be Heather's first time. This workshop is a three-year program.

On December 3rd Heather and I attended the Opportunity Zone and Tourism workshop. Kim Watson with DCEO hosted the event. They talked about how to find stakeholders and businesses for opportunity zones. The Director of Tourism spoke about the possible funding programs available to support the tourism industry.

On January 30th I attended Ameren's Energy Efficiency Workshop. I learned about energy efficiency programs, a variety of cash incentives, and ways to reduce costs for businesses and organizations.

On February 11th Heather and I attended the IL Manufacturing roundtable. We discussed manufacturing issues for our region, creative approaches companies have embraced to recruit/retain employees, and we were given a tour of the Libman Company in Arcola.

On February 13th our EDA Representative, Darrin Fleener, came to our office to discuss project ideas with our region's elected officials and economic developers. Darrin talked about EDA's funding opportunities and elected officials were able to present project ideas they have in their community.

On February 18th I attended a Grants Online webinar, where I learned how to read grant files, understanding various statuses, and looking at a workflow history.

On February 21st I sat in on the DRA LDD training webinar. Since I attended the training, GWRPC is eligible to receive the technical assistance funding and submit 2020 project applications. In our region, White County is the only county eligible to receive funding.

On February 26-27th Mike, Heather, and I attended the yearly CDBG training workshop in Springfield. We learned about the new guidelines for the 2020 applications and the Rebuild IL grant.

Throughout March we hosted our yearly CEDS meetings in each county. We were able to go to White, Wabash, Crawford, and Lawrence counties. I hosted conference calls for Richland, Edwards, and Wayne Counties. I'm hoping to meet with those communities in person once we are able to host meetings again.

Currently the GWRPC RLF account has \$267,858.65. We have had people reach out to us interested in our program. Currently they are working on the applications and talking with their banks on the letters and business plans.

The next meeting will be June 25, 2020 location TBA.

A motion was made by Scott Merkle to adjourn the meeting and Randy Hallam seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.