

**MINUTES: Board of Directors Meeting**

**October 19, 2017**

**GWRPC, Albion, IL**

**Attendance:**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Absent:</b>
<b>Gary Sloan</b>	<b>Dennis Graves</b>
<b>Charlotte St. Ledger</b>	<b>Roy Kissel</b>
<b>Mike Knight</b>	<b>Rob Dean</b>
<b>Randy Hallam</b>	<b>Scott Merkle</b>
<b>Larry Miller</b>	<b>Tom Robinson</b>
<b>Roger Pethtel</b>	<b>Rob Annis</b>
<b>Alex Pleasant</b>	<b>Gerald Edgren</b>
<b>Jim Pfeister</b>	<b>Wes Harris</b>
<b>Joe Judge</b>	<b>Steve Hartsock</b>
<b>Andrea Hays</b>	<b>Bill Gray</b>
<b>Don Price</b>	
<b>Betty Brian</b>	
<b>Kim Carlson</b>	
<b>George Bohman</b>	
<b>Brent Maguire</b>	
<b>Rodney Ranes</b>	
<b>Terry McCoy</b>	

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was called to order by Joe Judge, Board Chairman. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Joe welcomed new board member Brent Maguire.

**Approval of Minutes**

Joe Judge, Board Chairman, asked for approval of June 22, 2017 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Larry Miller to approve the minutes. A second came from Gary Sloan and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of June, July, August, September Financial Report**

Randy Hallam, Treasurer asked for approval of the June, July, August, September Financial Report. A motion was made by Gary Sloan to approve the Financial Report as presented. A second came from Brent Maguire and the motion passed unanimously.

**RLF Committee-** RLF Committee Chairman, Don Price, reminded the group that we have money available to lend and the CDBG RLF in the communities is being taken back by the State. There should be a need for our funding to fill those gaps.

### **Old Business-**

The 2015-2016 Audit from Watler Accounting for FY ended March 31, 2016 was approved. Rodney Ranes made the motion to approve, second from Kim Carlson. Motion Carried.

There were 3 auditors who sent proposals for service: Leymone Hardcastle (\$4000-\$5000), Dartt & Co. (\$3750), and Watler Accounting (\$4500). After reviewing the proposals, it was discussed that Dartt did not have a peer review because they were so new. Watler was over a year late on the last audit. Charlotte St. Ledger made a motion to go with Leymone Hardcastle seconded by Randy Hallam. Motion Carried.

### **New Business**

CDBG Administration Rate was set for CDBG grants through the State of Illinois that no longer pays for grant administration. Flat fee of \$10,000 for \$150,000 grants or under and 7% of the grant amount over \$150,000. Jim Pfeister made a motion to accept, seconded by Roger Pethtel. Motion carried.

The RLF plan needs to be updated. The dollar per job and loan maximum are too low according to EDA. Don Price made a motion to increase the loans to \$30,000 per job with a \$300,000 max. Charlotte St. Ledger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Executive Director's Report**

- **Stronger Economies Together- USDA-** We are continuing to develop a regional Business Retention Expansion program using CORE. We held a training in August and have started entering data into the software purchased by the grant. We also have a meeting scheduled with Economic Development Directors on November 1<sup>st</sup>.- the local workforce investment (WIOA) groups will talk about gaps in service and how we can all work together.

We are planning a 2<sup>nd</sup> Business Education Symposium for Spring 2018, last year it was held at Carmi White County High School and was very well attended by 70 people. We will again host speakers and get communication between K-12 education, higher education, and the business community.

Olivia is working on employer videos to show to area high school students on jobs in the region. Wabash Valley College has agreed to put the videos together, she will be working with Kyle Peach to make a short and long version of companies in the region and specific jobs that younger students might not be aware of and what education needs go along with each job. The first employer video will be B&D Independence in Mt. Carmel.

- **Open CDAP Projects:**  
Dundas West Liberty (sewer infrastructure) (100% complete)

DCEO changed the way they are awarding the 2017 grants, both Lawrenceville and West Salem were given notice of state award finalist and cleared environmentals before getting the NOSA. They both accepted the NOSA

(Notice of State Award) online on the GATA website but are still waiting on grant paperwork which could be between 2-8 weeks.

**Housing- Olney-** We are still taking applications, we have 5 homes that qualify so far. The project is on hold right while we are still taking applications.

**2017 CDBG-** We attended the workshop in September- Applications are due 12/15/17.

There are several changes this year. The first we already talked about: no administration can be included in the grants. They also implemented a new rule that if a community wants a CDBG grant, they must meet a minimum rate that they charge for water/sewer. They have the rate calculated based on the LMI for that area and we have had several this year that dropped out of applying because they did not charge enough and were not willing to raise their rates. The State views this as- “communities do not have high enough rates and are asking the State to subsidize their system with a grant when they aren’t changing enough to sustain it in the first place”

We are working on the following:

**Potential 2017 CDBG-**

1. Petrolia Water District- (Lawrence County) water line replacement. Conner & Conner is redoing this project from last year
2. City of Carmi- septic tank/sewer project- (Lamac)
3. Boyleston WaterWorks (Wayne County-Big Mound Township) Water to 7 homes with Wells (Lamac)
4. Bridgeport- Sewer Lagoon Rehab (Lamac)

**EJ WATER-** David has been attending the EJ water board meetings and we could potentially be working on a project in Claremont Township if the grant is awarded.

**Delta Regional Authority grants-**

**Grayville Koehler Street 2016-** Completed

**2017 Crossville** was awarded \$42,000 to replace their gas regulator plant that was destroyed in the February tornado. Completed

**USDA/RD- CF Grants**

Grayville (Police Car)- awarded.

White County (Ambulance)- submitted

City of Albion (Squad Car)- submitted

Edwards County (Squad Car)- submitted

**USDA CF Technical Assistance Grant – Grant was denied-** was for GWRPC office for \$150,000 to assist with applications for Community Facility grants and loans.

**FEMA PDMP-** waiting on all resolutions of support to get final acceptance from FEMA.

**IDOT RTP-** The State of Illinois as authorized the IDOT Rural Transportation Funding for 2016-2017. The formula is based on population. We received \$18,275 for rural transportation planning. We received a letter this week stating that the grant is on hold as of 6/30/17 and no expenses would be reimbursed after that. Sarah will be billing for November through June 2017.

**Elected Official Training-** was held on August 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00- Noon at the Olney Central College Performing Arts Theater. We had 75 in attendance with several very important speakers. We were asked by many to make it an annual event.

**RLF-** We currently have \$381,227 available to lend. The State RLF program is being suspended and several of our communities will be affected: Mt. Carmel, Carmi, Olney and Robinson will no longer have their own RLF program. We can make loans in the entire 7 county region and hope to fill the gap that will be left from these communities losing their own funds.

**EPA Brownfield Grant:** The grant expired on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Office Manual/Bylaws-** I will be revising the office manual and policies before the annual meeting in March. The State of Illinois new GATA requirements will require us to have some written policies in place that we currently do but are not written. One example is a yearly audit. We do a yearly audit but don't have that documented in either the bylaws or the manual. We will also be putting some grant procedures into the office manual.

Next meeting is December 7th at 6:00 if necessary.