

MINUTES: Board of Directors Meeting

September 22, 2016

GWRPC Office, Albion, IL

Attendance:

Present:	Absent:
Alex Pleasant	Toni Earleywine
Roger Pethtel	Terry McCoy
Steve McMahel	Rodney Ranes
Randy Hallam	Rob Dean
Charlotte St. Ledger	Scott Merkle
Kim Carlson	Gerald Edgren
Bill Gray	Jerry Donoho
W.R. Brian	Steve Hartsock
Larry Miller	Mike Knight
Leo Ledeker	Roy Kissel
Rob Annis	David Campbell
Don Price	
Joe Judge	
Jim Pfeister	
Gary Sloan	

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Charlotte St. Ledger, Board Chairman. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Charlotte welcomed new board members Alex Pleasant.

Approval of Minutes

Charlotte St. Ledger, Board Chairman, asked for approval of March 24, 2016 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Larry Miller to approve the minutes. A second came from Joe Judge and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of January and February Financial Report

Charlotte St. Ledger, Board Chairman, asked for approval of the March through August Financial Report. A motion was made by Randy Hallam to approve the Financial Report as presented. A second came from Jim Pfeister and the motion passed unanimously.

RLF Committee- Don Price, Chairman of the RLF Committee reported that the loan committee had met previously this evening with a loan applicant, Michelle Brooks, from Olney. He is recommending approval of her loan request for \$100,000 at 20 year at 2.65%. The loan will be in conjunction with First National Bank financing and will be to expand her restaurant business in Olney which has been in operation as Daylight Donuts since 2007. The new restaurant will have all day food and will be called HV's Diner. Don Price made a motion to approve the loan and the second was made by Gary Sloan. Motion carried. Don Price also made a motion to approve the balloon for Farmer's Packing which is a routine 5-year balloon. Second was made by Rob Annis. Motion carried.

Old Business- none

New Business- It was brought to the board's attention that we have a CD at Fairfield National Bank in the amount of \$9,058.82 that will be coming due on 1/11/17. We also have a Money Market account at First Bank. A motion was made by Jim Pfeister to move the Fairfield National Bank CD and First Bank Money Market account to Citizens National Bank in Albion. We have a greater need for cash to be located at the same bank. A second was made by Gary Sloan. Motion Carried.

The By-Laws need to be reviewed, especially as they relate to the appointing of officers. Charlotte appointed a special By-Laws committee to report to the board before the next elections of officers. The committee will be Joe Judge, Alex Pleasant, and Randy Hallam.

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development Related Projects:

***Stronger Economies Together- USDA**

The plan is in the final stages of the final draft and is being reviewed by USDA for comments and suggestions. We are meeting here at the office on Monday to finalize the remaining 3 goals and objectives. The first goal centered around employability held a Kick Off meeting paid for by the original SET grant on August 9th at Carmi White County High School. The Business Symposium was attended by over 70 people from K-12 Superintendents, Principals, Guidance Counselors, Business Owners/Managers, Economic Development, and Community Colleges. The event was very successful. We have held 3 follow-up meetings so far in Wayne, White and Wabash. We are planning to schedule one in Richland and Crawford in the next few months. Many businesses are participating and we have had open discussions with the School superintendents and guidance counselors about working with business in the region. Everyone seems very open to discussion and willing to work together. One of short term goals is to put together a video to be showed in high schools about the employers in the region and jobs that are available. Another video we would like to put together is a "Made in Greater Wabash" highlighting the manufacturers and products that are made in our region. David and I recently toured Elastec and Web Printing Controls. We hope to keep touring facilities and getting the manufacturers on board with the video idea. It will help to highlight what we do make here and bring awareness that is currently lacking. David and I have meet with Workforce, WADI and will meet with the State of Illinois Job Link group in October to talk about how we can address workforce issues and marketing the jobs we have in the region. We are also planning a meeting with IECC TRIO group to discuss what resources they provide to the area high schools. On October 19th, I will be attending an event at OCC to introduce manufacturers to high school students. On October 20th, I will be attending the Regional Workforce Roundtable meeting in Effingham to hear what businesses are currently doing

to partner with Schools. This is the event that we heard about Agrifab and No Job Left behind who attended and spoke at the Symposium.

The 2nd goal is Business Support. I attended an event in Collinsville yesterday conducted by the State of Illinois. Ameren and Blaine Canada have teamed up to provide software to the State for Business Retention and Expansion visits. The Greater Wabash region can purchase the software for use by all economic developers for a cost of \$4400 initially and then \$1200 per year. The reports that go along with the software are amazing and would be a great asset to the region. I am going to meet with all the economic development organizations and see if we can divide the cost among all 7 counties. Having the pooled information could help provide solutions within our region for businesses.

SBDC- The work we have talked about regarding the SBDC is currently on hold pending a State Budget. However, this is part of the SET plan as Goal 2- Business Support.

CEDS- We will have a CEDS committee meeting soon to review the plan that will be submitted at the beginning of the year. I am utilizing a lot of the information from the SET meetings so that it will be duplicative.

GATA- The Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act is the first, and currently only, state legislation in the nation to require the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive set of standards that mandate accountability and transparency throughout the entire life cycle of a grant. GATA will change how everyone who has any state grant or federal pass through grant does applications or administration. I have already had several communities call. We will be aiding if people need more information once the GATA rules are final and implemented.

CDAP- Grants are due September 30th. We are submitting Lawrence County (Petrolia Water District), Lawrenceville, Cisne and West Salem for Public Facilities and Robinson for Housing Rehabilitation.

DRA- Grayville's Road project is currently under construction at the new industrial park.

Grant Administration-

CDAP projects- Dundas West Liberty and Noble both have Sewer Infrastructure grants. David has been working on the administration of these two construction grants. We have a Housing Grant for the City of Olney. We are currently working on the environmental for that grant and will begin the housing rehab once the environmental are cleared and the grant agreement has been signed.

We have 2 CDAP projects in our region (Richland County) that are being administered by engineers (Preston and German Townships).

FEMA PDMP- the PreDisaster Plans will be finished by December 31, 2016. There have been letters sent to the Counties from IEMA about this. I have been in contact with IEMA and let them know that we are still working on them. SIU is ultimately responsible for their completion.

Brownfield Grant Update:

We are still working on Phase I and II reports for the region and we are slowly using up all our funding. I am excited about the prospects on some of the properties that could possibly be redeveloped from this project. If we have even one property reutilized, I will consider this project a success. Phase I reports that have been completed by Terracon: Krumm Building (West Salem), Grayville IP, Hutsonville Old School, City of Olney CIPS Site, City of Olney East IP, City of Olney Benton Site, City of Robinson (Briggs Pottery Site East and West), City of Mt. Carmel (Quality Cleaners), City of Olney (Garment Factory), Olney Main St. Gas Station Phase II- Briggs Pottery Site East and West, City of Olney CIPS Start site. We hosted a field day at the Briggs Site that went very well. Representatives from the County, City and surrounding communities came to learn about Phase II drilling and here the history of the Briggs Pottery Site.

REGIONAL WATER MEETING

I have attended 2 meetings to discuss a regional water treatment plant between White, Edwards, Wabash Counties and possibly even branching out further. I have offered the Planning Commission as a neutral body if discussions need to be facilitated or if there is help needed to form the Regional entity. I have not heard from anyone regarding if our services will be needed.

IDOT RTP Funds-

The State of Illinois as authorized the IDOT Rural Transportation Funding for 2016-2017. The formula is based on population. We also must submit a scope of work related to transportation planning. As of right now I have a project that is general planning around transportation for all 7 counties. If you have a project that you feel needs to be addressed in your area that involves transportation planning (trails, roads, railroad, etc.) please let me know this week. The project scope is due next week. We will be receiving \$18,275.

Energy Now- Funding has been reapproved for the Illinois Energy Now program. We are partnering with DCEO and ILARC to provide grant writing services to the region. I currently have one project from the City of Robinson and one from Grayville Schools. We will be marketing this over the next couple months for projects that will involve lighting, hvac, or kitchen equipment or projects such as motors and variable speed drives that will reduce electricity consumption in the Ameren territory.

COOP MONTH

October is National COOP month. Kate O'Hara who is our liaison with USDA for the SET project approached me recently about hosting a meeting to bring awareness on the topic of COOPs. I contacted Matt Fowler with Wabash Valley College because I have had previous discussions with him on this topic and he is very passionate about it. He is willing to host the event at Wabash Valley College. The date is still TBA. Possibly the last week of October or first week of November. Some of the ideas brought up were brainstorming ideas around food coops but also shared labor coops. So possibly addressing the skilled labor shortage. More information will follow in the next few weeks.

Adjournment

The next meeting date will December 1, 2016 at 6:30 at the GWRPC office.

A motion was made by Gary Sloan to adjourn the meeting and Bill Gray seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.