

MINUTES: Board of Directors Meeting

February 10, 2016

GWRPC office- Albion, IL

Attendance:

Present:	Absent:
Terry McCoy	Bill Gray
Connie Calvert	Bill Brian
Steve McMahel	Joe Judge
Charlotte St. Ledger	Steve Hartsock
Toni Earlywine	Courtney Yost
Randy Hallam	Rodney Ranes
Larry Miller	Leo Ledeker
Don Price	Rob Dean
Roger Pethtel	
Jim Pfeister	
Gary Sloan	
Jerry Donoho	
Scott Merkle	
Mike Knight	
David Campbell	
Gerald Edgren	
Roy Kissel	

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 member Toni Earlywine from Crawford County.

Special Guest-

Terry Harper, CPA presented the 2014-2015 Audit. The Audit will be passed at the next board meeting allowing board members a chance to look over it.

Approval of Minutes

Charlotte St. Ledger, Board Chairman, asked for approval of November 19, 2015 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Scott Merkle to approve the minutes. A second came from David Campbell and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of June through August Financial Report

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

RLF Committee- We have money to lend. See Sarah for requirements.

Personnel Committee- The Personnel Committee met and reviewed annual evaluations and job duties. As of today, Kara and David will have the same job title, Community Development Coordinator. They will work together to get all aspects of grant writing and administration completed.

New Business- The RLF Plan needs to be updated every 5 years. We are only changing one section, the section that states how much administration we can take from the RLF account. We will now be able to take 100% of expenses not to exceed the total interest earned in that period. Motion from Larry Miller to approve the new RLF Plan, second from Don Price. Motion carried.

The 2016-2017 budget was presented. There were significant cuts this year including employee health insurance and life insurance. Motion to approve the 2016-2017 budget was made by Gary Sloan and Seconded by Jim Pfeister. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development Related Projects:

***Stronger Economies Together- USDA**

Next meeting is February 23rd, a flyer has been handed out. At the last meeting we developed 5 goals that are listed on the flyer. We have had a great turnout so far.

SBDC- As some of you may know the SBDC at IECC has closed. Our region no longer has a Small Business Development Center for businesses. This presents a major problem when trying to promote entrepreneurship as an economic development tool. Without any small business resources, entrepreneurship is unlikely to be a successful way to grow our economy. As some of you may remember, we completed an EDA Incubator study in conjunction with Mt. Carmel AEA a couple years ago. It basically stated that we had no need for an incubator because we didn't even have enough basic resources to provide businesses in order for them to be successful. With the closing of the SBDC, that made our ONLY resource disappear. I have talked to IECC and have had meetings with Barney Brumfiel (the past director of the IECC SBDC) and we are discussing a way to get the SBDC open again. It takes matching dollars, but Barney feels that he might be able to come up with donations. If he does and needs a fiscal agent to run the State grant through, I told him that we would like to partner. We will meet with DCEO and discuss.

RLF- We currently have around \$300,000 available to lend. I will be utilizing David Savage for marketing over the next year to visit banks and do presentations to clubs.

ILARC- I attended the Illinois Association of Regional Councils meeting last month. The new director of DCEO- Jim Schultz was there to talk about the new DCEO private non-profit economic development organization. The organization is modeled after other states that are successful. It is called Illinois Business and Economic Development Corporation. It was just formed so when more information is available, I will pass

it along. At the ILARC meeting, the other regional councils discussed a regional planning fund that the Planning Commission received from the State in the past out of the general revenue fund. Apparently several planning commission including CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Planning) are having financial difficulties and will be looking into the possibility of proposing that Planning funds be including again in the State's GRF budget.

CEDS- We will start convening the CEDS committee meetings soon. I am utilizing a lot of the information from the SET meetings so that it will not be duplicative.

CDAP- ALL CDAPS were denied. I have the list of who was funded and why the ones were denied if anyone would like a copy. Staff will be meeting with CDAP to discuss how to make these projects stronger. Public Facilities- Olney, Hutsonville, Lawrenceville, Lawrence County on behalf of South Lawrence Water, West Salem, Cisne, Allendale, Petty Township- on behalf of Petrolia Water District.

Housing Rehabilitation- Hutsonville, Olney, Robinson, Norris City- have not been announced yet but we know that we did get one.

DRA- Grant for Grayville was announced. Road project. \$263,861 grant to extend Stephenson Street in the new Industrial Park.

Grant Administration-

CDAP projects- Wayne City has a Design grant and Dundas West Liberty and Noble both have Sewer Infrastructure grants.

FEMA PDMP- the PreDisaster Plans as coming along, another round of meetings will be scheduled for all 6 of the counties in March.

WIOA Planning Team- Regional Workforce Investment Opportunity Act Planning Teams for both our workforce regions. There is also a manufacturer roundtable discussion in Effingham that David and I will be attending tomorrow.

Brownfield Grant Update:

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)

Phase II- Briggs Pottery Site East and West

Speaker for Annual Dinner: Wabash County CEO Program- J.Roy Dee and students that participated.

Adjournment

The next meeting date will be in Mt. Carmel on March 24th at 6:00 p.m.

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