



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

Bonnie Cafe

Salem, IL

TUESDAY, June 24, 2025

Commissioners Present

David Johnson	Clay County
Michael Stanford	Clay County
Mike Delonshaw	Clay County
Herb Henson	Clay County
Robert Bohnhoff	Effingham Co
Norbert Soltwedel	Effingham Co
David Campbell	Effingham Co
Mike Brown	Effingham Co
Larry Taylor	Effingham Co.
Sasha Althoff	Effingham Co.
Jessica Barker	Fayette Co
Mack Payne	Fayette Co
Angela Fehrenbacher	Jasper County
Ben Bollman	Jasper County
Mike Hall	Jasper County
Debbie Smith	Marion County
David Armbrust	Marion County

Commissioners Absent

Michael Gill	Clay County
Doug Knebel	Fayette Co
John Lotz	Fayette Co
Michael Kleinik	Fayette Co
John Roberts	Fayette Co
Karen Booker	Jasper County
RJ Lindemann	Jasper County
Austin Francis	Jasper County
Tony Smith	Marion County

Guests Present: Billy Halfacre, Prospective Board Member
Riley Anderson, Assistant HSTP Coordinator

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

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

ROLL CALL *(Taken by signature sheet – see the list of attendees and absentees above)*

Seventeen voting Commissioners attended and the Executive Director, constituting a legal quorum.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS/HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 24th, 2025 Monthly Meeting

Eastin asked if there was any discussion or changes concerning the June 24, 2025 Minutes. Taylor entertained a motion made by Hall to approve the Minutes as amended. A second was made by

Campbell. *(Approved)*

BILLS & COMMUNICATIONS

Upcoming Grant Deadlines & Submissions

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program will begin accepting applications within the next few months. OSLAD applications will be accepted starting next month.

Program Spotlight-SCIRPDC HSTP Services

Riley Anderson, Assistant HSTP Coordinator, presented to the board on items she and Terri Finn, HSTP Coordinator, have been working on. They cover the southern 39 counties in Illinois and are funded through IDOT. Finn and Anderson assist human service transportation providers with state compliance of 5310 vehicles, scheduler's trainings, and facilitate service provider trainings, among a number of other responsibilities. The HSTP Coordinators also publish Region 9, 10, and 11 plans every few years to establish goals and objectives for the service providers. Anderson also highlighted studies that will soon be available to the public through IDOT. Brown asked about the types of vehicles that Finn and Anderson inspect. Soltwedel made a comment regarding proposed legislation affecting match funding for transportation providers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

4/1/25-4/31/25

General fund balance was at \$587,941.30 and ERTC funds were at \$170,906.34. Year-to-date revenues were \$467,391.99 and expenses at \$288,613.50. Total balance of CD funds were \$541,504.22. All loans are paying on time. Taylor entertained a motion made by Payne to approve the April Treasurer's Report. A second was made by Brown. *(Approved)*

5/1/25-5/31/25

General fund balances was at \$576,806.48 by the end of May with separate ERTC funds sitting at \$170,935.03. EDA 301(b) reported funds in the amount of 35,394.55. The TIX Savings account had a balance of \$221,041.64. \$228,248.03 was in the RBI/CDI Account by the end of May. YTD Revenues were \$508,861.46 with expenses of \$324,261.95. Taylor entertained a motion made by Payne to approve the May Treasurer's Report. A second was made by Henson.

STAFF REPORT

5/1/2025 – 5/31/2025

The SBA loan with TDL group has been paid off and will be closing out soon. Fayette County recently had two capital grants submitted. The luka Strategic Plan is in the draft stages. Clay City's CDBG will be finishing up soon. CDBG grant monitoring has just wrapped up with the program's manager. Eastin reported there were no issues found during this review. The Sumner waterline project and the Ramsey interconnect program would be completed soon. Eastin noted there was some concern at the state level regarding the future of CDBG. The federal government is currently reviewing last year's applications and a new program or different restrictions may be added in the near future. Eastin recently took a trip to BBN Label, a current loan recipient, to tour the factory. He indicated that there were ongoing conversations surrounding another funding opportunity to help expand their facility. The Newton Electrical Grid Resilience Grant has been fully approved by the Department of Energy to replace lines throughout the town. A similar project with the City of Altamont is also in the works. The Vandalia Site Readiness grant is moving forward.

COMMITTEE REPORT

New Business

Motion to approve SCIRPDC 2025-2030 CEDS

Eastin presented the SCIRPDC 2025-2030 CEDS Plan. Brown expressed his concern that some of the population data was off. Frederick and Eastin both noted that it was all based on data provided in 2022 and earlier from the St. Louis Bank's FRED database, which is the best available resource for a plan like this. Eastin also noted that it wasn't uncommon for data to be tracked differently in rural communities. Soltwedel questioned the necessity of this plan. Eastin responded that this was a requirement through EDA to continue receiving funding. It also serves as a regional economic plan for other grant funding sources. Soltwedel asked if the plan covered housing. Eastin indicated that it did; Armbrust noted that it was under Part E. Housing Resources. Taylor entertained a motion made by Hall to approve the SCIRPDC 2025-2030 CEDS. A second was made by Payne. *(Approved)*

SCIRPDC Board and Committee Membership

Eastin explained that there was soon to be a number of new faces to the board. Derek Sherman, representative of Centralia, accepted a new position with DCEO a few months ago. The City of Centralia intends to appoint the new Economic Development Director when hired to replace Sherman. Janie Grimes, former mayor of Iuka, will be replaced by Bill Halfacre, current mayor. Tom Brown resigned in May; Austin Francis, Jasper County Board, will be replacing him on the board. Rick Gottman, former mayor of the City of Vandalia, is being replaced by Doug Knebel, current mayor of the City of Vandalia. Barry Adair resigned earlier this month with Chris Rhinehart, new mayor of Louisville, to take his spot. Gary Purcell resigned due to other ongoing commitments with the Marion County board. A search for his replacement is still ongoing.

OLD BUSINESS

FY-24 Audit

The audit is anticipated to be completed by the end of the week. The firm is currently working on it and has compiled information recently.

ADJOURNMENT

Eastin asked if anyone had anything to comment on or questions regarding the agenda. Taylor entertained a motion by Payne to adjourn the April board meeting at 7:39 p.m. A second was made by Bollman. *(Approved)*

APPROVED THIS, THE 26th DAY OF August 2025 AD.

Doug Knebel, Corp. Secretary
SCIRPDC

Larry Taylor, Chairman
SCIRPDC