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
Joe's Pizza and Pasta
Salem, IL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

Commissioners Present	
Chris Rinehart	Clay County
Michael Gill	Clay County
David Johnson	Clay County
Mike Stanford	Clay County
Herb Henson	Clay County
Robert Bohnhoff	Effingham Co
Mike Brown	Effingham Co
Larry Taylor	Effingham Co
David Campbell	Effingham Co.
Norbert Soltwedel	Effingham Co.
Sasha Althoff	Effingham Co.
Jacque Durr	Fayette Co.
Mack Payne	Fayette Co.
Kimberly Baron	Fayette Co.
Angela Fehrenbacher	Jasper County
Mike Hall	Jasper County
Rob Jackson	Marion County
David Armbrust	Marion County

Commissioners Absent	
Mike Delonshaw	Clay County
John Lotz	Fayette Co.
Doug Knebel	Fayette Co.
Ryan Scott	Fayette Co.
Ben Bollman	Jasper County
Austin Francis	Jasper County
RJ Lindemann	Jasper County
Karen Booker	Jasper County
Debbie Smith	Marion County
Cody Rose	Marion County
Bill Halfacre	Marion County
Tony Smith	Marion County

Guests Present: Po Wilkey, City of Effingham Economic Development Specialist
Staff Present: Luke Eastin, Executive Director
Brooke Frederick, EDA Planner/Loan Portfolio Manager

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m.

ROLL CALL (*Taken by signature sheet – see the list of attendees and absentees above)*
Eighteen voting Commissioners attended and the Executive Director, constituting a legal quorum.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS/HEARING OF THE PUBLIC
Eastin introduced Effingham's Economic Development Specialist and prospective SCIRPDC member, Po Wilkey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Eastin asked if there were any discussions or changes concerning the August 25, 2026 Minutes. Taylor

entertained a motion made by Hall to approve the minutes as amended. A second was made by Soltwedel. *(Approved)*

BILLS & COMMUNICATIONS

Upcoming Grant Deadlines & Submissions

CDBG-Community Revitalization is accepting applications on a rolling basis for projects including the demolishment of commercial buildings, streetscape improvements, and repairs or renovations to historic structures. The government agency must own the property or have a long-term lease in place at the time of award.

TREASURER'S REPORT

8/1/26/-8/31/26

The total checks written was $42,685.84. The general fund balance was $559,187.47. $1,052,398.25 were revenues accrued as of August with expenses at $449,324.43. All loans were paid on time with TPS completely paying off in mid-August. A new loan with them may be considered in the near future. Taylor entertained a motion made by Payne to approve the August Treasurer's Report. A second was made by Campbell. *(Approved)*

STAFF REPORT

8/1/2026-8/31/2026

COMMITTEE REPORT

Operations and Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Eastin noted an Operations and Budget Committee meeting took place on September 14th, 2026. Taylor entertained a motion made by Hall to approve the minutes. A second was made by Payne. *(Approved)*

New Business

FY-24 Auditing Letter

Eastin encouraged the board members to review the letter provided by Leymone and Hardcastle regarding the delays in the FY-24 audit.

SCIRPDC FY-2027 Operating Budget

Salary, fringe, and non-personnel revenue expected for FY-2027 is $715,134 with planned expenses of $564,882, leaving an approximate $150,000 surplus. These figures exclude the ERTC funds received by the commission a few years ago that have yet to be spent. An additional $180,000 is sitting in the general fund at current that wasn't included in this budget. Soltwedel questioned the increase in salaries. Eastin explained that it included a $5,000 bonus for himself as discussed in the previous fiscal year. In an effort to reduce the divide between salaries, an increase above the typical 3% was suggested for three of the lowest paid employees. It was also noted that there was concern over these employees leaving for higher paying positions. Soltwedel also asked about the insurance package with concern that it wasn't enough to cover expenses. Eastin indicated that, at the moment, it is enough for the staff. Soltwedel inquired about how the insurance is taxed to which Eastin explained that pay begins to get docked after a certain threshold is reached, typically around September. Baron further elaborated that, after committee discussion, it was the opinion of Eastin that staff would prefer an increase in salary over a larger insurance package. Hall inquired about the retirement system in place. Eastin noted that the commission invests a certain percent into an account per pay period. Taylor entertained a motion made by Payne to approve the FY-2027 budget. A second was made by Jackson. *(Approved)*

SCIRPDC 2027 Meeting and Holiday Schedules

Taylor entertained a motion made by Payne to approve the meeting and holiday schedules. A second was made by Soltwedel.

FY-26 Governing Board Member Attendance

The Executive Committee requested that an attendance history sheet be provided at the end of each fiscal year. Three members did not attend a single meeting. Eastin will be requesting replacements for those individuals.

Brad Decker, CPA-New Lease Approved

New leases were approved for both Brad Decker and Salem Chiropractic. Rent was increased to $480/month and $900/month, respectively.

SCIRPDC Website Development

Eastin announced that he has recently completed a redesign of the SCIRPDC website to make it more user-friendly. Gill verified that the commission must abide by ADA regulations for the site's display. Wilkey inquired about the official launch date which is anticipated to go live on October 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

Fehrenbacher asked about the meeting location for the Annual Meeting taking place in October. Eastin replied that it would be at the West End Event Center in Newton, IL. Taylor entertained a motion by Payne to adjourn the September board meeting at 7:29 p.m. A second was made by Armbrust. *(Approved)*

APPROVED THIS, THE 27th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026 AD.

_____	_____
David Armbrust, Corp. Secretary	Doug Knebel, Chairman
SCIRPDC	SCIRPDC