

**Minutes of the March 24, 2009
Executive Board Meeting of the
Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Larry Vollmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Paul Lake performed roll call, with eight members present. Also in attendance was Lisa Gehlhausen of the Commission's staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

The Minutes of the November 25, 2008 Executive Board Meeting were presented by Vice-Chair Vollmer for approval. Larry Wehr made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Alan Cassidy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Gehlhausen requested that the Directors & Officer's insurance renewal be added to the meeting's agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise reported that as of March 24, 2009, the closing cash balance was \$217,742.38, the outstanding aging schedule reflects \$55,578.91 and reported \$50,000.00 in CDs. Noted was that Orange County had not paid their full 2008 per capita fees and still owes the Commission \$4,828.92. Barbara Gilliatt stated she would get with the council to resolve. With no further questions or discussion, Pat Ramsey made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Larry Wehr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vice-Chair Vollmer then turned the meeting over to Ms. Gehlhausen for the Director's Report. Ms. Gehlhausen briefly reported the following:

Roof Damage. Ms. Gehlhausen stated with the past ice storm, the drafting room roof received damage from an ice dam. The roof is also losing shingles with every wind. Estimates for the ice damage were obtained and the cost to repair is under the deductible. Harleyville Insurance Company is our building carrier and no claim will be submitted because it's under our deductible. Ms. Gehlhausen stated placing a new roof cost into the 2010 budget with an estimated at \$15,500 is desired.

Project Developments. Ms. Gehlhausen told the members that two Community Focus Fund grant applications were submitted to the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs on March 20. One was for the Gentryville Old School demolition and the other was for Paoli Combined Sewer improvements. Also three Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grant applications were submitted: Gentryville for the Old School, Petersburg Rehabilitation and Marengo Rehabilitation of housing projects. The NSP funding is used for targeted foreclosure and for blighted structures. A list of greatest need areas was identified by the Indiana Community & Housing Development Corporation.

Economic Development Administration (EDA). Ms. Gehlhausen mentioned she met with Mr. Robert Hickey, an EDA representative for Indiana & Ohio. EDA has four different funding sources: 1) EDA Stimulus starting February 17. The application has to be obligated within 120 days. Applications can be applied for projects that have job creation, job retention, new jobs and must be ready to go and have to be public infrastructure. Also brought to her attention by Mr. Hickey that the grants.gov system went down on March 17 and may take 45 days to restore. Ms. Gehlhausen stated that Sarah Kinder had been working with four communities in getting grants.gov set up and the communities are frustrated in trying to set up this complicated process. 2) Public Works (industry expanding, job creation, private investment) funding, this is EDA's regular program. The federal government fiscal year starts October 1. EDA must have by June their money obligated. 3) Flood Recovery funding is 75% grant funds from EDA and 25% match from local community for projects within the region that are included in the FEMA 1740, 1766 or 1795 disaster. This funding started September 2008 and we have 18 months to get a project obligated. 4) Economic Adjustment Funds which are used for projects like revolving loan funds.

Appropriations. Eleven appropriation requests were submitted March 20, 2009 to Congressman Baron Hill. Ms. Theresa Criss-Hartwig submitted a project for the Crawford County Industrial Spec Building. Ms. Gehlhausen stated she submitted Cannelton/Tell City Floodwall; Crawford County Fiber Optics; Dubois Fiber Optics; Jasper Beaver Lake Dam; Orange County Flood Mitigation and Draining; Springs Valley Water; Tell City Generators; Spencer County Alternative Center; Spencer County Road Overpass; and Dubois County Workforce Technology Training.

Ball State/USI. Ms. Gehlhausen stated the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and OCRA has hired Ball State and USI to help them gather all the wants and needs of Indiana. Over 8,000 projects were listed. Ms. Gehlhausen showed a list of Indiana 15 projects that were gathered from the CEDS report. Ball State has a database that will be improved and

tracked for ready-to-go projects. One question ask, "Is the project in a CEDS report?" which makes the CEDS planning valuable.

State Revolving Fund (SRF). Ms. Gehlhausen stated SRF sent out letters to communities seeking water and sewer projects to turn them in, because they have grant/loan funds available. SRF received a lot of responses and now have more projects than money and have asked for the projects to have preliminary engineering complete. Ms. Gehlhausen stated Huntingburg, Tell City, Rockport, Winslow, And-Tro, Grandview, Paoli and Cannelton have been submitted to SRF and should hear announcements within the next three weeks. The community will be scored based on their utility rates and readiness to proceed.

Ms. Gehlhausen stated the staff is extremely busy at this time learning the entire stimulus funding programs.

Flood Recovery Position. Ms. Gehlhausen stated interviews were conducted and an offer was made to Michael Cummings. He has accepted the position and will start on April 1. Ms. Gehlhausen stated on April 2 Michael will be attending Flood Recovery II training along with myself, Theresa and Nathan. Low-to-moderate income communities can apply. Mr. Cummings has a degree in writing and lives in St. Anthony. Mr. Cummings is aware that this position is temporary to produce the Flood Strategy. I do however anticipate he will continue employment thereafter with the existing and future workloads.

Exemplary Work Letter. Ms. Gehlhausen mentioned to the board that the Crawford County Revolving Loan Fund had written a letter detailing exemplary work in regards to Ms. Theresa Criss-Hartwig who administers their revolving loan fund. Ms. Gehlhausen stated this letter will be placed in Ms. Criss-Hartwig personnel file.

OLD BUSINESS

None to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustees of Indiana University. Ms. Gehlhausen asked for the board's approval for her to sign the agreement between Indiana 15 and the Trustees of Indiana University submitted on March 4, 2009. Indiana 15 will receive \$20,000 for working with the Polis Center on the Pike County Mitigation Plan. A motion was made by Secretary Lake for approval and seconded by Larry Wehr. Motion carried.

Resolutions for Approval:

INDOT. Ms. Gehlhausen stated that an INDOT grant application in the amount of \$54,235.00 with matching funds in the amount of \$11,600.00 will be submitted on April 21. This grant provides rural transportation planning funds to conduct traffic counts, prepare road maps and improve our GIS department. Birdseye, Rockport and Tell City base maps will be done within this new project as well. The grant if awarded will run from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Ms. Gehlhausen requested the approval of her signature and submittal of the application and the commitment of matching funds. A motion was made by John Stutzman to approve **Resolution 2009-05** and seconded by Treasurer Schulthise. Motion carried.

Contracts for Approval:

After discussing the following contract and with no questions or comments, Alan Cassidy made a motion to approve the contract and seconded by Treasurer Schulthise. Motion carried:

- Dubois Library Feasibility Study (PL-05-065); sum of \$4,500

D&O Application Renewal. Ms. Gehlhausen reported that the professional liability policy for Part A on Directors & Officers and Part B on Employment Practices is coming up for renewal on April 19. The limits of Liability coverage are \$1,000,000 for each claim. The cost remains the same as last year for a total of \$1,924.00 per year. After some discussion a motion to approve and renew at \$1,000,000 each was made by Treasurer Schulthise and seconded by Pat Ramsey. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Before adjournment, Vice-Chair Vollmer reminded the board that the next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on April 28 and a full board meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. With there being no further business to come before the Executive Board, a motion was made by Alan Cassidy and seconded by John Stutzman to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A. Lake, Secretary