

**Minutes of the June 22, 2021
Electronic Executive Board Meeting of the
Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tara Damin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Mary Ann Cummings performed roll call. Board members present were Tara Damin, Mary Ann Cummings, Beverly Schulthise, and Jon Craig; electronic were Paul Lorey, Bill Breeding, and Tom Hauser; and absent were Melanie Barrett, John Noblitt, Don Winkler, and Stephen Bartels. A quorum was met. Lisa Gehlhausen, Nathan Held and Cheri Taylor of the Commission were also present. Don Winkler joined electronically after roll call was conducted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Chair Tara Damin presented the minutes from the Executive Board meeting held May 25, 2021. Paul Lorey made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mary Ann Cummings seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, passing with six in favor, none opposed.

AGENDA: ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Chair Tara Damin called for additional agenda items. Ms. Gehlhausen asked for Resolution 2021-15 – INDOT Local Match be added to the agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise gave the Treasurer's Report. As of June 18th, receipts were \$88,900.00 and disbursements were \$45,675.72. Since the report was printed, additional receipts were \$3,920.00 and disbursements were \$16,568.94. The actual total cash balance is \$827,821.03. The total aging schedule was \$22,204.76. There are two 12-month CDs totaling \$250,000.00 and an 18-month CD totaling \$150,000.00 for a total investment of \$650,000.00. The restricted savings has a balance of \$4,497.57. Mary Ann Cummings made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bill Breeding seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, passing with seven in favor, none opposed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Tara Damin called for the Director's Report from Executive Director Lisa Gehlhausen. Ms. Gehlhausen reported on projects as follows:

- There are two applications due June 25th to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The City of Cannelton Clearance is applying for \$500,000 and the Town of Dale wastewater is applying for \$700,000. Awards will tentatively be announced in mid-August.
- The Perry County Port Authority will be applying for RAISE improvement funds to increase the weight capacity of the rails. Dubois County Rail is also applying for RAISE planning grant funds for a portion of rail between Dubois and Cuzco. Applications are due July 12.
- The City of Tell City is applying for funds through the US Department of Transportation Port Infrastructure Development Program to install a cell on the Ohio River to allow barges to load and unload from the river. Applications are due July 30.
- Cheri Taylor submitted two applications to the USDA under the Rural Business Development Grant program this year. She was notified both were awarded. One application was on behalf of Pike County to purchase equipment for the Elmer Buchta Technology Center and the other was for Spencer County to establish a Revolving Loan Fund.
- Lisa Gehlhausen listed other various projects the commission staff are working on.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was discussion previously about the AmeriCorps Digital Inclusion Fellow opportunity through the Purdue Center for Regional Development (PCRD). Digital Inclusion is a regional priority. PCRD is requesting \$25,000 in 2021, \$25,000 in 2022, provide a laptop and travel expenses for the Fellow. The Fellow will be given tasks and timelines by Purdue to assist with digital inclusion and broadband services. Jon Craig made a motion to recommend the AmeriCorps Fellow, laptop and expenditures to the Full Board.

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- Paul Lorey seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, passing with seven in favor, none opposed.
- Resiliency Plan update. There have been 16 focus group meetings. There will be an advisory meeting June 28.
 - Health insurance discussion. Cheri continues to gather information to present to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

- Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) is through the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC). Ten Regions will be picked throughout the State of Indiana. They are required to be either a Regional Development Authority or a Private Non-Profit Entity. Counties will decide which Economic Development group they would like to work with. Southwest Indiana Development Council (SWIDC) would like to work with Indiana 15 to develop a plan for the READI grant. Mary Ann Cummings made a motion to recommend Indiana 15 to assist with READI to the Full Board, seconded by Tom Hauser. A roll call vote was conducted, passing with seven in favor, none opposed.
- Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) /State Water Infrastructure Fund (SWIF). On July 15 applications are due to the IFA for the SWIF program. Communities need to talk to their engineers about the potential of the SWIF program.
- Economic Development Administration (EDA) will receive American Rescue Plan funds. Notice of Funding Availability will be out at the end of June.
- American Rescue Plan. There were a few applications submitted for CARES Act funds that did not get awarded. Some will be resubmitted for American Rescue Plan funds.
- Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) Working Group is made up of 12 people throughout the State of Indiana. Lisa Gehlhausen was named one of the members. These members are working with OCRA to assist in updating what is going on throughout different part of Indiana. The first meeting was on May 24.
- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) – US Department of Transportation. See discussion under Directors Report.
- Port Infrastructure Development Grants (PIDP). See discussion under Directors Report.

Resolution to Recommend to Full Board

- Electronic Board meeting policy discussion – Resolution 2021-14. Details of the Resolution were reviewed. Jon Craig made a motion to recommend Resolution 2021-14 to the Full Board, Beverly Schulthise seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, passing with seven in favor, none opposed.

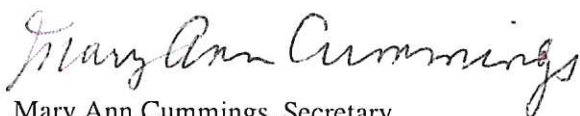
Resolutions for Approval

- INDOT Local Match - Resolution 2021-15.
Paul Lorey made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-15, Mary Ann Cummings seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, passing with seven in favor, none opposed.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion or business to come before the Executive Board, Chair Tara Damin called for a motion to adjourn. Motion for adjournment was made by Beverly Schulthise, Mary Ann Cummings seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, passing with seven in favor, none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm. The Executive Board will meet next on Tuesday, July 23, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Cummings, Secretary

MAC/lh