

**Minutes of the June 22, 2021
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the
Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tara Damin welcomed the Full Board members and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Mary Ann Cummings performed roll call. Board members present were Bill Byrd, Mary Ann Cummings, Beverly Schulthise, Tara Damin, Bernard Linne, Jon Craig, Heather Gries, Angie Fischer, and Don Wertman; electronic were Mike Haverstock, Charmian Klem, Paul Lake, Paul Lorey, Marshall Noble, Carl Anderson, Jack Hinkle, Tom Hauser, Joe Hermann, David Etienne, Brenda Pohl, Larry Kleeman, Todd Meadors, Jody Hoover, Debra Lamb, Todd Ruxer, and Don Winkler; and absent were Morton Dale, Bill Breeding, Tarra Carothers, Lucy Veltman, Nick Hostetter, Melanie Barrett, John Noblitt, Danny Hickman, John Harrison, Mark Flint, Ryan Coleman, Ron Beadles, Mason Seay, Mike Johannes and Stephen Bartels. A quorum was met of 26 members. Lisa Gehlhausen, Nathan Held, Cheri Taylor, of the Commission were also present. Guests in attendance were Alvin Evans, Erin Emerson, Chris Pfaff, Michael Thissen, Valerie Schmidt, and Ashley Willis with SWIDC.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

- Indiana 15 has an opportunity to add an AmeriCorps Digital Inclusion Fellow 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. Digital Inclusion is mentioned 24 times in our CEDS. Jon Craig made a motion to approve the AmeriCorps Fellow, laptop and expenditures, David Etienne seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, passing with 26 in favor, none opposed.
- Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) is through the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. 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. Jon Craig made a motion to approve Indiana 15 assisting with READI, Mary Ann Cummings seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, passing with 26 in favor, none opposed.
- 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 are 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. OCRA is starting to do housing, Preserving Main Street and owner-occupied housing projects. The first meeting was on May 24. Larry Kleeman asked that the policy on OCRA requiring Local Match and competition for funding be reviewed.
- The Perry County Port Authority will be applying for RAISE improvement funds to increase the weight capacity of the rails from 75 lbs. to 115 lbs. 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.

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Resolutions for Approval:

- Electronic Board meeting policy discussion – Resolution 2021-14. The Resolution details were reviewed. Paul Lorey made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-14, Don Wertman seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, passing with 26 in favor, none opposed.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussions or business to come before the Full Board, Chair Tara Damin called for a motion to adjourn. Motion for adjournment was made by Bill Byrd, seconded by Heather Gries. A roll call vote was conducted, passing with 25 in favor, none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Cummings".

Mary Ann Cummings, Secretary

MAC/lh