

**Minutes of the October 26, 2021  
Executive Board Meeting of the  
Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Paul Lorey called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Mary Ann Cummings performed roll call. Board members present were Tara Damin, Paul Lorey, Mary Ann Cummings, Beverly Schulthise, Bill Breeding, Don Winkler and Stephen Bartels and absent was Melanie Barrett, John Noblitt, Tom Hauser, and Jon Craig. No members attended electronically and a quorum was met. Lisa Gehlhausen, Nathan Held and Cheri Taylor of the Commission were also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA**

Vice Chair Paul Lorey presented the minutes from the Executive Board meeting held August 24, 2021 and Special meeting on September 9, 2021. Don Winkler made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Beverly Schulthise and motion carried.

**AGENDA: ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

Vice Chair Paul Lorey called for additional agenda items. Lisa Gehlhausen asked for Resolutions 2021-24, 2021-25, and 2021-26 be added to the agenda. Paul Lorey made a motion to approve additional agenda items, seconded by Beverly Schulthise and motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise gave the Treasurer's Report. As of October 13<sup>th</sup>, receipts were \$6,414.64 and disbursements were \$15,477.52. Since the report, additional receipts were \$28,368.85 and disbursements were \$25,604.18. The actual total cash balance is \$780,181.36. The total aging schedule was \$30,000. There are two 12-month CDs each totaling \$250,000.00 and one 18-month CD totaling \$150,000.00 for a total investment of \$650,000.00. The restricted savings has a balance of \$4,498.25. Lisa Gehlhausen requested approval of Resolution 2021-26 CD investment maturing October 29, 2021. Vice Chair Paul Lorey asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2021-26. Stephen Bartels made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-26, seconded by Bill Breeding and motion carried. Vice Chair Paul Lorey asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Bill Breeding made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Stephen Bartels and motion carried.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

- The City of Cannelton was awarded a \$500,000 clearance grant to remediate environmental conditions on the former Can-Clay property. The Town of Dale was awarded a \$700,000 grant for wastewater improvements. Both projects are OCRA Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).
- Pike County was awarded a \$250,000 OCRA COVID 3 grant. The County is assisting 29 small businesses with these funds. Orange County is in the process of closing out their \$250,000 Covid Relief funds they previously received for small businesses.
- A proposal was submitted for Marengo wastewater improvements. An application will be submitted in December.
- Dubois County and Jasper worked together to submit a Hoosiers Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) grant to OCRA. Interviews will be conducted on November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- There are three other CDBG projects in progress. Nathan Held reported that Jenny Matheis is working with the Town of Orleans to develop a water project to be submitted in the first round of applications in 2022. Nathan is working with the Town of Paoli on a water project to also be submitted in the first round of applications to OCRA in 2022. Nathan is also working on a clearance project with Paoli to be submitted next year or early 2023.
- For EDA - The investment review committee in the Chicago Regional Office is meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to consider an application submitted on behalf of the City of Huntingburg with an application submittal requesting for approximately \$3 million for wastewater treatment plant and line improvements. The committee will also review a tourism application submitted on behalf of the Town of Santa Claus.

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- Other tourism needs are the Spencer County Visitors Center, Lincoln Amphitheater, and League Stadium.
- Lisa is working on a Patoka Lake Regional Water Improvement Project and met with Kristal Painter, LEDO for Orange County, to obtain beneficiary letters from industries needing the Patoka Lake water improvement project.
- Nathan met with the City of Rockport. The City was awarded a USDA loan for wastewater improvements but would also like to submit for EDA funding of \$5 - \$6 million for water improvements.
- Build Back Better (BBB) is an EDA program. Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission joined with five other regional planning commissions totaling 40 counties. These counties submitted a BBB application to EDA for \$500,000 to develop a plan to bring innovation to these 40 counties. Fifty-Sixty regions from across the nation will be selected for Phase 1. Announcements for the Phase 1 planning will be in December. Following the Innovation Plan, the Phase 2 submittal requesting \$25-\$100 million for 3-8' transformation projects will be considered for implementation at an 80% grant / 20% local share. Bringing Innovation to Advanced Manufacturing, Agricultural, Energy, Biomedical, and Defense clusters are the initial concept.
- A READI application through the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) was submitted on behalf of Indiana First. Indiana First is comprised of Knox, Pike, Perry, Spencer, and Harrison counties. IEDC will conduct interviews to determine selections of the READI regions.

### OLD BUSINESS

- None presented.

### NEW BUSINESS

- 2022 Operational Budget was discussed.

### Resolutions to Recommend to Full Board for Approval

- Resolution 2021-21, Recommend to the Full Board approval of 2022 Budget.  
Paul Lorey made a motion to recommend Resolution 2021-21 to the Full Board, seconded by Mary Ann Cummings and motion carried.
- Resolution 2021-22, Recommend approval Personnel Handbook update-Holidays  
Paul Lorey made a motion to recommend Resolution 2021-22 to the Full Board, seconded by Beverly Schulthise and motion carried.
- Resolution 2021-23, Recommend approval Personnel Handbook update-Life Insurance  
Mary Ann Cummings made a motion to recommend Resolution 2021-23 to the Full Board, seconded by Don Winkler and motion carried.
- Resolution 2021-24, Recommend approval Schedule of fees  
Paul Lorey made a motion to recommend Resolution 2021-24 to the Full Board, seconded by Beverly Schulthise and motion carried.
- Resolution 2021-25, Recommend approval Staff Salary adjustment  
Mary Ann Cummings made a motion to recommend Resolution 2021-25 to the Full Board, seconded by Stephen Bartels and motion carried.

### Contracts for Approval

- Chrisney Water ER addendum; sum of \$3,000
- Dale Wastewater; sum of \$42,000
- Cannelton Can-Clay Clearance; sum of \$24,000  
Stephen Bartels made a motion to combine all contracts for approval, seconded by Paul Lorey and motion carried. Mary Ann Cummings made a motion to approve all contracts, seconded by Beverly Schulthise and motion carried.



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Other

- Cheri Taylor stated the new fire/security system has been installed in the office.
- Stephen Bartels discussed a potential project for the BBB program is an alternative for the coal plant located near the City of Rockport. An alternative source for producing energy needs to be in discussion before the plant shuts down. Paul Lorey mentioned that the coal plant makes up 60% of the South Spencer School Corporation budget.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion to come before the Executive Board, Chair Tara Damin called for a motion to adjourn. Motion for adjournment was made by Bill Breeding, seconded by Mary Ann Cummings and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm. The Executive Board will meet next on Tuesday, November 23, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Cummings, Secretary

MAC/lh