

**Minutes of the October 26, 2021
Full Board Meeting 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 Breeding, Mike Haverstock, Bill Byrd, Charmian Klem, Paul Lake, Paul Lorey, Mary Ann Cummings, Beverly Schulthise, Carl Anderson, Danny Hickman, John Harrison, Tara Damin, Joe Hermann, David Etienne, Brenda Pohl, Todd Meadors, Heather Gries, Todd Ruxer, Don Winkler, Angie Fischer, Michael Johannes and Stephen Bartels. Absent were Morton Dale, Tarra Carothers, Lucy Veltman, Nick Hostetter, Melanie Barrett, Marshall Noble, Jack Hinkle, John Noblitt, Tom Hauser, Larry Kleeman, Bernard Linne, Jon Craig, Mark Flint, Ryan Coleman, Jody Hoover, Ron Beadles, Debra Lamb, Mason Seay, and Don Wertman. No members attended electronically. A quorum was met of 22 members. Lisa Gehlhausen, Nathan Held and Cheri Taylor of the Commission were also present. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Chair Tara Damin presented the minutes from the Full Board meeting held August 24, 2021. Stephen Bartels made a motion to approve both minutes, seconded by Michael Johannes and motion carried.

AGENDA: ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Chair Tara Damin asked for any additions to the agenda. Lisa Gehlhausen asked for Resolutions 2021-24, 2021-25, and 2021-26 be added to the agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise gave the Treasurer's Report. As of October 13th, 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 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 \$4,498.25. Lisa Gehlhausen suggested approving Resolution 2021-26 CD investment. Chair Tara Damin asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2021-26. Stephen Bartels made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-26, seconded by Mary Ann Cummings and motion carried. Chair Tara Damin asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Paul Lorey made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mary Ann Cummings and motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Tara Damin turned the meeting over to Lisa Gehlhausen. The Director's Report was given as follows:

- The City of Cannelton was awarded a \$500,000 clearance grant to remove 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).
- A proposal was submitted for the Town of Marengo for wastewater improvements. An application for this project will be submitted in November.
- There are three other CDBG projects in progress. The Commission is working with the Town of Orleans to develop a water project and the Town of Paoli on a water project to be submitted in the first round of applications to OCRA. A clearance project with the Town of Paoli to be submitted next year or early 2023.
- Pike County was awarded a \$250,000 OCRA COVID 3 grant. The county was able to assist 29 businesses with these funds. Orange County is in the process of closing out the \$250,000 Covid Relief funds they previously received.
- Dubois County and Jasper jointly submitted a Hoosiers Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) grant through OCRA. Interviews will be conducted on November 12th.
- Lisa recently returned from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) conference held in Portland, Oregon. It was geared toward American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and promoting the region. Attendance was down by about half this year.

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- For EDA, the investment review committee in Chicago is meeting on November 3rd. The City of Huntingburg has an application submitted for approximately \$3 million for their wastewater treatment plant and the Town of Santa Claus submitted a \$1 million tourism project for water improvements to be reviewed at this meeting.
- Other projects to be developed to submit to EDA are the Spencer County visitors center, Lincoln Amphitheater and Patoka Lake Regional Water and Sewer District. Lisa is working with Kristal Painter, LEDO for Orange County, to obtain beneficiary letters from industries in their area for the Patoka Lake project.
- Nathan met with the City of Rockport. The City was awarded a USDA grant/loan for wastewater improvements, but would also like to submit for EDA funding of \$5 - \$6 for water improvements.
- Build Back Better (BBB) is an EDA program. Indiana 15 teamed 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. Announcements for the application will be in December.
- 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 and the application asked for \$60 million in funding. IEDC will conduct interviews to determine why Indiana First should be a READI region. Additionally, RADIUS/ROI submitted a READI application to IEDC which includes the counties of Crawford, Dubois, and Orange.
- INDOT awarded the 2021-2022 rural planning grant. Cheri Taylor and Lindsey Hoffman have placed approximately ten traffic counts in Orange County so far.
- The Economic Resiliency Plan survey is complete and being reviewed. REA put the Resiliency Plan on hold for a short time to work on the READI program but has now brought their attention back to it. The summit will be held in March 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

- Chair Tara Damin asked if other options were considered after it was determined an AmeriCorp Fellow was not approved. Lisa Gehlhausen is looking at the possibility to hire an intern and utilizing the CARES Act staff already present at the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2022 Operational Budget was discussed.

Resolutions for Approval:

- Resolution 2021-21, Approval of 2022 Budget
Mary Ann Cummings made a motion to accept Resolution 2021-21, seconded by Charmian Klem and motion carried. A roll call vote was conducted approving the 2022 Budget, passing with 22 yea's.
- Resolution 2021-22, Approval of Personnel Handbook update-Holidays
Michael Johannes made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-22, seconded by David Etienne and motion carried.
- Resolution 2021-23, Approval of Personnel Handbook update-Life Insurance
Don Winkler made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-23, seconded by Charmian Klem and motion carried.
- Resolution 2021-24, Approval of Schedule of fees
Mary Ann Cummings made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-24, seconded by Paul Lake and motion carried.
- Resolution 2021-25, Approval of Staff Salary adjustment
Carl Anderson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-25, seconded by Michael Johannes and motion carried.

Other

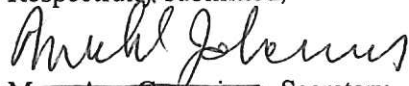
- Bill Byrd appreciates Nathan's work on Milltown wastewater.

- Lisa reported on the State Water Infrastructure Fund (SWIF) program through the Indiana Finance Authority. Huntingburg wastewater treatment plant was awarded \$5 million, Spurgeon sewer was awarded \$1 million, and Jasper will receive funding for transportation and stormwater projects.

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 Breeding, seconded by Charmian Klem and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



~~Mary Ann Cummings~~, Secretary

Michael Johannes

MAC/lh