

**Minutes of the April 25, 2023  
Full Board Meeting of the  
Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Balaji Kashyab performed roll call; twenty-four members were present. Nathan Held and Cheri Taylor of the Commission and Craig McGowan with USDA were also in attendance. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Craig McGowan – United States Department of Agriculture**

Craig McGowan works with the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development. Craig manages the Jasper office and two other offices in southern Indiana. Rural Development deals a lot in housing, infrastructure (water/wastewater), business lending, electrical, and broadband. Craig works in community facilities (quality of place) projects and infrastructure (water/sewer).

Craig first discussed sustainability in water and wastewater issues. Bidding costs have increased. There is an index looking at energy consumption over a 20-year average. Energy consumption goes up about 4.5% per year. That includes fuel, oil, electricity, and natural gas. In April 2021 energy increased by almost 20%. This is why some utility budgets run out. There has been an increase in solar panels and renewable energy. Rural Development is looking into renewable energy for water and wastewater systems to help mitigate the cost in energy. Rural Development would like to use a Redevelopment Commissions to do General Obligation (GO) Bonds. If that is not an option for communities then they can do a redevelopment lease back. Redevelopment would get a loan for solar or energy storage to put in at your facility. It can be a loan up to 20-years. The reason to do a GO Bond or lease back is so there is no impact to your user rates. In the Inflation Reduction Act solar panels can be purchased with a 30-60% cash back rebate.

Another program is the Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP). This is renewable energy for small business and agriculture producers. The Inflation Reduction Act added grant of up to 60% of the project cost. Some uses for this program are installing geothermal, hydropower or solar panels for agriculture production and small businesses.

Another program Rural Development has seen a great need for is housing. The State has a residential TIF that can be used through the state. Rural Development can use the residential TIF to bond to develop the infrastructure for residential housing areas. This loan will help contractors put in the infrastructure of the housing plots. One thing Rural Development doesn't want to see is a community building more homes than they can pay back. Rural Development also wants communities to use 10% for housing rehabilitation. There is no prepayment penalty for this loan. Rural Development advises to add the loan cost into the price of the home to cover what is owed back to the State. To get started with this program communities need to conduct a housing study.

A short discussion was held after Craig's presentation.

**AGENDA: ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

Chair Paul Lorey asked for any additions to the agenda. None were presented.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA**

Chair Paul Lorey presented the minutes from the Full Board meeting held January 24, 2023. James Clark made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Nick Hostetter and motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise gave the Treasurer's Report. As of April 18<sup>th</sup> receipts were \$2,500.00 and disbursements were \$14,947.16. Since the report was printed, additional receipts were \$500.00 and disbursements were \$31,582.56. The actual total cash balance is \$760,235.24. The total aging schedule was \$50,176.46. There is one 12-month CD totaling \$250,000.00 and \$400,000.00 investment in TrustIndiana. The restricted savings has a balance of \$8,502.21. Bill Byrd made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report pending audit, seconded by Mike Haverstock and motion carried.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Chair Paul Lorey turned the meeting over to Nathan Held for the Director's Report as follows:

- Nathan invited the Board to refer to the Project Status Reports for a more detailed look at current projects of the Commission.
- The INDOT 2023-2024 SURP contract has been received for signatures. Counts will be conducted in Dubois County.
- We are waiting to hear back on a Brownfields Assessment grant through EPA in the next couple of months.
- OCRA proposals are due by Friday. Five projects will be submitted. Commission staff are working hard to get these submitted on time.
- The City of Jasper was awarded a \$1.1 million EDA grant for back up water supply. Leah Hawkins is working with the Perry County Port Authority on a potential EDA project. There has been discussion on other potential projects to be funded through EDA.
- The City of Tell City is seeking a Land and Water Conservation Grant Fund through DNR. Jessica Condra and Cheri Taylor are working together on this project.
- Cheri Taylor and Lindsey Hoffman are working on a park plan for the City of Petersburg.
- Jessica Condra, our new Project Assistant, has jumped right in and seems to be a good addition to the team. Jessica has put in a lot of effort to become familiar with the Commission and jumping into projects.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- 2023 5-Year CEDS Report discussion – Taylor Seifker Williams helped to develop the CEDS, combining the Resiliency Plan into it. The CEDS will be available on our website.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 2022 Fiscal Year-End Budget discussion. Cheri Taylor went through the budget and answered any questions presented.

**Resolutions for Approval:**

- Revision to Personnel Manual-Remote Work Policy; (Resolution 2023-08)  
Meredith Voegerl made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-08, seconded by Tom Brown and motion carried.
- Approval of the 2023 5-Year CEDS Report; (Resolution 2023-11)  
Michael Johannes made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-11, seconded by Nick Hostetter and motion carried.
- Authorization to close fiscal year 2022 deficit to fund balance; (Resolution 2023-12)  
Don Wertman made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-12, seconded by Michael Johannes. A roll call vote was conducted with 24 in favor.
- Approval for depositing interest funds-TrustINDiana; (Resolution 2023-13)  
Danny Hickman made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-13, seconded by Michael Johannes and motion carried.
- Approval for Building Remodel; (Resolution 2023-14)  
Don Wertman made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-14, seconded by Michael Johannes and motion carried.
- Appreciation for Mayor Don Winkler; (Resolution 2023-15)  
Bill Byrd made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-15, seconded by Tom Brown and motion carried.
- Establishing Per Capita Fees-2024; (Resolution 2023-16)
- Establishing Per Capita Fees-2025; (Resolution 2023-17)  
James Clark made a motion to combine and approve Resolution 2023-17, seconded by Mike Haverstock and motion carried.

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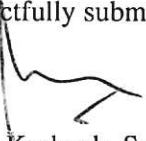
Other:

None presented

**ADJOURN**

There being no further discussions or business to come before the Full Board, Chair Paul Lorey called for a motion to adjourn. Motion for adjournment was made by Nick Hostetter, seconded by Michael Johannes and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Balaji Kashyab, Secretary  
BK/lh