

**Minutes of the June 25, 2024
Executive Board Meeting of the
Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jon Craig called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Balaji Kashyab performed roll call; Jon Craig, Balaji Kashyab, Beverly Schulthise, Bill Byrd, Melanie Barrett, Theron Owen, Randy Cole, and Kullen Cook were present. Nathan Held and Cheri Taylor of the Commission and Eric Whitaker of the press were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Chair Jon Craig presented the minutes from the Executive Board meeting held April 23, 2024. Kullen Cook made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Beverly Schulthise and motion carried.

AGENDA: ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Chair Jon Craig called for additional agenda items. Mr. Held requested the Holland Code contract be added to the agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise gave the Treasurer's Report. As of June 17th there were no receipts and disbursements were \$21,957.80. Since the report was printed, additional receipts were \$1,000.00. The actual total cash balance is \$572,705.33. The total aging schedule was \$38,564.22. There is one 9-month CD totaling \$250,000.00 and \$313,739.37 investment in TrustINDiana. The restricted savings has a balance of \$10,508.31. Bill Byrd made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report pending audit, seconded by Kullen Cook and motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Jon Craig called for the Director's Report from Executive Director Nathan Held. Mr. Held reported on projects as follows:

- OCRA has a new program – Building Socially Connected Communities. The program focus is to address loneliness and enhance community connectiveness. It is designed to be written at the local level. The Commission is happy to review any community's application before submittal. The program could fund community infrastructure such as seating at parks, skill sharing centers, social clubs and interest groups, transportation accessibility, and intergenerational initiatives. The program also has quick action projects where communities can apply for \$5,000 and large impact projects to apply for \$50,000. A total of \$200,000 in funding is available through this program. The first step is to meet with your OCRA Community Liaison, which is Jill Hahn for our region, by Aug 29th. Applications are due by Sept 12th.
- Nathan Held has been working with Dubois County to update their Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. He has been meeting with all communities for approval.
- The Commission has been working on four COPS hiring grant applications. Cheri Taylor submitted one on behalf of Rockport, Jenny Matheis submitted one on behalf of Dale, and Jessica Condra submitted one on behalf of Petersburg and Santa Claus.
- EPA Brownfields assessment sites are still being identified. All but one county in our region has at least one site identified.
- Darrin Fleener, Indiana's EDA Representative, visited our office in May. The Commission is currently administrating six EDA projects, the most EDA projects the Commission has assisted with at one time.
- Mr. Held commends the staff for stepping up to cover the workload with Lisa's Retirement and one employee on FMLA. There is also one unfilled position being advertised again. The Commission has interviewed qualified candidates but employment is declined once salary is discussed. Mr. Held turned the meeting over to Jon Craig to discuss developing a committee to review staff salaries. A Wage Committee was discussed with potential members being Paul Lorey, Randy Cole, Mayor Kathy Kirkpatrick, Jon Craig, and Zach Brown. A short discussion on what the Committee may evaluate followed.
- Mr. Held will conduct staff performance evaluations in July. Mr. Held will receive his performance evaluation in an executive session prior to the July 23 meeting.

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OLD BUSINESS

- None presented

NEW BUSINESS

- Promotion and importance of Regional Planning Commission's and Economic Development Districts were discussed. Questions discussed were - what can Indiana 15 do and what should the Commission be doing? Mr. Held recently attended an IARC meeting with IEDC in attendance. IEDC is starting to see the benefit and importance of RPC's. There are seven Indiana counties not covered by RPC's. If all Indiana counties become covered by a RPC then the potential for state funding could follow.
- Mr. Held has been developing an informal internal strategic plan, brainstorming ideas of how to grow the Commission to better assist communities. Issues discussed were road planning, fleet planning (Sheriff/EMS), sharing an engineer, and juvenile detention facilities. Any areas of concern can be sent to Mr. Held to determine how the Commission can best serve the region.

Resolutions for Approval

- None presented

Resolutions to Recommend to the Full Board

- None presented

Contracts for Approval

- Dubois County HELP; sum of \$60,000
Randy Cole made a motion to approve the Dubois County HELP contract, seconded by Beverly Schulthise and motion carried.
- Crawford County School Corporation; sum of \$157,500
Bill Byrd made a motion to approve the Crawford County School Corporation contract, seconded by Kullen Cook and motion carried.
- Tell City Port Infrastructure Development Program ER; sum of \$7,000
Beverly Schulthise made a motion to approve the Tell City Port Infrastructure Development Program ER contract, seconded Melanie Barrett and motion carried.
- Tell City Old Hospital Clearance; sum of \$39,500
Kullen Cook made a motion to approve the Tell City Old Hospital Clearance contract, seconded by Theron Owen and motion carried.
- Holland Code; sum of \$3,750
Melanie Barrett made a motion to approve the Holland Code contract, seconded by Kullen Cook and motion carried.

Other

- None presented

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion or business to come before the Executive Board, Chair Jon Craig called for a motion to adjourn. Motion for adjournment was made by Bill Byrd, seconded by Balaji Kashyab and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm. The Executive Board will meet next on Tuesday, July 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Balaji Kashyab, Secretary
BK/lh