

**Minutes of the April 23, 2024
Full Board Meeting of the
Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Secretary Balaji Kashyab performed roll call; Jim Uland, Mike Haverstock, Bill Byrd, Nick Hostetter, Meredith Voegerl, Paul Lorey, Jerry Allstott, Beverly Schulthise, Marshall Noble, Carl Anderson, Zach Brown, Tony Kendall, Randy Clark, Theron Owen, Balaji Kashyab, Joe Hermann, Todd Meadors, Jon Craig, Kullen Cook, Joni Stafford, Tom Brown, David Gogel, Cathy Kirkpatrick, Angie Fischer, and Michael Johannes were present. Nathan Held and Cheri Taylor of the Commission, Katie Wilborn of the Perry County News and Craig McGowan with USDA were also in attendance.

Craig McGowan – United States Department of Agriculture

Craig McGowan works with the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development. Craig is the Community Programs Director for the State of Indiana.

Craig reported all Federal projects are being impacted by BABA-Buy America Build America. USDA is not doing a lot of new projects at this time. There is less money earmarked for the water/environmental program through USDA. Indiana did not have any earmarks in the environmental program but the water program will be receiving less funding than previous years. Around June new projects may pick back up once existing projects are starting to gain traction and finish up. There is a great need for the program but the funding is going to be tighter than previous years. Contractors need to catch up on projects. One contractor bid openings have become the norm recently but are not desired. There are challenges ahead but also some good legislation coming also. Some other programs gaining more attention are Renewal Energy for America Program (REAP). This program is to help small businesses and Ag producers in rural areas to bring on a form of renewable energy to their business or area. There is also the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant. USDA works with utilities that have borrowed from Rural Development previously. Electric utilities or electric co-ops can borrow from Rural Development at 0% up to \$2 million towards economic development. It can be used as a revolving loan fund for your community or run infrastructure to an industrial park. Another great program so small communities is the Rural Business Development Grant. There is no dollar amount attached to the program but applications score better if the request is below \$100,000. There is a 25% match for the community. This program is for small businesses and can be for sidewalk replacements outside store fronts, small revolving loan funds, etc. There are 50 rural development programs available through USDA. A well known program is the Community Facility Program. This program has provided funding for fire trucks, police cars, etc. Funding for Indiana has been greatly reduced to \$20,000 for the program.

A short discussion was held after Craig's presentation.

AGENDA: ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Chair Jon Craig asked for any additions to the agenda. None were presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Chair Jon Craig presented the minutes from the Full Board meeting held January 23, 2024. Paul Lorey made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bill Byrd and motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise gave the Treasurer's Report. As of April 16th receipts were \$29,625.35 and disbursements were \$30,212.74. Since the report was printed, additional receipts were \$10,000.00 and disbursements were \$35,530.52. The actual total cash balance is \$613,268.72. The total aging schedule was \$57,810.37. There is one 9-month CD totaling \$250,000.00 and \$314,416.30 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 Randy Clark and motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Board members were provided a project status report detailing current staff projects.
- SAM.gov registrations are very important to keep active for communities. Some communities have paid to have their registration updated. It is free to update a SAM registration if you go to the official SAM.gov site. There are many third-party companies who charge in assisting with the process. Do not pay for this service when it can be done on SAM.gov for free.
- Nathen Held will attend a Stand Up Rural America Summit in French Lick on July 30th – August 1st. Radius and Orange County Economic Development Partnership are hosts of the Summit.
- Nathan attended the Crawford County Economic Development annual dinner meeting on April 11th. Next week he will attend the Dubois Strong annual meeting.
- The Commission is looking to hire a Project Administrator. Resumes will be accepted until May 9th.
- Lisa's retirement party is next week. E-invites were sent out. Thank you to Midwestern Engineers, Commonwealth Engineers and Lochmueller Group for sponsoring the party.
- The Commission is seeing progress on projects funded but delayed for various reasons.
- EPA Brownfields Assessment sites are still being collected. If there is a site in your community, please let us know. There are many on the list for assessment but more are appreciated.
- The COPS hiring program through the Department of Justice to hire additional officers is open. Applications are due June 12th. The application is a multi-stage process. It is set up for police departments or local governments to submit an application on their own. However, the Commission is available to assist with the application. There are a couple communities we are currently assisting. The program covers the salary for a new officer, not an existing employee, the first three years of employment and then transitions to the police department covering the salary moving forward. There is a match involved but a waiver can be requested for communities who may need one.

OLD BUSINESS

- Appointment of Vice-Chair. Zach Brown was nominated to fill the position of Vice-Chair. Randy Clark made a motion to appoint Zach Brown as Vice-Chair, seconded by Tony Kendall and motion carried with Zach Brown abstaining.
- Theron Owen was nominated to be the Orange County representative to the Executive Board. Randy Clark made a motion to appoint Theron Owen to the Executive Board, seconded by Zach Brown and motion carried.
- Building improvements are mostly complete. The HVAC system has been completed.
- 2024 Annual CEDS update discussion. Cheri Taylor went through the budget and answered any questions presented.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2023 Fiscal Year-End Budget was discussed.

Resolutions for Approval:

- Approval of the 2024 Annual CEDS update; (Resolution 2024-09)
Carl Anderson made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-09, seconded by Nick Hostetter and motion carried.
- Authorization to close fiscal year 2023 deficit to fund balance; (Resolution 2024-10)
Paul Lorey made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-10, seconded by Zach Brown. A roll call vote was conducted with 25 in favor.

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Other:

- Appropriation budget for the per capita fees for 2025 (Resolution 2024-11)
Nick Hostetter made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-11, seconded by Joni Stafford and motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussions or business to come before the Full Board, Chair Jon Craig called for a motion to adjourn. Motion for adjournment was made by Zach Brown, seconded by Carl Anderson and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Balaji Kashyab, Secretary

BK/lh