

**Minutes of the August 26, 2025
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, Kerry Blessinger, Paul Lorey, Jerry Allstott, Beverly Schulthise, Melanie Barrett, Carl Anderson, Chad Hager, Dave Wolford, Randy Clark, Theron Owen, Balaji Kashyab, Janice Hackbarth, Jeff Nelson, Jeff Harting, Jon Craig, Kullen Cook, Dorothy Julian, David Gogel, Cathy Kirkpatrick, Don Wertman, Angie Fischer and Michael Johannes were present. Nathan Held and Cheri Taylor of the Commission were also in attendance.

Jon Craig introduced Torie Marion from Small Business Administration. The Administration would like to let communities know there are low interest disaster loans available for Daviess County and all contiguous counties. The low interest loans are 12 months interest free with fixed rates of terms of up to 30 years. These loans are available for home owners, renters, non-profits and businesses. Please let your counties know these loans are available and can be found at sba.gov/disaster to apply. The deadline to apply is September 16, 2025. Nathan Held asked if these loans are available for future disasters that SBA usually has available. Ms. Marion stated it depends on the severity of damage. Each county has to submit paperwork to be approved for disaster loans. The loans that are available are for storm that happened in June and July 2025. Jon Craig asked for clarification if the loans have to be related to damage from the storm or if it can be for anything economically in the county. Ms. Marion stated Jon was correct.

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 28, 2025. Chad Hager made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Don Wertman and motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise gave the Treasurer's Report. As of August 19th, receipts were \$17,500.00 and disbursements were \$34,972.43. Since the report was printed, receipts were 34,707.50. The actual total cash balance is \$724,675.44. The total aging schedule was \$32,790.89. There is one six-month CD totaling \$250,000.00 and \$314,244.99 investment in TrustINDiana. The restricted savings has a balance of \$12,518.04. Bill Byrd made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report pending audit, seconded by Mike Haverstock and motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Project Status Reports were given to all board members for review. The reports are current. If anyone needs to discuss a project listed, please reach out to appropriate staff.
- Last week it was announced the Town of Birdseye wastewater improvements project was awarded 750,000 in grant funds through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). Jessica Condra assisted the Town in submitting this application.
- Nathan Held attended the National Brownfields Conference held in Chicago August 5-8th. There was a lot of good information shared and face to face interaction with EPA.
- There will be three OCRA applications submitted this fall. Nathan will be resubmitting the Grandview wastewater application. There were technical difficulties which prevented the application from being fully submitted. Jessica is assisting the Town of Orleans in submitting a wastewater application. Jenny Matheis submitted an application on August 14th on behalf of French Lick for the Owner-Occupied rehabilitation program through OCRA. This is also a resubmittal application. Jessica Condra will be submitting an application for the Winslow Comprehensive Plan. This is the third time this application has been submitted due to competitiveness.
- The Commission is another step closer in the approval process for the EDA Partnership Planning grant but are still in a waiting period. The Commission is hopeful to receive the planning grant within the next couple of months.

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- CEDS project listings have been sent out. Many have been received. Updates need to be submitted to Indiana 15 by September 12, 2025.
- OCRA has made some key changes to their programs. Many communities are using SRF funding as a local match. OCRA will now only accept applications with SRF as the local match in Round 2 of each year. This puts limitation to waiting a year to resubmit if needed. Previously a community would receive bonus points if a project was part of a regional plan. The regional bonus points have been taken away but have added a new step for bonus points called the community resilience. There are two parts to it which are assigned points fixed to the community and the other part is the community looking at and preparing a report on how the project will improve resiliency. Community Facilities program will now fund historic preservation projects. Blight clearance has always focused on commercial and industrial but will now include residential properties. For this program the community would have to own the property. There has to be a history of violations to be eligible. Multiple properties can be bundled together in an application. Bonus points will be added for communities recovering from natural disasters. These will more than likely need to be federally declared disaster areas. Planning grants and Owner-Occupied Rehab is going from four rounds per year to three rounds with the possibility of a fourth round each year contingent upon available funding. The local match for planning grants is being reduced from 10 percent to eight percent. They have placed an \$7,000 flat rate fee for administration.
- The Commission will be posting a job application soon. If anyone knows of someone who will be a good fit for the Indiana 15 team, let us know.
- Brownfields funds will be spent by year end. The grant is supposed to run through 2027. The Commission plans to re-apply this fall for Brownfields funding. Sites are still needed to include in the next application.

OLD BUSINESS

- Summit outcome discussion. A handout was given to all board members for review. Jon Craig discussed the committees with highest interest. Blight Elimination and Community Development being the most desired, followed by Public Safety and lastly Legislative and Policy. It is preferred the chair of each committee is on the Full Board of the Commission. Jon Craig discussed the structure of each of the committees. Committee meetings would be held virtually during office hours.

Bill Byrd made a motion to approve the committees as presented, seconded by Cathy Kirkpatrick and motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2024 Fiscal Year End budget discussion – Nathan reviewed the budget with the Board.
- 2025 Mid-year budget discussion – Nathan reviewed the budget with the Board.

Resolutions for Approval:

- Authorization to close fiscal year 2024 to fund balance; Resolution 2025-14
Paul Lorey made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-14, seconded by Nick Hostetter and motion carried.
- 2025 Mid-year budget proposal; Resolution 2025-16
Paul Lorey made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-16, seconded by Don Wertman and motion carried.

Other:

- Per Capita budget estimate for 2026; Resolution 2025-15
Bill Byrd made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-15, seconded by Chad Hager 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 Chad Hager, seconded by Mike Haverstock and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm. The Full Board will meet next on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Balaji Kashyab, Secretary

BK/lh