Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission
Full Board Meeting Minutes
For February 24, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jon Craig welcomed the Full Board members and called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Balaji Kashyab performed roll call; Larry Ingle, Shawn Scott, Mike Haverstock, Bill Byrd, Paul Lorey, Beverly Schulthise, Melanie Barrett, Randy Clark, Theron Owen, Rebecca Thorn, Balaji Kashyab, Paul Brockman, John Paulin, Janice Hackbarth, Jeff Harting, Jon Craig, Lisa Rostron, Joni Stafford, Heather Gries, Cathy Kirkpatrick, Mason Seay, Don Wertman, and Mike Johannes were present. Cheri Taylor and Steve Marchand of the Commission and Eric Whitaker from the newspaper were also in attendance.

Staff of the Commission introduced themselves; Jenny Matheis – Housing Administrator, Steve Marchand – Project Administrator, Lindsey Hoffman – Project Assistant, and Cheri Taylor – Financial Administrator. Cheri also mentioned that Nathan Held – Executive Director was out sick but sent his regards and Jessica Condra – Project Administrator was at a bid opening in Birdseye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Chair Jon Craig presented the minutes from the Full Board meeting held October 28, 2025. Paul Lorey made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Theron Owen and motion carried.

AGENDA: ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise gave the Treasurer's Report. As of February 10th receipts were $10,230.14 and disbursements were $31,160.47. The actual total cash balance is $757,108.48. The aging schedule total is $180,709.00. There is one 6-month CD totaling $250,000.00 and $317,172.03 investment in TrustINdiana. The restricted savings has a balance of $12,522.46. Bill Byrd made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report pending audit, seconded by Don Wertman and motion carried.

Certificate of Deposit Investment – Cheri Taylor, Financial Administrator gave the Board rates and options for the CD investment and gave the recommendation of the Executive Director and Board Treasurer of Springs Valley Bank and Trust at a rate of 3.75%. After discussion, Paul Lorey made a motion to approve the investment, seconded by Mike Johannes and motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Board Members received a Staff Project Status Report for review. If there are questions or more details needed, she asked members to contact Nathan or the Project Administrator.
- Nathan Held is attending all County Commissioner and Council meetings in the region to give an update on the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

- Committee Reports –

  Jon Craig thanked those who have participated in any of the committee meetings. Jon is the Chair of the Policy and Legislative Committee. This committee will wait until after Session is over to not duplicate any discussion already being held. If an Indiana 15 Board Member is an elected official, they should expect an invitation to these committee meetings. Jon will continue to chair this committee for 2026 with hopes of the Indiana 15 Board Chair assuming this position each year.

  Shawn Scott is the Public Safety Committee Chair. He reported last month's meeting had good representation from all the regions counties. Good information was shared by the Spencer County EMS Director and Jasper Fire Chief. The committee is open to any in the public safety field who would be an asset to the committee.

  Heather Gries is the Blight Housing and Community Development Committee Chair. There was a great roundtable discussion about blight. Heather noted it was nice to hear that smaller communities do have a process in place to handle blight.

  Jon shared that the committee meeting minutes will be included in the Full Board meeting packets.

NEW BUSINESS

- Election of Officers for 2026 –
  - Bill Byrd nominated **Randy Clark as Chair** of the Commission.
  - Larry Ingle nominated **Shawn Scott as Vice-Chair** of the Commission.
  - Paul Lorey nominated **Beverly Schulthise as Treasurer** of the Commission.
  - Paul Lorey nominated **Balaji Kashyab as Secretary** of the Commission.

  Heather Gries made a motion close nominations and accept the nominated officers, seconded by Don Wertman and motion carried.
- Election of County Appointments to the Executive Board – The Board gathered with their fellow county representatives to select a representative to serve as an Executive Committee member. The Executive Board consists of eleven members and meets monthly. The Full Board meets quarterly.
  - **Crawford County** appointed **Braden Mitchell** as their representative.
  - **Dubois County** appointed **Melanie Barrett** as their representative.
  - **Orange County** appointed **Theron Owen** as their representative.
  - **Perry County** appointed **Paul Brockman** as their representative.
  - **Pike County** appointed **Joni Stafford** as their representative.
  - **Spencer County** appointed **Heather Gries** as their representative.
  - **Governor's Appointee** is **Stephen Bartels**.

  Don Wertman made a motion to approve the County Appointments to the Executive Board as presented, the motion was seconded by Heather Gries and motion carried.
- The Board meeting dates were unchanged from 2025. Executive Board meeting dates were set for the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. The Full Board meeting dates were set for the 4th Tuesday of January, April, August and October at 6:00 p.m. Paul Lorey made a motion to approve the dates of the Executive and Full Board meetings, seconded by Heather Gries and motion carried.
- Restricted Vehicle Savings Account transfer – Beverly Schulthise made a motion to transfer $2,000 from checking into the restricted savings account for the future purchase of a vehicle, seconded by Paul Brockman and motion carried.
- Crawford County Revolving Loan Fund (CCRLF) Board – Nathan Held is a member of the CCRLF Board as Executive Director of Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission. Shawn Scott made a motion to appoint Bill Byrd and Mike Haverstock to the CCRLF Board, seconded by Larry Ingle and motion carried.
- Appoint Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee members – This committee will draft a 2026 Annual Report document that prioritizes projects and fulfills a requirement of the Economic Development Administration directing the District. Paul Lorey made a motion to appoint the Full Board as CEDS Committee members seconded by Beverly Schulthise and motion carried.
- Approval to pay 2026 dues for the National Association of Development Organizations $3,000 and Indiana Association of Regional Councils $2,000. Jon Craig made a motion to approve paying the 2026 dues, seconded by Joni Stafford and motion carried.

<u>Resolutions for Approval:</u>

- Authorization for German American Bank as the depository for funds and authorizing agents to exercise the powers granted (Checking Account) (Resolution 2026-01).
- Authorization for German American Bank as the depository for funds and authorizing agents to exercise the powers granted (Restricted Vehicle Savings Account) (Resolution 2026-02).
- Annual authorization of investments (Resolution 2026-03).
  Paul Lorey made a motion to combine approval of Resolution 2026-01, 2026-02 and 2026-03 seconded by Heather Gries and motion carried.
- Authorization to add Steve Marchand to payroll (Resolution 2026-04).
  Jeff Harting made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-04, seconded by Theron Owen and motion carried.
- Establishing the schedule of fees; (Resolution 2026-05).
  Paul Lorey made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-05, seconded by Mike Johannes and motion carried.
- Authorization to destroy equipment; (Resolution 2026-06).
  Heather Gries made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-06, seconded by Larry Ingle and motion carried.

Contracts for Approval:

- Spurgeon Code update; sum of $1,050
- Ferdinand Code update; sum of $1,100
- French Lick Owner-Occupied Rehab; sum of $28,000
- Orange County Owner-Occupied Rehab; sum of $40,000
- Tell City LLR SRF Labor Standards 2; sum of $15,000
  Paul Lorey made a motion to combine approval of all contracts, seconded by Larry Ingle and motion carried.

Other:

- Treasurers Bond
  Paul Lorey made a motion to approve the Bond for the Board Treasurer, seconded by Mike Johannes and motion carried.
- Professional Liability Renewal – Employee errors and ommissions.
  Larry Ingle made a motion to approve renewal, seconded by Mike Haverstock, and motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussions or business to come before the Full Board, Chair Randy Clark called for a motion to adjourn. Motion for adjournment was made by Jeff Harting, seconded by Michael Johannes and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Balaji Kashyab, Secretary
BK/lh