Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission
Full Board Meeting Minutes
For August 25, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Shawn Scott welcomed the Full Board members and called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Balaji Kashyab performed roll call; Larry Ingle, Shawn Scott, Braden Mitchell, Bill Byrd, Meredith Voegerl, Kerry Blessinger, Paul Lorey, Jerry Allstott, Beverly Schulthise, Theron Owen, Rebecca Thorn, Balaji Kashyab, Paul Brockman, Janice Hackbarth, Kristin Johnson, Jeff Harting, Lisa Rostron, Joni Stafford, David Gogel, Curtis Conley, Angie Fischer and Mike Johannes were present. Nathan Held and Cheri Taylor the Commission were also in attendance.

BOARD CHAIR REPLACEMENT

- Paul Lorey nominated Shawn Scott as Chair, seconded by Theron Owen and motion carried.
- Mike Johannes nominated Heather Gries as Vice-Chair, seconded by Theron Owen and motion carried.
- Mike Johannes nominated Curtis Conley as the Spencer County representative to the Executive Board, seconded by Theron Owen and motion carried.

AGENDA: ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Chair Shawn Scott asked for any additions to the agenda. Mr. Held requested approval of the February 24, 2026 minutes be added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Chair Shawn Scott presented the minutes from the Full Board meeting held February 24 and April 28, 2026. Paul Lorey made a motion to approve the February minutes, seconded by Kerry Blessinger and motion carried. Paul Lorey made a motion to approve the April minutes, seconded by Mike Johannes and motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise gave the Treasurer's Report. As of August 12th, receipts were $20,212.97 and disbursements were $27,514.78. Since the report was printed, additional receipts were $19,000.00 and disbursements were $16,886.58. The actual total cash balance is $886,446.81. The total aging schedule was $88,013.14. There is one six-month CD totaling $250,000.00 and $577,059.38 investment in TrustINdiana. The restricted savings has a balance of $14,527.24. Bill Byrd made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report pending audit, seconded by Paul Lorey and motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- A written copy of the Director's Report, Project Status Reports and acronym information sheet were distributed to board members.
- Cannelton was awarded a $750,000 grant through the OCRA (Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs) for water improvements. Steve Marchard prepared this application.
- Jessica Condra and Steve Marchand are working on two income surveys to determine eligibility for OCRA grant funding. The Town of Troy survey was recently completed resulting in eligibility for funding, while the Town of English/English Fire Department survey is ongoing.
- Steve prepared a FEMA BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) application for the Orange County/Patoka Lake Regional Water and Sewer District for back-up generators. This application is currently under state review. He has also prepared a $8.5 million US DOT Federal Railroad Administration CRISI (Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements) application on behalf of the Perry County Port Authority for rail bridge improvements and refurbishment of three locomotives. This application is still under review.
- Jenny Matheis prepared an $500,000 OCRA - OOR (Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation) application on behalf of Crawford County for home repairs. This application is still under review.
- Jessica Condra prepared a $756,709 DNR - LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) application for the City of Huntingburg for park improvements. This application is currently under state review. Jessica is also developing two upcoming applications – one for Springs Valley Regional Water for OCRA funding and one for Orleans Wastewater Improvements for EDA funding.
- Indian 15 received a $700,000 US EPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant to conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments. This 4-year grant is an increase in funding from our most recent award. Sites will be sought to conduct assessments. Outreach and training sessions will be conducted early next year.

- Nathan Held attended the NADO National Regional Transportation Conference in Atalanta in July to gain insight on how to possibly expand in transportation work. He learned in Indiana our role is more of an advisory position to INDOT and provide all the services we are currently offering. The most staff will be attending the Indiana Association of Regional Councils (IARC) Conference in October.
- Nathan discussed the Municipal Unit Strategic Taskforce (MUST) Process. If there is anything we can do to assist, please let us know. Cooperation between the County Councils and Municipalities is crucial going forward. For guidance and detailed information please reach out to AM, AIC or other relevant organizations.
- The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) listings for the 2026 annual update have been sent out. Please review and make any appropriate changes to the list and return them to our office. These lists are used internally to stay up to date on the needs in our region and what funding opportunities to research. Having a project listed in the CEDS is also a requirement for US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding. Having a project listed in the CEDS can also be beneficial for USDA Rural Development funding opportunities.

OLD BUSINESS

- Committee Reports – Handouts were given to Board Members for the Policy & Legislative and Blight Committees.
- Parking lot water repair – Nathan gave a quick overview of the work to be performed on the parking lot and the recommendations the Executive Board had for the Full Board. It was recommended to have change order made for a curb and gutter be put in on the east side of the building to control water flow.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2026 Mid-Year Budget – Executive Director Nathan Held went through the highlights of the 2026 Mid-Year Budget.
- Traveling Executive Board meetings – Balaji explained the vision behind traveling board meetings. It was suggested to continue to discuss the concept of traveling Executive Board meetings.

Resolutions for Approval:

- Resolution of appreciation of Randy Cleck; Resolution 2026-13
  Bill Byrd made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-13, seconded by Theron Owen and motion carried.
- Resolution of appreciation of Don Wertman; Resolution 2026-14
  Mike Johannes made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-14, seconded by Larry Ingle and motion carried.
- Approval for repairs of the parking lot; Resolution 2026-15
  Curtis Conley made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-15, seconded by Kerry Blessinger and motion carried.
- Approval of the 2026 Mid-Year Budget; Resolution 2026-16
  Jeff Harting made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-16, seconded by Paul Lorey and motion carried.

Contracts for Approval:

None presented

Other:

None presented

ADJOURN

There being no further discussions or business to come before the Full Board, Chair Shawn Scott called for a motion to adjourn. Motion for adjournment was made by Mike Johannes, seconded by Theron Owen and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm. The next meeting of the Full Board will be Tuesday, October 27, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Balaji Kashyab, Secretary

BK/lh