

ECI REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 1st Quarter / 2018
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, at 3:00 P.M. DELAWARE COUNTY
Innovation Connector - 1208 W White River Blvd – Muncie

Present: Bill Hess, Marta Moody, Mike Burton, Mayor Randy Geesaman, James King, Shane Middlesworth, Tanya Hiatt, Scott Alexander, Bryce Conyers, Mike Foster, Richard Treon, Steve Kelly. Others Present: Michele Dickey, Jorge Ortiz, Pam Fisher. Staff present: Brad Bookout

1. Welcome / Introductions

Board President Hess called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

2. Roll Call: Bookout completed the roll call with members present noted above.

3. Election of Officers: King motioned to keep the officers the same as in 2017. Hiatt seconded. Motion carried. (Hess– President; Moody– Vice President; Burton– Treasurer; Mayor Geesaman– Secretary)

4. Guest Speaker– Pam Fisher with INDOT: Bill Hess introduced Mrs. Pam Fisher from INDOT and Bookout read a short biography of her accomplishments. Fisher gave an overview of INDOT and the current programs and staff that handle projects in the region. Various questions/answers/comments regarding INDOT programs, economic development, the I-69 Steering Committee and the Community Crossing Grants were discussed. Hess thanked Fisher for her information.

5. Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2017: King motioned to approve. Moody seconded. Motion carried with Middlesworth abstaining.

6. Treasurers Report through December 2017: Burton reviewed the Treasurer’s Report. The Profit & Loss balance was \$3,214.77 and the Asset and Liability totals matched. Geesaman motioned to accept the report. King seconded. Motion carried.

7. Board President Report: Hess explained that the amount of work that was being completed by the organization warranted the board considering adding some part-time help. Hess would like the board to authorized staff to seek additional help for 10–20 hours per week as soon as possible and preferably before the next meeting. Bookout shared that funding was an issue, however, he recommended sharing the current CEDS with the three main foundations in Delaware County and asking for the organization to be funded on a revolving basis. The board supported part-time staff being added before the next meeting.

8. Executive Director Report: Bookout shared a report (copy included in the packet to all members prepared by Bill Walters) that detailed multiple meetings attended since last November. Bookout shared that there is no shortage of things to do and that staff had met with representatives in various different capacities in Blackford, Delaware and Grant Counties.

9. New Business

- a. DC Fly-In dates: Bookout shared that June 11–13th is the proposed date for the trip and staff is now accepting reservations. The cost is yet to be determined based on flight and hotel reservations, but likely will be just over \$2,500.

- b. Grant and Delaware Counties approval of the I-69 Steering Committee Resolution: Bookout shared that both Delaware and Grant Counties had passed resolutions to become part of the committee. Grant County appointed Larry Strange as their appointee and Delaware County's appointee is forthcoming.
- c. Community Crossing Grants for 2018: Hess shared that several communities received Community Crossing Grant money for 2017 and the 2018 applications will be due soon. He encouraged any community that is not completing an application to do so. Bookout shared that the Planning District and Marta Moody have assisted communities last year and were happy to do so again this year.
- d. Meeting with Larry Strange in Grant County on repurposing tax delinquent properties and review of Delaware County sites in the next two weeks: Bookout shared that he and Bill Walters met with Larry and shared the process that the Planning District goes through to repurpose properties. Larry expressed interest in seeing Grant County complete a similar process. Bookout also shared that he and Bill Walters have received a list of tax delinquent sites from the Delaware County Auditor's Office and they would be visiting those sites in the next two weeks.

10. Old Business:

- a. CEDS Update: Bookout shared that the CEDS is largely complete with the exception of him requesting one member from each county to proof-read the report. Revisions will be incorporated. Bookout reviewed the eleven "Action Strategy" items that the Commission would be focusing on for the next five years.
- b. Gaston USDA update: Hiatt reported that Gaston had completed a large USDA grant application for sanitary sewer improvements. The app is pending at this time. Hiatt also thanked King for assisting in funding a preliminary engineering report for the Gaston water system.
- c. I-69 Steering Committee/EDA Economic Impact Study Grant: Bookout shared that Kyle Darton from EDA had visited and gave a favorable approval for ECIRPD to submit an application for the Economic Impact Study for \$150,000. The application will be submitted in the coming weeks.
- d. Albany EDA Road Project: Bookout reported that Kyle Darton from EDA also visited Albany in regards to the Albany Industrial Center Road Project. Unfortunately, with the uncertainty of the AquaBounty project, it was recommended that the project be on hold. Bookout also stated that Kyle Darton did also visit with Mayor Geesaman in Portland regarding a potential project.
- e. Eaton RFP: Bookout reported that despite good efforts to resolve the pending objection of the tax sale certificate property in Eaton that was being repurposed to Adsit Co., the former owner of the properties had passed away. Staff and representatives from Adsit Co. are meeting with the ECIRPD attorney on Thursday this week to discuss.
- f. Delaware County Ohio St. RFP: Bookout shared that the Ohio Street property was transferred and is in the possession of Knapp Supply Company. Bookout shared that the County was happy that the taxes on the property would now be paid.

11. Roundtable Discussion:

Jorge Ortiz, State Director from Senator Joe Donnelly's Office update the Commission on current happenings in DC and issues related to the government shut-down. Hess and the board commended Ortiz for his recent service in the United State Army and thanked him for his attentiveness and dedication to his country and job. Various other discussions and comments took place.

12. Adjournment: Hess adjourned the meeting.

Signed