

**ECI REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT**  
**BOARD MEETING – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter / 2016**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, at 3:00 P.M. – DELAWARE COUNTY**  
**Innovation Connector – 1208 W White River Blvd - Muncie**

Present: President Bill Hess, Marta Moody, Bill Walters (also proxy for James King), Tonya Hiatt, Randall Dunnuck, Randle Glaze (proxy for Chris Cook), Mike Burton, Richard Treon, Nate LaMar (also proxy for Kevin Knott and Corey Murphy), Ed Yanos, Jerry Walden, Mayor Randy Geesaman, Ralph Frazee. Staff: Brad Bookout, Pam Price and Ryan Robling. Guests: Greg Martz, Pat Hughes, Paul Lagemann, Susie Ripley, Kevin Sulc, Beth Grigsby, Ashlee Fiandica and Ryan Lefeld.

**1. Welcome / Introductions**

President Hess called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**2. Guest Speaker**

Greg Martz, GM Development, presented information to the board about public/private municipal financing for municipal projects.

**3. Approval of May 19, 2016 minutes**

Hess asked if there were any proxies to report. Nate LaMar reported he was proxy for Corey Murphy, Kevin Knott and Marita Roberson; Bill Walters is proxy for James King. After review of the minutes, Nate LeMar asked that the minutes reflect that he was proxy for Corey Murphy. Mayor Randy Geesaman moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Walters seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Treasurers Report through July, 2016**

Treasurer Mike Burton reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Burton reported Pam Price just deposited \$36,000, which puts us in better shape. Bill Walters moved to accept the treasurer's report, Marta Moody seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Board President Report**

Bill Hess indicated based on Pam Price's retirement is planned for May of 2017, unless health issues cause retirement earlier. The Executive Committee recommended we establish a committee of the Executive Board (officers), including a Henry County representative and Bookout and Price. The Committee can then draw up a search criteria and do the initial interviewing to hone the selection down to three candidates who will then come before the full Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will then make a recommendation to the full board. Hess has asked Price to review the job description and determine what should be added or removed. Hess asked that the full board look at the job description and determine any recommended changes. Hess stated that we have grown since Roy Budd's departure, and we want to continue the momentum. Since we want to ensure a smooth transition, the Executive Committee is recommending the officers stay in place for one more year. Frazee is uncertain of his reappointment, but Mayor Geesaman has agreed to step in as Secretary if Frazee is not reappointed. It was requested that the roster of the board members be sent out to all the Board. Nate LaMar moved to approve the recommendations of the

Executive Committee, Tonya Hiatt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Hess reiterated that we need to get the Road Shows going again – we do have one scheduled in Henry County.

## **6. Executive Director's Report**

Pam Price reported the following:

- a. The Regional Cities continues to meet. Not much is happening, but at least it facilitates communication among the participants.
- b. Washington Fly-In was very successful; we had a great meeting with Senator Donnelly, of course, typical meeting with Messer. Representative Brooks was called away to an FBI briefing on the Orlando shooting, but she had a staff member meet with us. Some participants went to meet with Representative Stutzman, others went to meet with Representative Young – just to meet him, and he was very accommodating. We met with David Lloyd at EPA; there is a huge disparity between the number of applications and the number of grants awarded. For example, Maine applied for 18 grants and was awarded 15; Indiana applied for 15 grants and got one. Lloyd indicated there was no favoritism involved. There have been calls and meetings since our visit, with Region 5, and it is known there are management issues in Region 5. Beth Grigsby from SME has suggested we separate our Counties and do individual applications this year for Grant, Jay and Delaware Counties (Henry County currently has a brownfields assessment grant).
- c. Bookout wrote an article for the Indiana Association of Regional Councils on Tax Increment Financing, which I forwarded to everyone. If you don't recall seeing the article and are interested, please let me know.
- d. Brad Bookout, Lisa Bookout, Bill Walters and I met with a lobbying firm, Keller McIntyre, while we were in Washington, and we are talking with the Counties to see if they will help fund this effort, as ECIRPD cannot cover the cost. A question came up on who would make the decision on what projects we would submit. It made sense to me to give the Executive Committee the final decision. Bookout stated Portland's commitment of \$15,000/year for two years really kicked things off. The Delaware County Commissioners will make a decision Monday as to participation, and we have met with Grant County Council members. Mayor Shon Byrum in Winchester is also interested. We have a consortium of funders; to hire a Washington firm it's not cheap – it will cost approximately \$90,000/year. We investigated them, and Keller McIntire (KM) worked successfully with the City of Marion and Indiana Wesleyan University to get \$1.3M towards water and sewer lines to the University, as well as \$900,000 for the IWU's nursing program. KM not only works on grants, but they also work with the Appropriations Committee staffers to inform them about the projects so when legislation is written, a specific project is in mind. We don't know if there will be successes, but it is worth a try. We would look at the CEDS for projects and put in two projects for each County. This will put us in front of 16 federal agencies whereas now we are dependent upon EDA and EPA for funding.
- e. I have scheduled the subject classes that Bill Walters and I need to take for our CDBG grant administrator's certification.
- f. I've been working on a grant for an elevator at the Jay County Senior Center, and am still looking for help. Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority think they may have some money to help.

- g. I transferred the property in Albany to Arnold's Lawn Care – we mentioned this at the last meeting. We now have several property transfers pending in Daleville (Real America / Salem Place Apartments) and one in Selma (on Muncie Street), and another in Gaston (200 Sycamore).
- h. I attended the Grant County LEO Dinner, Portland City Council and the Knightstown Town Board meetings. Kevin Knott indicated they were very pleased that Brad and I attended their meeting. LaMar asked if the Road Shows were intended for only elected officials, or they open to the public. Bookout said it has historically been only elected officials, if we opened it up to the public, we wouldn't have enough time.
- i. Overtime regulations – Price sent information out to everyone, but particularly for cities, towns and counties it could have an impact on overtime for truck drivers that are plowing during the winter, but less time in the summer. Even Price is subject to the overtime rule, but committed to never work any overtime. Something that everyone needs to be aware of, there are many possibilities of what could happen between now and December. Shelley Jackson from PSRB in Indianapolis would be happy to help if anyone has any questions.

## **7. Recommendations from the Executive Committee**

### **a. By-Laws Revision**

Information was sent to everyone, the only changes were to remove Blackford County from the by-laws as Price didn't want to have to deal with them on the CEDS plan. The Executive Committee recommended approval. Jerry Walden moved to accept the proposed changes, Frazee seconded. Bookout pointed out that since Blackford County is not represented by this organization and will not be included in the CEDS plan, they are not eligible for any federal funding. LaMar pointed out that on page four it indicates an appointment by the Mayor of Knightstown – which has no Mayor. It should read appointed by the Town Council. Walden revised his motion to approve the revision reflecting the change, Frazee's second stood. The vote was unanimous.

### **b. Employee Handbook update**

Price said she discovered recently that since we changed our name to ECI Regional Planning District, we have not changed the name on our employee manual from Energize-ECI Regional Planning District. I removed all the "Energize-" and Frazee pointed out a grammatical error on page 5, under "Payday" changing "for" to "of the." Geesaman moved for approval, Walters seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

## **8. Grants Report**

### **a. EDA Planning Grant**

Bookout reported the grant has been awarded. Price reported she had received a call from our EDA Representative, Darrin Fleenor earlier today, and he expected the paperwork to be complete within 2-3 weeks. We were awarded \$55,000 to update our CEDS plan.

### **b. EDA Infrastructure Grant**

Bookout reported on the EDA Infrastructure grant for a trans loading facility for the rail spur to Park One in Delaware county. They had a willing landowner, but that has changed, so the Commissioners have asked to withdraw the application, as they may need to use eminent domain, which will exclude the project from EDA funding.

**c. EPA Assessment Grant / Revolving Loan Fund**

Our applications were not funded. Grigsby has recommended we submit three separate grants this year, one for Delaware County, one for Grant County and one for Jay County – Henry County has funding at this time. This strategy would put us in a different category, communities that have not been funded, and perhaps would give us a better chance to be funded. There was a discussion of the former Firestone plant in New Castle, and the efforts to get it cleaned up. Grigsby suggested contacting Joe Duffecy at EPA in Region 5 regarding the issues with that office in getting this project moving forward.

**9. CEDS Update**

Ryan Robling (an intern/Masters student from the Ball State University College of Architecture and Planning), reported that he has done a great deal of research and is ready to move to the next step. Robling has contacted our Board members to garner interest in working on the CEDS plan. Until we have funding in place from EDA we are in a holding pattern. LaMar committed to getting us a copy of the current Henry County CEDS plan.

**10. Roundtable Discussion**

- Geesaman reported he had done a presentation at a Brownfields conference at the invitation of Grigsby – he was pleased to tell the success stories from ECIRPD.
- Paul Lagemann of Senator Coats office invited everyone to attend a roundtable the Senator is hosting with the State Department called “Cities and State” in Ft. Wayne on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be many other federal agencies represented, not only Washington level folks, but regional representatives, too. Lagemann will forward the invitation to Price, who will forward to the Board of Directors.
- Hess thanked Lagemann and Kevin Sulc for attending the meetings – it is valuable for our membership to have this visibility with our legislators.
- Kevin Sulc reported Representative Brooks focus this fall will be on education, and there will be some opportunities for young people.
- Geesaman was asked about the success of the water park in Portland, he reported that on a good day the old pool would have 100 or so participants. The new facility is averaging 500-600 per day, and has had some days with 800 people.
- LaMar asked Sulc if he saw the TPP happening in a lame duck session; Sulc said he thought it would be a close thing in the House, Lagemann said it’s really dependent upon the Senate, since you have to have 60 present to do anything due to the Cloture rule.

**11. Adjournment**