GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
(GREATER EGYPT)

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
July 14, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Commission convened on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Damron called the Commission Meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. due to phone problems. In person and ZOOM meeting.

Roll Call

Upon roll call the following members were physically present: Cindy Humm (Franklin County); Julie Peterson (Jackson County); Steve Damron (Jefferson County); Jim Marlo (Williamson County); Kathy Lively (Herrin); and Glenn Clarida (Marion); present by Zoom: Jason Ashmore, Kevin Weston (Franklin County); Cate Dinn (West Frankfort); Bob Hopkins, John Rendleman (Jackson County); Steve Draege (Jefferson County); Fred Kelly, Brian Otten, (Perry County); Ruth Hale (Du Quoin); Robert Spencer (Pinckneyville); Jeff Robinson, Greg Smothers (Williamson County); Mark Krones (Carterville); Larry Lovell, Assembly of Local Governments.

Absent: Neil Hargis (Franklin County); Craig Miles (Benton); David Larkin (Jackson County); Chris Wallace (Carbondale); Scott Wilmouth (Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Conservancy District); Cliff Lindemann, James Malone (Jefferson County); Mary Ellen Bechtel (Mt. Vernon); Dallas Bigham, Josh Gross, (Perry County); Mike Monchino (Williamson County).

Staff present: physically: Cary Minnis, Executive Director and Jenny Richardson, Administrator; zoom: Margie Mitchell, Program Director.

No guests called in.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Marlo and seconded by Ms. Lively to approve the consent agenda including the Minutes of the June Commission Meeting, the June Financial Report, the List of Bills, and the June Staff Report. All members present voted “AYE”. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Local Share

Mr. Minnis requested approval of the annual local share request. There are no changes from the prior year. The local share rate was last changed in 2008 to $.25 per capita for counties and municipalities over 5,000; $.06 per capita for conservancy districts; and $125 for Assembly of Local Governments in 2012.

A motion was made by Mr. Ashmore and seconded by Mr. Rendleman to approve the annual local share request and forward the request to local units of government. The motion carried.

Equipment Purchase

Mr. Minnis requested approval to purchase equipment for the new staff hired for the EDA Cares grant. Two new staff are on board and one will start on July 27. Still need one planner for the standard EDA planning grant. Equipment includes: Desks, Office Chairs, laptops for new staff, keyboard and mouse, Microsoft software, Monitors, VPN Solution, and with balance left to purchase webcams. Funding for equipment is available in the CARES grant budget.

A motion was made by Ms. Humm and seconded by Mr. Robinson to purchase the equipment as listed with funds from the CARES budget. The motion carried.
Miscellaneous

Mr. Minnis noted that the Commission has Certificates of Deposit maturing at the end of July. Staff will check rates before renewing. CDs will be reserved for: Rural Development ($113,148); EDA ($210,000) and for Stabilization ($50,000). Will report back to the Commission.

Old Business

New Office Construction Project

Mr. Minnis noted the Contractor finalized the dirt work and utilities are in the ground. An email from USDA was received concerning the grant request to offset costs for Man-Tra-Con for IT wiring, Data, computers for resource room, including high definition monitors in the conference room. The email requested that we remove landscaping from the grant. We are eligible for the grant since the items are for Man-Tra-Con, a non-profit organization, and will be sharing the building. This email is a very good sign that the grant might be funded.

EDA CARES Grant

Mr. Minnis reported the Commission received a $400,000, 2-year non-competitive grant. We were one of the first to make application for the funds and were one of the first to receive the grant. Cary received a phone call from the Secretary of Commerce for EDA congratulating us on the grant.

IDOT SPR Grant

Mr. Minnis said he had applied to IDOT for statewide planning and research program requesting a $200,000 (100%) grant for transportation planning in the five counties and it was received. This will duplicate the MPO in rural areas. Under the grant received we will be able to hire a consultant to complete a long-range transportation plan and to formalize a rural transportation planning organization. The long-term goal is to continue this funding and complete studies that result in additional funding for transportation projects in the rural areas of Greater Egypt.

Matters from the Floor

Question was asked about progress for Walker’s Bluff. Mr. Marlo said they are waiting on the license from the Gaming Board.

Upcoming Meetings

July 29 Executive Committee, Marion and August 11 Regular Meeting scheduled for Marion.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Humm and seconded by Mr. Robinson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Handouts

All items discussed had been emailed to Members before the Meeting.

Copies of all background documents furnished to the Commission in connection with this meeting are on file in the office of Greater Egypt, Marion, Illinois

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