The Regular Meeting of the Commission convened on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Damron called the Commission Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. due to phone problems. Phone Conference per COVID 19 Emergency.

Roll Call

Upon roll call by phone, the following members were present: Jason Ashmore, Cindy Humm, Kevin Weston (Franklin County); Cate Dinn (West Frankfort); David Larkin, Julie Peterson, John Rendleman (Jackson County); Chris Wallace (Carbondale); Steve Damron, Steve Draege, Cliff Lindemann (Jefferson County); Dallas Bigham, Josh Gross, Fred Kelly, Brian Otten (Perry County); Ruth Hale (Du Quoin); Robert Spencer (Pinckneyville); Jim Marlo, Mike Monchino, Jeff Robinson, Greg Smothers (Williamson County); Mark Krones (Carterville); Kathy Lively (Herrin); Glenn Clarida (Marion); Larry Lovel (Assembly of Local Governments).

Absent: Neil Hargis (Franklin County); Craig Miles (Benton); Bob Hopkins (Jackson County); Scott Wilmouth (Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Conservancy District); James Malone (Jefferson County); Mary Ellen Bechtel (Mt. Vernon).

Staff present: Cary Minnis, Executive Director; Jenny Richardson, Administrator; Margie Mitchell, Program Director; Abra Phillips, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper.

No guests called in.

Consent Agenda

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

NEW BUSINESS

EDA Grant (Resolution No. 2-5-2020)

Mr. Minnis noted the Updated Economic Adjustment Grant was emailed to members. The Cares had added $1.5 billion increase over the regular funding. This is 5 ½ times more than normal funding as well as the disaster funding. The regular economic development planning funding will be at an 80% level rather than 50%. EDA has offered Economic Development Districts in the Chicago Region a $400,000 grant with 2 years to spend it. We have received the letter asking for the application. EDA has prepared a standard scope of work for the grants. This will require three additional staff, an Economic Development Director and 2 Planners. We also have an open position for our regular economic development program. Will be advertising for 4 positions in economic development. Question was asked what happens with staff after two years. Mr. Minnis said the three staff for the new grant would only have funding for two years. After that period if no additional funds are obtained the new staff will be laid off. Mr. Minnis requested approval of the resolution to apply for the $400,000 grant.

A motion was made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Ashmore to adopt Resolution No. 2-5-2020, Cares Act Supplemental EDA Award for the $400,000 grant and authorizes the Executive Director to execute the application and agreements. All members present voted “AYE”. The motion carried.
Governor’s Fast Track Infrastructure Grants

Mr. Minnis said just today the Fast Track Infrastructure grants were announced by the Governor in the amount of $25 million. Projects must be shovel ready. June 15 is the application deadline. $5 million is the maximum per project, no project under $500,000 to be accepted. The grants are available to local governments for infrastructure projects including construction and/or significant renovations or improvements. If anyone is aware of a project, please let staff know as soon as possible. Question was asked if funds could be used for deomtion only projects. Cary will check.

DRA

Mr. Minnis noted that the DRA 2020 application round is due by the end of June. Let us know if you have projects so we can develop an application. This may be a good year to apply if a project is ready.

Old Business

New Office Construction Project

Mr. Minnis noted that the documents approved last month were accepted by USDA. The closing was held April 20 and the Notice to Proceed was given to the Contractor. The Contractor is moving dirt, so the project is underway.

Matters from the Floor

Ms. Lively noted that work force training funds are available, also for clean-up, etc. Contact her. She will follow-up with more information.

Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Damron noted upcoming meetings: May 27 Executive Committee, Marion and June 9 Regular Meeting scheduled for Jefferson County.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Rendleman to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Handouts

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