The Regular Meeting of the Commission convened on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jackson County Health Department in Murphysboro, Illinois.

Commission Members Present: David Larkin, Robert Hopkins, Julie Peterson, John Rendleman (Jackson County); Chris Wallace (Carbondale); Steve Wilmouth (Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Conservancy District); Steve Damron, Cliff Lindemann (Jefferson County); Robert Spencer (Pinckneyville); Jeffery Robinson, Greg Smothers (Williamson County); Larry Lovell (Assembly of Local Governments).

Commission Members Absent: Jason Ashmore, Neil Hargis, Cindy Humm, Kevin Weston (Franklin County); Craig Miles (Benton); Cate Dinn (West Frankfort); Steve Draege, James Malone (Jefferson County); Mary Ellen Bechtel (Mt. Vernon); Dallas Bigham, Josh Gross, Fred Kelly, Brian Otten (Perry County); Ruth Hale (DuQuoin); Jim Marlo, Mike Monchino (Williamson County); Mark T. Krones (Carterville); Kathy Lively (Herrin); Glenn Clarida (Marion).

Staff present: Cary Minnis, Executive Director and Abra Phillips, Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper.

Call to Order

Mr. Damron called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. It was determined that a quorum was physically present and the minutes were recorded.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Rendleman to approve the consent agenda items and move the Amended List of Bills to new business: Minutes of the February 11 Commission Meeting, the February Financial Statement, and February Staff Report. All members present voted “AYE”. The motion carried.

New Business

Amended List of Bills

Mr. Minnis explained the reason the List of Bills was amended. The i5 Group submitted February’s bill for $8,852.52 after the Commission meeting packets were sent out. It was added to ensure payment can be made once approved by SIMPO’s Technical Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Smothers and seconded by Mr. Spencer to accept the Amended List of Bills. All members present voted “AYE”. The motion carried.

Rural Transportation Grant

Mr. Minnis recently sent letters to the County Board Chairs, County Highway representatives (for each county), and the Mayors of rural communities that are members explaining the concept of creating a Rural Transportation Planning Organization. He plans to apply for 100% funding to do the same thing for the rest of the Greater Egypt area that our MPO does for the urbanized area and wants to eventually use the planning dollars to help get grants funded.

Rebuild Illinois Program

Mr. Minnis announced that the Rebuild Illinois program has been implemented. The minimum award is $250,000 for each grant and the deadline for submittal is June 30, 2020. The 3 competitive notice of funding awards are:
• Public Infrastructure Program ($50 million available)
• Regional Economic Development Program ($16.5 million available)
• Shovel Ready Sites - similar to Brownfield grants ($13 million available)

DRA Applications

Mr. Minnis announced that the Delta Regional Authority is taking applications for the next few months and is fully funded this year, and instructed everyone present to let him know if they have any projects that will fit. Examples are infrastructure and workforce development related projects.

Old Business

New Office Construction Project

Mr. Minnis went over the updates on the new office construction project. The USDA is reviewing our legal paperwork with their office of general counsel, we should hear back from them with closing instructions and/or any changes needed in the next week or two. He hopes to move into closing on April 1, 2020 in order to take advantage of an expected lower interest rate. Mr. Minnis also inquired about opinions on doing a ribbon cutting/groundbreaking ceremony. Everyone present agreed that it’s important and would help inform the public about what we do for our communities.

CEDS

Mr. Minnis informed everyone that the draft is on the website and we have put out a notice for public comment was placed in the newspaper. He has a meeting tomorrow (3/11/2020) with the SI Bridge to the Future group. EDA said we don’t need approval by each of the county boards, but do need approval from the Greater Egypt board, so a resolution will be on the agenda next month to approve the CEDS. The finalized version is due to EDA at the end of April 2020.

Matters from the Floor

Mr. Minnis reminded everyone present to fill out their Economic Interest Statements if they haven’t already and return them in the envelope provided. If they are done and they have them here tonight, they can turn them in to Abra Phillips.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

March 25 - Executive Committee - Marion
April 14 - Regular Meeting - Franklin County

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Wallace and seconded by Mr. Robinson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Handouts

Amended List of Bills

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.