

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
April 11, 2023**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Kathy Lively, Vice-Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. A roll call was done and quorum was established.

Members Present – Cindy Humm, Kevin Weston (Franklin County); Craig Miles (Benton); David Larkin, Julie Peterson, John Rendleman (Jackson County); Scott Wilmouth (Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Conservancy District); Ryan Guthman (Murphysboro); Steve Damron, James Malone (Jefferson County); Bruce Morgenstern, Josh Gross, Fred Kelly (Perry County); Robert Spencer (Pinckneyville); Travis Emery, Timothy Atkisson, Alexander Simpson (Williamson County); Mark Kronos (Carterville); Kathy Lively (Herrin); Jason Ashmore (ALG)

Members Absent - Neil Hargis, Joshua Qualls, (Franklin County); Chris Veteto (West Frankfort); Keith Thomason (Rend Lake Conservancy District); Steven Mitchell (Carbondale); Steve Draege, Cliff Lindemann (Jefferson County); Mary Ellen Bechtel (Mt. Vernon); Brian Otten (Perry County); Ruth Hale (Du Quoin); Jeffery Robinson (Williamson County); Glenn Clarida (Marion)

Staff Present - Cary Minnis (Executive Director), Abra Phillips (Admin Asst & Bookkeeper)

2. Recognition of Visitors –

None

3. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Steve Damron and seconded by Craig Miles to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The following reports were accepted:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting – March 14, 2023
- b) Financial Report - March, 2023
- c) List of Bills – April 11, 2023
- d) Staff Report - March, 2023

4. Old Business - None

5. New Business

- a) IDOT/SIMPO Updates – Cary Minnis announced that we have officially been informed that FY2024 will be the last allotment of MPO planning funds (expected to be around \$415K). This is potentially a 30% loss on Greater Egypt’s budget. IDOT offered maximum flexibility with the funds we will be receiving for FY24, which would give us the ability to take 18 months to spend funds rather than the typical 12 months. Cary Minnis anticipates that this along with us not having enough studies to use up the consultant portion of the grant will help extend funds to cover staff salaries. We are also working on the rural transportation side utilizing IDOT SPR funds. We are currently administering two of these types of grants, the IDOT Greater Egypt Municipal Safety Study and the IDOT Greater Egypt Bike Plan for Benton and Mt. Vernon. Staff has also submitted 2 applications for SPR grants that will include more bike plans on the traditional rural side and on the urban side. The total ask for both

applications is around \$594,225. IDOT still wants to work with us and we will still be able to mostly function like we have, just with different funding sources.

- b) DRA Updates – Cary Minnis added a disclaimer that this does not affect Jefferson County as we cannot spend DRA money there. DRA is starting a pilot program and will be allocating just under \$40K to Greater Egypt based on the distressed areas within the DRA imprint. It specifically excludes non-distressed areas and they specifically want the funds used to apply for more grants and we will probably have this program around for 2 years. For everyone else, they have a Strategic Planning Program Fund with a \$25K - \$150K allowable ask. They are funding all different kinds of plans such as feasibility studies, broadband deployment, etc. It will likely be a good fit as long as it's a “plan” and not an “implementation”.
- c) Water Quality Planning Updates – Staff had a recent meeting with Christine Davis from IEPA about future funding. Greater Egypt and CMAP are the only functioning Water Quality departments in the state of Illinois, with 40% of 604b funds going to these areas. Grant applications are currently in limbo while waiting on decisions to be made regarding GATA, IEPA would like to get rid of it or at least pull the 40% out of competitive funding so that it doesn't have to go through the GATA regulations. However, we could still apply for the competitive too if this happens.
- d) Miscellaneous - IDOT released the results of 2 major grant programs and Southern Illinois did well:
 - West Frankfort was awarded \$18 million for a new interchange on I57 and IL 149
 - IDOT – \$30 million to upgrade I57 from South of Marion to I24 to 6 lanes. This means that the 6-lane upgrade of I57 is now fully funded.
 - Carbondale is getting \$827K for greenway reconstruction.
 - Crab Orchard Greenway will get \$2.6 million for reconstruction of 1.4 miles of a shared use trail for the transit center between the VA and Pepsi MidAmerica.
 - Murphysboro was awarded just short of \$1.9 million for ADA compliant streetscape enhancement.

6. Matters from the Floor - None

7. Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee – April 26, 2023

Regular Meeting – May 9, 2023

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Craig Miles and seconded by Steve Damron to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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