

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
May 9, 2023**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jeffery Robinson, 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); David Larkin, Julie Peterson (Jackson County); Scott Wilmoth (Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Conservancy District); Ryan Guthman (Murphysboro); Steve Damron, Steve Draege, James Malone (Jefferson County); Fred Kelly (Perry County); Robert Spencer (Pinckneyville); Timothy Atkisson, Jeffery Robinson (Williamson County); Mark Kroner (Carterville); Kathy Lively (Herrin); Jason Ashmore (ALG)

Members Absent - Neil Hargis, Joshua Qualls, (Franklin County); Craig Miles (Benton); Chris Veteto (West Frankfort); Keith Thomason (Rend Lake Conservancy District); John Rendleman (Jackson County); Steven Mitchell (Carbondale); Cliff Lindemann (Jefferson County); Mary Ellen Bechtel (Mt. Vernon); Bruce Morgenstern, Josh Gross, Brian Otten (Perry County); Ruth Hale (Du Quoin); Travis Emery, Alexander Simpson (Williamson County); Glenn Clarida (Marion)

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

2. Recognition of Visitors – Marshall Brown is here from Mike Bost’s office.

3. Consent Agenda

Cindy Humm noted that a correction needs to be made on the attendance portion of the April 11, 2023 minutes, it shows her as absent and she attended via Zoom. A motion was made by Kathy Lively and seconded by Jason Ashmore to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the correction made. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The following reports were accepted:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting – April 11, 2023
- b) Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting – April 26, 2023
- c) Financial Report - April, 2023
- d) List of Bills – May 9, 2023
- e) Staff Report - April, 2023

4. Old Business

- a) DRA Grants – Cary Minnis announced that the DRA grants are out and encouraged members to contact him with any ideas/projects related to the following 3 grant programs:
 - 1. State’s Economic Development Assistance Program
 - 2. Community Infrastructure Fund – ongoing rolling basis
 - 3. Strategic Planning Grant

5. New Business

- a) FY2024 Budget – Cary Minnis went over the Commission’s budget for FY2024, copies are available electronically via emails sent out prior to tonight’s meeting, or by hard copy for those attending in person. Our fringe benefit rate will be increasing from 46.812% to 52.398% due to an increase in IMRF’s employer rate increase. It has gone up to 13.1% from 7.1% due to IMRF’s investments not doing well. Cary plans to

attend a rate webinar tomorrow to get more information on how the rate is determined. Our indirect rate will also be increasing from 34.846% to 40.826% due to the following reasons:

- Our space cost is higher due to us including more cost than originally intended as indirect rather than a building operations cost. This also means our building operation cost will be lower.
- We had a lot of staff turnover in FY22 and were unable to collect the full amount of funding from certain grants. The way we catch this up is to increase the rate in FY2024.

A motion was made by Steve Damron and seconded by Cindy Humm to approve the FY2024 budget as presented by Cary Minnis. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- b) Commission Meeting Schedule – after tonight’s meeting we are officially done with using Zoom for voting/quorum purposes. Cary Minnis asked if members would like to start having meetings in different communities every other month rather than having them all at the Greater Egypt office. Either way, all meetings will require in person attendance in order to vote and be counted towards the quorum.

A motion was made by Steve Damron and seconded by Kevin Weston to spend the remainder of the year’s meetings at the office as planned, and to revert to the pre-Covid schedule of meeting at other locations every other month at the start of Calendar Year 2024. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- c) Approval to Purchase an Upgrade to Arc GIS Advanced – Cary Minnis explained that this upgrade of 2 licenses to the advanced version will exceed \$20K, and is written into the IEPA Water Quality grant. After this upgrade, the ongoing maintenance will cost \$4,620 per year. Cary also noted that we have gone from 4 licenses to 2. Mr. Larkin inquired as to how often Mr. Minnis has to ask for approval for large purchases like this, and Mr. Minnis answered that it’s very rare.

A motion was made by David Larkin and seconded by James Malone to approve the purchase to upgrade the 2 Arc GIS licenses to the advanced version. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- d) Miscellaneous - None

6. Matters from the Floor

Ms. Lively thanked fellow member James Malone for his years of service working with a program for the youth called “the Crew” in Mt. Vernon.

Marshall Brown explained that he attended tonight’s meeting to learn more about the commission and mentioned that Mr. Bost’s office is happy to offer any assistance/be a resource with grant processes, letters to support projects, etc.

7. Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee – May 31, 2023

Regular Meeting – June 13, 2023

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Steve Damron and seconded by James Malone to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:28 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.