

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jeffery Robinson, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. A roll call was done and quorum was established.

Members Present – Cindy Humm (Franklin County); Lee Messersmith (Benton); Julie Peterson (Jackson County); Steve Damron, Steve Draege (Jefferson County); Bruce Morgenstern (Perry County); Robert Spencer (Pinckneyville); Timothy Atkisson, Alexander Simpson, Jeffery Robinson (Williamson County); Kathy Lively (Herrin); Glenn Clarida (Marion); Jason Ashmore (ALG)

Members Absent - Neil Hargis, Joshua Qualls, Kevin Weston (Franklin County); Chris Veteto (West Frankfort); Keith Thomason (Rend Lake Conservancy District); David Larkin, John Rendleman (Jackson County); Steven Mitchell (Carbondale); Scott Wilmouth (Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Conservancy District); Ryan Guthman (Murphysboro); Cliff Lindemann, James Malone (Jefferson County); Mary Ellen Bechtel (Mt. Vernon); Josh Gross, Fred Kelly, Brian Otten (Perry County); Ruth Hale (Du Quoin); Travis Emery (Williamson County); Mark Kronos (Carterville)

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

2. Recognition of Visitors

Phyliss Damron – Steve Damron’s mother
Ron Kiser – friend of Julie Peterson

3. Consent Agenda

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

The following reports were accepted:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting – June 13, 2023
- b) Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting – June 28, 2023
- c) Financial Report - June, 2023
- d) List of Bills – July 11, 2023
- e) Staff Report - June, 2023

4. Old Business - None

5. New Business

- a) Commission By-Laws Amendment/Commission Meeting Schedule – We need a simple majority of the total membership of the Commission (17 members present) to vote on this, so today it is discussion only and will stay on the agenda until we have enough people to vote. Since the reversal of the Disaster Proclamation that allowed members to attend meetings remotely, we have discussed the meet to meet as frequently. There are some months with very little on the agenda. The main reason we have to meet some months is to approve payment of bills over \$5K, and Cary is concerned that now that we have to meet in person, board members will feel this isn’t a good use of their time. The bylaws already give authority to the executive committee to

approve these bills, in addition, most bills over \$5K are from contracts that have already been approved, so it doesn't seem necessary to have full board approval for each individual invoice. Cary also mentioned that if the meeting frequency was changed, we would still complete a staff report for members on a monthly basis, we would like to decrease the frequency of the financial reports for the board's review, and put less of a strain on the fiscal staff. Changing the time and day of the week was also discussed, as some feel that a 7:00 pm start is too late, but earlier times on Tuesdays might conflict with other county meetings. The most popular option seems to be to meet every other month or quarterly for the regular meetings and supplement with Executive Committee meetings as needed to pay bills. Cary noted that we can always add on a special meeting if we need to meet in between regularly scheduled meetings. Kathy Lively suggested sending out a survey to members asking them why they do/don't attend meetings to get a better idea of what they would like to get out of the meetings.

- b) Approval for Executive Director to attend Delta Regional Authority Delta Summit 2023 – Cary Minnis has been invited to attend the DRA summit in New Orleans, October 30 – November 1, 2023. DRA is to pay for the hotel room.

Motion made by Jason Ashmore and seconded by Timothy Atkisson to approve the DRA Summit 2023 trip for the Executive Director. The motion carried unanimously.

- c) Annual Meeting – After conversations with Angela Holmes and Tammy Kirk, Cary learned that the SIWDB wants to keep things the same, and this year the meeting will be hosted in Perry County. They are planning to reserve the American Legion in Du Quoin, which seats 400 people and will cost around \$250-500. Cary mentioned that he would like to see more award nominations this year. Kathy Lively agreed to help with the nominations and will be sending forms out as soon as possible.

- d) Miscellaneous –

- Benton was awarded a Community Infrastructure grant from DRA for \$937,800. This will be used for a new water line to help with capacity and is not publicly announced yet. Cary mentioned that this type of grant is on an ongoing basis and to reach out with any ideas.
- Greater Egypt received the annual DRA award in the amount of \$39,655, and also received \$48,000 for a Wildfire Protection Plan in Williamson County.
- To date in 2023, Greater Egypt has helped to bring \$5,138,504 in grants into our region with \$12.5 million in additional requests pending.
- Cary discussed a new EDA grant coming out called the Recompete Grant. It's a large-scale grant designed to address the labor participation rate for prime working age (25-54). Cary will have more information at the next meeting and urged members to contact him with any ideas.

6. Matters from the Floor - None

7. Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee – July 26, 2023

Regular Meeting – August 08, 2023

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Steve Damron and seconded by Alexander Simpson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:52 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.