

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
August 08, 2023**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jeffery Robinson, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was done and a simple majority quorum was established.

Members Present – Cindy Humm , Kevin Weston (Franklin County); Keith Thomason via Zoom – not counted in quorum (Rend Lake Conservancy District); Julie Peterson , John Rendleman (Jackson County); Steve Damron, Steve Draege, Cliff Lindemann (Jefferson County); Bruce Morgenstern, Fred Kelly (Perry County); Robert Spencer (Pinckneyville); Travis Emery, Timothy Atkisson, Alexander Simpson, Jeffery Robinson (Williamson County); Mark Kronos (Carterville); Kathy Lively (Herrin); Glenn Clarida (Marion); Jason Ashmore (ALG)

Members Absent - Neil Hargis, Joshua Qualls (Franklin County); Lee Messersmith (Benton); Chris Veteto (West Frankfort); David Larkin (Jackson County); Steven Mitchell (Carbondale); Scott Wilmouth (Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Conservancy District); Ryan Guthman (Murphysboro); James Malone (Jefferson County); Mary Ellen Bechtel (Mt. Vernon); Josh Gross, Brian Otten (Perry County); Ruth Hale (Du Quoin)

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

2. Recognition of Visitors

Desra Lindemann – spouse of Cliff Lindemann

3. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Steve Damron and seconded by Jason Ashmore to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote. It was noted that Greater Egypt received national recognition from NADO for both Safety Studies that we completed (see staff report).

The following reports were accepted:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting – July 11, 2023
- b) Financial Report - July, 2023
- c) List of Bills – August 08, 2023
- d) Staff Report - July, 2023

4. Old Business

- a) Commission By-Laws Amendment/Commission Meeting Schedule – We have a simple majority of the total membership of the Commission (17 members present) tonight and can vote by roll call. Since the reversal of the Disaster Proclamation that allowed members to attend meetings remotely, we have discussed the need 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.

Motion made by Mr. Rendleman and seconded by Ms. Lively to change the meeting frequency to every other month and have executive committee meetings in the opposite months to take care of any bills that need approved but don't need full board approval. A roll call vote was taken and results are below:

1. Cindy Humm – Yes
2. Kevin Weston – Yes
3. Julie Peterson – Yes
4. John Rendleman – Yes
5. Steve Damron – Yes
6. Steve Draege – Yes
7. Cliff Lindemann – Yes
8. Bruce Morgenstern – Yes
9. Fred Kelly – Yes
10. Robert Spencer – Yes
11. Travis Emery – Yes
12. Timothy Atkisson – Yes
13. Alexander Simpson – Yes
14. Jeffery Robinson – Yes
15. Mark Kroner – Yes
16. Kathy Lively – Yes
17. Glenn Clarida – Yes
18. Jason Ashmore – Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was had regarding the time of the meetings and the general consensus was to try starting at 6 pm rather than 7 pm.

Motion made by Ms. Lively and seconded by Mr. Draege to change the meeting time to 6 pm for the remainder of the calendar year. The motion carried unanimously.

5. New Business

- a) Approve SIMPO South Market Corridor Study – Cary Minnis explained that we had 5 responses to our RFQ for this project and that Horner & Shifrin scored the highest and has been approved to be awarded the contract by both MPO committees.

Motion made by Julie Peterson and seconded by Robert Spencer to approve the MPOs decision to award the contract to Horner & Shifrin. The motion carried unanimously.

- b) Annual Meeting – Cary Minnis announced that the awards nomination form is being updated and will be out in a couple of weeks. We will need to choose recipients at October's meeting and Cary hopes that it will be more competitive this year than it has in past years.
- c) Miscellaneous – Certificate of Deposit Update – Cary told the group that he was prepared to tell everyone that we moving our CD's from Legence to Banterra for a 12-month term at 4.75 interest (compounded annually) and they would also be increasing our Money Market interest rate to 2.75%. However, Legence came in with a better rate on the CDs and also offered to give us 2.75% on our Money Market accounts as

well if we moved our checking accounts there. It would likely be more trouble than it's worth to move our other accounts, but Cary would like a little time to consider both offers.

6. Matters from the Floor

- Cary reminded members that DRA still has planning funds up to \$150K with no match and to contact with any ideas as soon as possible. He also noted that Jason Ashmore was recently awarded \$50K through this program for his recent application submission.

7. Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee – September 12, 2023

Regular Meeting – October 10, 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 7:30 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.