

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING
February 13, 2024**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jeffery Robinson, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. A roll call was done and a simple majority quorum was established.

Members Present:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Represents</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Cindy Humm | Franklin County |
| Kevin Weston | Franklin County |
| David Larkin | Jackson County |
| Julie Peterson | Jackson County |
| Bruce Morgenstern | Perry County |
| Fred Kelly | Perry County |
| Robert Spencer | Pinckneyville |
| Travis Emery | Williamson County |
| Alexander Simpson | Williamson County |
| Jeffery Robinson | Williamson County |
| Mark Kronos | Cartersville |
| Kathy Lively | Herrin |

Members Absent:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Represents</u> |
|--------------------|--|
| Neil Hargis | Franklin County |
| Liz Allen | Franklin County |
| Lee Messersmith | Benton |
| Chris Veteto | West Frankfort |
| John Rendleman | Jackson County |
| Cody Lueker | Carbondale |
| Scott Wilmouth | Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Conservancy District |
| Ryan Guthman | Murphysboro |
| Steve Damron | Jefferson County |
| Steve Draege | Jefferson County |
| Cliff Lindemann | Jefferson County |
| Mary Ellen Bechtel | Mt. Vernon |
| Josh Gross | Perry County |
| Brian Otten | Perry County |
| Ruth Hale | Du Quoin |
| Timothy Atkisson | Williamson County |
| Glenn Clarida | Marion |
| Jason Ashmore | ALG |

Staff Present - Cary Minnis (Executive Director), Abra Phillips (Administrator)

2. Recognition of Visitors

Ron Kiser – guest of Julie Peterson

3. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mark Kroner and seconded by David Larkin to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The following reports were accepted:

- a) Minutes of the Annual Meeting – December 12, 2023
- b) Financial Report – December 2023 through January 2024
- c) List of Bills – February 13, 2024
- d) Staff Reports – December 2023 & January 2024

4. Old Business - None

5. New Business

- a) **Authorization for Two Staff to Attend the Required DRA Training on February 29th, 2024 in Memphis**
Cary Minnis requested authorization for himself and Liz Lively (Economic Development Director) to attend the required DRA training on February 29th, 2024 in Memphis, Tennessee and explained that DRA covers up to \$250 per person in expenses.

A motion was made by David Larkin and seconded by Alex Simpson to approve authorization to attend the training as described. Kathy Lively abstained from the vote due to her daughter being one of the attendees. The motion carried.

- b) **Approval of Consultant Contract for SIMPO Safe Routes to School Study**

Cary Minnis referred to the handout included with tonight's meeting packet and described the Safe Routes to School Study. IDOT will be funding the is at 100% and the contract amount is \$125,000. They will be working closely with communities and school districts to determine deficiencies in sidewalks and roads that kids take to get to and from school. The project selection committee was made up of 3 members from the TAC committee and the recommended consultant is Horner & Shifrin.

A motion was made by Kathy Lively and seconded by Kevin Weston to approve the consultant contract for Horner & Shifrin to complete the Safe Routes to School Study. The motion carried unanimously.

- c) **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning**

Cary Minnis explained that this is a new initiative from the Federal highway Administration (FHWA) to fund safety projects throughout the country. Applicants cannot apply for construction funds without first having an approved SS4A action plan. We have partnered with IDOT to do the SS4A action plan for the MPO area and the rural Jackson County area. IDOT has also agreed to cover the other three counties that Greater Egypt serves (Perry, Franklin, and Jefferson). Williamson County has received their own grant and will be covering the rural county roads. They will be working closely with communities and school districts to determine deficiencies in sidewalks and roads that kids take to get to and from school. This will kick off within the next year and we are making sure we're prepared to submit applications.

- d) **Miscellaneous**

- Cary Minnis announced that it's time to apply for IDOT's planning money. At our next meeting we plan to approve consultant contracts for our SPR funded bike plans for Pinckneyville, Du Quoin, Herrin, Murphysboro, West Frankfort, and the Tri C area (Cartersville, Crainville, Cambria). When these bike plans are complete the communities can apply for IDOT's Transportation Enhancement Plan (ITEP) money. As discussed previously, Greater Egypt is also doing SS4A and SRTS studies, and Cary Minnis urged members to email/call him with ideas on what to do next.
- Staff is currently working on completing a bike map of the Greater Egypt area. Cary will be forwarding this to the board and is asking members to look it over and let us know if we're missing anything so that we can map it.

- Cary Minnis noted that we have not hired any more people as discussed with the budget changes in December. IEPA is still delaying our next 604B Water Quality grant. It's a non-competitive grant and this one has been in the works for the past 2 ½ to 3 years, so we will get it, it just hasn't happened yet.
- Cary Minnis announced that the Commission Mailing task is transitioning to Abra Phillips. There will no longer be phone reminders, all of this will be done via calendar events and emails. Members should be expecting these emails to come from Abra from now on.

6. Matters from the Floor - None

7. Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee – March 12, 2024 – Julie Peterson noted that a lot of communities will be on spring break that week, so this meeting date may get moved.

Regular Meeting – April 9, 2024 at 6:00pm

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Cindy Humm and seconded by Travis Emery to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:43 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.