

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
BOARD MEETING  
April 09, 2024**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Jeffery Robinson, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. A roll call was done and a simple majority quorum was established.

**Members Present:**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Represents</u></b>
Cindy Humm	Franklin County
Liz Allen	Franklin County
Kevin Weston	Franklin County
David Larkin	Jackson County
Julie Peterson	Jackson County
Steve Damron	Jefferson County
Bruce Morgenstern	Perry County
Robert Spencer	Pinckneyville
Jeffery Robinson	Williamson County
Mark Kronos	Carterville
Kathy Lively	Herrin

**Members Absent:**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Represents</u></b>
Neil Hargis	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 Draege	Jefferson County
Cliff Lindemann	Jefferson County
Mary Ellen Bechtel	Mt. Vernon
Josh Gross	Perry County
Brian Otten	Perry County
Ruth Hale	Du Quoin
Travis Emery	Williamson County
Timothy Atkisson	Williamson County
Alexander Simpson	Williamson County
Glenn Clarida	Marion
Jason Ashmore	ALG

**Staff Present** - Cary Minnis (Executive Director), Abra Phillips (Administrator), Tyler Carpenter (GIS & Environmental Planning Director)

**2. Recognition of Visitors**

Doug Dobbins – Mayor of Johnston City

### **3. Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Kevin Weston 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 – February 13, 2024
- b) Financial Report – February & March 2024
- c) List of Bills – April 09, 2024
- d) Staff Reports – March 2024

### **4. New Business**

a) **Presentation from the GIS & Environmental Planning Department**

Tyler Carpenter, our GIS and Environmental Planning Director, gave a Power Point presentation about the grants and inner workings of the environmental department.

b) **Approve Revised Section 125 Plan**

Cary explained that this is an IRS requirement and was outdated. There is nothing new, just a restating to the plan for our files.

A motion was made by David Larkin and seconded by Kevin Weston to approve the updated Section 125 Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

c) **Appoint New Member to the Executive Committee**

Fred Kelly resigned from the Commission in March of 2024 and his position on our Executive Committee needs to be filled. The Executive Committee nominated Robert Spencer at their last meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Mr. Spencer has stated that he is willing to be volunteered to replace Fred Kelly as the Fourth Vice-Chair.

A motion was made by Steve Damron and seconded by Kathy Lively to fill the vacant Executive Committee position with Robert Spencer. The motion carried unanimously.

d) **Residency Requirement for Employment at Greater Egypt**

Cary opened a discussion regarding the residency requirement for employment that all staff must live within one of the five counties that Greater Egypt serves within 6 months of being hired. We have recently had an applicant taken out of consideration due to living just outside of Williamson County and being unwilling to relocate. Also, if any current staff ever wishes to move outside of the region, this might pose a problem. Cary explained that Greater Egypt used to be largely funded by members, which is why the requirement is in place. However, at this point we are largely funded by grants, causing the percentage of funding by members to decrease. Members will be discussing with their communities, and we will revisit this topic at a future meeting.

e) **Miscellaneous**

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) SPR Applications – we are currently doing this for the areas within the MPO region and are getting ready to apply for the rest of Greater Egypt’s 5 counties. This will help with improvements to sidewalks and areas where kids walk to get to and from school.
- Cary has had discussions with Bonnie Cissell regarding a feasibility study of the Jackson-Union port. Cary doesn’t think they are capable of applying for/receiving the grant on their own, so we will discuss including them in our application instead.
- DRA – Cary announced that all grant cycles are currently open.

**5. Matters from the Floor - None**

- Economic Interest Statements (Williamson County) – Steve Damron mentioned that there were new questions that the Williamson County clerk forgot to send instructions for and he was able to call and have them email the instructions to him, so if anyone else needs instructions, just call the Williamson County clerk’s office.
- Mileage Reimbursement for Commission Meetings – Cary explained that we do reimburse mileage for members for these meetings if your community doesn’t already compensate you for attending, so please reach out to Abra to get this form if needed.

**7. Upcoming Meetings**

Executive Committee – May 14, 2024 – time TBA

Regular Meeting – June 11, 2024 at 6:00pm

**8. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Steve Damron and seconded by David Larkin to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 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.*