

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING
October 24, 2024**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jeffery Robinson, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. A roll call was done, and a simple majority quorum was established.

| Members Present: | | Members Absent: | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Name: | Represents: | Name: | Represents: |
| Kevin Weston | Franklin County | Neil Hargis | Franklin County |
| David Larkin | Jackson County | Liz Allen | Franklin County |
| Julie Peterson | Jackson County | Cindy Humm | Franklin County |
| Steve Damron | Jefferson County | Lee Messersmith | Benton |
| Cliff Lindemann | Jefferson County | Gary Williams | Rend Lake Conservancy |
| Bruce Morgenstern | Perry County | Chris Veteto | West Frankfort |
| Robert Spencer | Pickneyville | John Rendleman | Jackson County |
| George Shepard | Williamson County | Cody Lueker | Carbondale |
| Timothy Atkinson | Williamson County | Greg Legan | Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Con. |
| Jeffery Robinson | Williamson County | Ryan Guthman | Murphysboro |
| Mark Kroner | Carterville | Steve Draege | Jefferson County |
| Kathy Lively | Herrin | Fisher Overstreet | Jefferson County |
| Jason Ashmore | ALG | Mary Ellen Bechtel | Mt. Vernon |
| | | Josh Gross | Perry County |
| | | Duncan Britton | Perry County |
| | | Brian Otten | Perry County |
| Staff Present: | | | |
| Cary Minnis | Executive Director | Ruth Hale | Du Quoin |
| Abra Phillips | Administrator | Alexander Simpson | Williamson County |
| Sarah O'Dell | Administrative Assistant | Glenn Clarida | Marion |

2. Recognition of Visitors – None

3. Consent Agenda

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

The following reports were accepted:

- a) Minutes – August 13, 2024
- b) Financial Report – July – September 2024
- c) List of Bills – October 8, 2024
- d) Staff Report – September 2024

4. New Business

a) **Health Insurance Renewal**

Cary discussed the following regarding the health insurance renewal for the Greater Egypt employees that is renewal due December 1st. To renew with the current health insurance plan, the cost to Greater Egypt would lower by \$14.12 per employee per month for an annual total of \$928.71 per employee for health insurance. Other insurance plans were discussed but did not prove to be a great cost savings for Greater Egypt.

Greater Egypt currently pays 100% of employee premiums, and staff can add a spouse and/or dependents at their cost. Staff has requested the addition of dental and vision insurance. Dental and vision insurance can be added to our current plan if 20%-25% of eligible employees plan to enroll. Dental and vision insurance cost will be paid by the employees.

Cary recommends to keep the current plan because of its lower cost to Greater Egypt and the benefits of the plan for the employees (i.e. a \$250 deductible and an \$1,800 out of pocket maximum).

A motion was made by Steve Damron and seconded by Bruce Morgenstern to approve the renewal of the current health insurance plan. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

b) Appoint Nominating Committee

Discussion was held to appoint a nominating committee for the 2025 Executive Committee. One representative from each county was asked to volunteer to serve on the nominating committee. The following were appointed to the committee:

Kevin Weston – Franklin County
Julie Peterson – Jackson County
Steve Damron – Jefferson County
Robert Spencer – Perry County
Williamson County – Timothy Atkinson

A motion was made by Kathy Lively and seconded by David Larkin to approve the appointment of the nominating committee. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

c) Commission Awards

The commission award nominations were discussed.

A motion was made by Julie Peterson and seconded by David Larkin to approve the following award recipients.

Ed Smith (posthumously) – Meritorious Service Award
ET Simonds – Business/Industry Award
Jeff Ashauer – Special Award

The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

d) Miscellaneous

Greater Egypt has recently experienced some staffing changes including introducing Sarah O'Dell as the new Administrative Assistant, and the departure of Courtney McCowan who will be starting a new job at the City of Carbondale. Greater Egypt is not currently planning to fill the new vacant planner position.

The Greater Egypt staff equipment has all recently been updated, including receiving new cubicles, computers and monitors.

Cary discussed new kickoff plans for bike planning and safety planning for all 5 counties.

A new commission board member was also introduced. Travis Emery retired from Williamson County and George Shepard has been appointed to the board in his place.

5. Matters from the Floor

Julie Peterson announced that the Southern Illinoisan had an article about Jackson County Mass Transit and their new name JAX Mass Transit.

Julie also announced that Jackson County Board office has moved to the 3rd floor of the Jackson County Courthouse.

6. Upcoming Meetings

Cary discussed the necessity of calling a special board meeting to review the soon to be completed Greater Egypt audit. The board unanimously agreed to allow the Executive Committee to review the audit at their November meeting and present to the full board for approval in December.

Executive Committee – November 12, 2024 – time TBA

Annual Board Meeting – December 10, 2024 at the Benton Civic Center

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Timothy Atkisson and seconded by Jason Ashmore to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:42 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.