

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
August 12, 2025**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Members Present:		Members Absent:	
Name:	Represents:	Name:	Represents:
Cindy Humm	Franklin Co.	Liz Allen	Franklin Co.
Julie Peterson	Jackson Co.	Neil Hargis	Franklin Co.
Cody Lueker	Carbondale	Kevin Weston	Franklin Co.
Greg Legan	Kinkaid-Reeds CD	Lee Messersmith	Benton
Brian Otten	Perry Co.	Jason Ashmore	ALG
Robert Spencer	Pinckneyville	John Rendleman	Jackson Co.
Tim Atkisson	Williamson Co.	Glenn Clarida	Marion
Jeff Robinson	Williamson Co.	Steve Draege	Jefferson Co.
Mark Kronos	Carterville	Cliff Lindemann	Jefferson Co.
		Fisher Overstreet	Jefferson Co.
		Nathan McKenna	Mt. Vernon
		Bruce Morgenstern	Perry Co.
		Josh Gross	Perry Co.
		Duncan Britton	Perry Co.
		Ruth Hale	Du Quoin
		George Shepard	Williamson Co.
Staff Present:		Abra Phillips	West Frankfort
Cary Minnis	Executive Director	Gary Williams	Rend Lake CD
Sarah O'Dell	Administrator	David Larkin	Jackson Co.
		Ryan Guthman	Murphysboro
		Steve Damron	Jefferson Co.
		Josh Smith	Williamson Co.
		Kathy Lively	Herrin

2. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Robert Sepncer and seconded by Mark Kronos to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

3. New Business

a) Greater Egypt Award Nominations

Cary discussed nominations for the annual Greater Egypt Awards, which will again be held in December in partnership with the Southern Illinois Workforce Development Board. This partnership helps increase attendance and reduce costs. Last year's event was held in Franklin County, and the year before in Perry County. This year's event is to be held in Jackson or Williamson County. Suggestions for the location of this year's dinner and award ceremony were invited from the group.

b) Grant Opportunity Update

Staff provided an update on several active and upcoming grant opportunities:

- **DRA Non-Competitive Grant:** Greater Egypt is eligible to apply for \$37,862.04. While no match is required, indirect costs cannot be charged, which may result in a de facto match of approximately \$11,700 if personnel costs are used. Funds are available in contingency to cover this if needed.

- **EDA Planning Grant:** The application has advanced to “merits further consideration.” Historically, applications reaching this stage have been funded.
- **DCEO Energy Transition Community Grants:** Notifications for Round 1 were released today. Staff assisted multiple applicants in submitting proposals and expects Round 2 to be more complex.
- **DRA State’s Economic Development Assistance Program:** Applications are due August 25th. Around \$1 million is available statewide, with ideal project requests in the \$200,000–\$300,000 range. Greater Egypt is currently assisting with seven applications.
- **DRA Community Infrastructure Fund:** Applications are due August 30th. Eligible projects include water, sewer, road, and flood-related improvements, with awards ranging from \$500,000 to \$2 million.
- **Community Development Block Grant for Public Infrastructure:** Applications will be due late 2025 or early 2026. These are intended for water and sewer projects in low-income areas. Communities will need to secure EPA permits before applying.
- **Safe Routes to School Program:** Communities may apply for up to \$250,000 in sidewalk improvements within a two-mile radius of schools. Applications are due October 15th.
- **OSLAD (Open Space Land Acquisition and Development) Grant:** Provides up to \$600,000 for parks and recreation projects (50% match required, except for distressed communities). Applications are due September 30th.
- Staff also noted progress on Safe Routes to School planning, strategic planning grants, and other projects under development.

Additionally, staff will be sending out a survey to communities to collect updated contact information, identify local project needs, and gather input on future training workshops or services.

4. Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee – September 9, 2025 – time TBA

Full Board Meeting – October 14, 2025 – 6pm

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Cody Lueker and seconded by Greg Legan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:38 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.