

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
October 14, 2025**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jeff Robinson, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A roll call was done, and a quorum was established. Ron Kiser and Sarah Kary were recognized as a visitors.

Members Present:		Members Absent:	
Name:	Represents:	Name:	Represents:
Cindy Humm	Franklin Co.	Liz Allen	Franklin Co.
Kevin Weston	Franklin Co.	Robert Spencer	Pinckneyville
Julie Peterson	Jackson Co.	Neil Hargis	Franklin Co.
Ryan Guthman	Murphysboro	Cody Lueker	Carbondale
Steve Damron	Jefferson Co.	Lee Messersmith	Benton
Brian Otten	Perry Co.	Jason Ashmore	ALG
Tim Atkisson	Williamson Co.	John Rendleman	Jackson Co.
Jeff Robinson	Williamson Co.	Glenn Clarida	Marion
Mark Kronos	Carterville	Steve Draege	Jefferson Co.
Kathy Lively	Herrin	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.
		Greg Legan	Kinkaid-Reeds CD
		Josh Smith	Williamson Co.

2. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Kathy Lively and seconded by Tim Atkisson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

3. New Business

a) **FY25 Audit**

Sarah Kary, partner at Rice Sullivan, presented the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. She reported that the Commission received an unmodified (clean) opinion on both its financial statements and federal programs, with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified. A single audit was required due to federal funding levels. Kary noted that revenues and expenses remained consistent with the prior year, resulting in stable financial performance overall. She concluded by confirming that the audit contained no findings. The board had no further questions and a motion was made by Steve Damron and seconded by Kevin Weston to approve the audit as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

b) **2026 Accounting Services Letter of Engagement**

The Board reviewed and approved the 2026 Accounting Services Letter of Engagement with KEB. Services will continue at the same level including accounting, biweekly payroll, payroll taxes, financial reporting, and audit support at \$4,500 per month. Staff noted the arrangement has improved efficiency and provided cost savings,

with minimal additional costs for special audit assistance. A motion was made by Cindy Humm and seconded by Mark Kronos to accept and sign the engagement letter. The motion carried unanimously.

c) **Appoint Nominating Committee**

The Board appointed the Nominating Committee to elect officers for next year. The committee will consist of: Robert Spencer, Steve Damron, Julie Peterson, Tim Atkisson, and Kevin Weston, representing one member from each county. A motion was made by Tim Atkisson and seconded by Kevin Weston to accept the committee as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

d) **Addendum for Greater Egypt Long Range Transportation Plan**

The Board reviewed an addendum to the Greater Egypt Long Range Transportation Plan. The addendum would include a new project for the Rend Lake Conservancy District, specifically upgrades to the North Gun Creek Recreational Area. This addition does not change the overall plan but adds the project to the illustrative project list, which highlights potential projects for funding if resources become available. A motion to approve the addendum was made by Kathy Lively and seconded by Kevin Weston. The motion carried unanimously.

e) **Deed Transfer to Greater Egypt & Dissolution of GERPDC Inc.**

The Board discussed transferring ownership of the building from the title-holding entity, GERPDC Inc., to Greater Egypt, now that the organization has the legal authority to own real estate. The transfer is straightforward, requiring only a deed prepared by the attorney for \$225 and a \$69 county recording fee, with no new title insurance needed. The transfer will simplify recordkeeping and eliminate the need to maintain the previous entity. A motion was made by Mark Kronos and seconded by Brian Otten to proceed with the deed transfer. The motion carried unanimously.

f) **GE Health Insurance Renewal**

The Board reviewed the health insurance renewal, which reflected a 6.5% decrease in cost. It was recommended to accept the renewal with no changes to the plan. A motion was made by Cindy Humm, seconded by Kevin Weston, and approved unanimously.

g) **Updated Executive Director Job Description**

The Board reviewed the updated Executive Director job description, which was revised to reflect current responsibilities and align with modern formatting, consistent with updates made to all staff job descriptions. The update replaces an outdated typewritten version and provides an accurate representation of the Executive Director's duties. A motion was made by Steve Damron, seconded by Brian Otten, and approved to accept the updated job description.

h) **Annual Meeting Awards**

The Board reviewed nominations for the annual awards. Brian Otten nominated Five Star Industries for the Meritorious Service Award, while Brown and Roberts Engineering Firm (nominated by Abra Phillips) was also considered. After discussion, a motion was made by Mark Kronos, seconded by Ryan Guthman, and unanimously approved by the board to accept Five Star Industries for the Meritorious Service Award. For the Business and Industry Awards, nominations included Pepsi Mid-America (nominated by Glenn Clarida), Barr Trucking (nominated by Brian Otten), Moran Development (nominated by Abra Phillips), and Prysmian (nominated by Kathy Lively). The Board discussed these nominations and a motion was made by Julie Peterson, seconded by Steve Damron, and unanimously passed to select Prysmian to receive the Business and Industry Award. Additionally, a special award was selected for Robert Spencer in recognition of 40 years of government service, including his work with USDA and local committees. The motion to recommend Robert Spencer for this award was made by Kathy Lively and seconded by Brian Otten. The motion carried unanimously.

i) **Miscellaneous**

The Board was informed of recent grant developments. Greater Egypt received a three-year EDA planning award, although funds cannot be drawn until the contract is finalized, and the previously discussed DRA capacity-building grant no longer requires a local match to cover indirect costs. Additionally, a workforce study proposed with Man-Tra-Con to analyze regional labor participation was not funded. A revised approach could

fund the study through a technical assistance grant to EDA for approximately \$60,000, with DCEO providing a potential \$20,000 match, leaving Greater Egypt responsible for about \$20,000. The Executive Director noted that this cost could be covered by the current budget and may carry over into the next fiscal year. No formal action was taken, but the concept may be considered at a future Executive Committee meeting.

4. Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee – November 12, 2025 – 12:00 Noon, Greater Egypt Office
Annual Meeting –December 9, 2025 – 6pm, Kokopelli in Marion

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Tim Atkisson and seconded by Brian Otten to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 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.