

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING  
February 10, 2026**

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

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

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

**2. Consent Agenda**

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

**3. New Business**

**a) Presentation from Environmental Director, Tyler Carpenter**

Tyler Carpenter, Environmental Director, provided a presentation highlighting the expanded role of Greater Egypt beyond grant administration, emphasizing its focus on planning and technical services. The department has diversified its work in recent years to include multi-hazard mitigation plans, solid waste and recycling plans, wildfire protection planning, stormwater management, and nutrient reduction planning, while continuing community assistance and outreach. Staff have increased technical capabilities, particularly in GIS and data analysis, allowing them to complete complex projects in-house and at significantly reduced costs to local communities. Examples included watershed-based nutrient reduction planning, stormwater modeling, and interactive mapping tools. The presentation emphasized the organization's ability to provide cost-effective, innovative planning services and encouraged communities to utilize these resources.

**b) DRA's FY26 Annual LDD Staff Training**

Board approval was requested for two staff members to attend required annual training hosted by DRA in Memphis. Although DRA will cover the costs, board approval was needed due to out-of-state travel policy. A motion was made by Robert Spencer and seconded by Kevin Weston, and the request was approved unanimously.

**c) Site Readiness Grant Application**

The Executive Director informed the board of a proposed DCEO site readiness planning grant application for a property in Marion. While staff have authority to submit grants, this project is unique in that the application would be submitted on behalf of a private developer, with the developer covering administrative costs and the required match. The grant would fund planning activities to address site challenges and improve marketability for future development and job creation. Board discussion acknowledged the non-traditional nature of the request but recognized its alignment with economic development goals. No objections were raised, and staff will proceed with the application.

**d) Miscellaneous**

The Executive Director provided miscellaneous updates, noting that long-awaited IEPA funding is moving forward following approval of Illinois EPA's work plans by the U.S. EPA, with initial agreements received and additional contracts pending that will significantly support staff salaries for several years.

An update was also given on ongoing discussions with IDOT regarding a potential rural transportation planning effort, which would help maintain transportation planning work and support communities with grant applications.

Lastly, the deed transfer from Greater Egypt, Inc. to the governmental entity, Greater Egypt, has been completed and recorded, allowing for dissolution of the former entity and simplifying administrative processes.

**4. Upcoming Meetings**

Executive Committee – March 10, 2026 – 12:00 Noon, Greater Egypt Office

Full Board Meeting – April 14, 2026 – 6pm, Greater Egypt Office

**7. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mark Krones and seconded by Josh Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 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.*