

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
April 14, 2026**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jeff Robinson, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A roll call was done, and a quorum was established.

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

2. Consent Agenda

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

3. New Business

a) Employee Policy Manual

Staff reported that most policies in the employee manual were updated to improve clarity and ensure compliance with current state, federal, and grant requirements. The updated policies were discussed.

A motion was made by Kathy Lively and seconded by Robert Spencer to approve the updated policy manual as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Miscellaneous

Staff encouraged members to reach out regarding any upcoming community projects, noting that this is an ideal time to begin planning for the next funding cycle. Efforts are being expanded to better connect with smaller communities, including recent outreach to local engineering firms to strengthen partnerships and improve awareness of available programs.

An update was provided on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) opportunities, including upcoming funding for water and sewer projects, as well as a new revitalization component that may include sidewalks and demolition of certain structures, though specific rules are still being developed. Members were advised to begin preparations early, particularly for projects requiring additional documentation.

Additional updates included upcoming programs through DRA, such as the State's Economic Development Assistance Program and the Community Infrastructure Fund, as well as the return of a highly competitive strategic planning grant. Energy transition funding opportunities were also discussed, noting these are non-competitive and available to eligible communities.

Staff also shared information about an upcoming workshop in early June that will provide guidance on transportation-related funding opportunities and allow communities to strengthen potential applications.

4. Upcoming Meetings

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

Full Board Meeting – June 9, 2026 – 6pm, Greater Egypt Office

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Cindy Humm and seconded by Kevin Weston to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:37 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.