GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
June 09, 2026

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Members Present:		Members Absent:	
Name:	**Represents:**	**Name:**	**Represents:**
Jason Ashmore	ALG	Liz Allen	Franklin Co.
Kevin Weston	Franklin Co.	Ryan Guthman	Murphysboro
Bruce Morgenstern	Perry Co.	Neil Hargis	Franklin Co.
Robert Spencer	Pinckneyville	Abra Phillips	West Frankfort
Josh Smith	Williamson Co.	Tim Atkisson	Williamson Co.
Lee Messersmith	Benton	Steve Damron	Jefferson 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.
Julie Peterson	Jackson Co.	Fisher Overstreet	Jefferson Co.
Cody Lueker	Carbondale	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.
Staff Present:		George Shepard	Williamson Co.
Cary Minnis	Executive Director	JT Jenkins	Kinkaid-Reeds CD
Sarah O'Dell	Administrator		

2. Consent Agenda

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

3. New Business

a) Local Share for FY 2027

Staff presented the annual local share calculations and recommended keeping the contribution amount unchanged for the upcoming fiscal year. The total local share has remained the same for many years, with only minor adjustments to individual contributions based on census population updates. Committee members discussed the possibility of future increases and agreed that any changes should be communicated at least one year in advance to allow participating governments time to budget accordingly.

A motion was made by Robert Spencer and seconded by Jason Ashmore to approve the local shares as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

b) FY27 Budget

Staff presented the proposed annual budget, noting that the revised format now aligns with the monthly financial reports and provides a clearer budget-to-actual comparison. The proposed budget reflects a small operational loss in program activities and a surplus in facility operations, resulting in an overall projected surplus. Staff noted that several potential projects and contracts not yet included in the budget could further improve the agency's financial position. The facility budget remains largely unchanged, with the exception of money allocated for potential repairs to the front concrete stoop. The program budget reflects a decrease in overall revenues compared to the prior year; however, this reduction is primarily due to the completion of consultant-led projects and does not impact staffing levels. Staff reviewed proposed salary adjustments, fringe benefit rates, and the indirect cost rate calculation.

Staff also reviewed personnel cost allocations and the annual program budget, which details revenues and expenditures by funding source. Discussions included the importance of enterprise zone revenues and other unrestricted funding sources that help support agency operations. Following discussion and questions, a motion was made by Kathy Lively to recommend approval of the annual budget, including implementation of approved salary adjustments effective July 4 rather than July 1. The motion was seconded by Lee Messersmith and carried unanimously.

c) Management and Operational Services for REDCO

Staff reported that REDCO is exploring options for administrative and operational support following the retirement announcement of its current Executive Director. REDCO leadership approached Greater Egypt about potentially providing services such as administration, property and website management, responding to site selection inquiries, maintaining property databases, coordinating meetings, and assisting with economic development activities. Staff indicated the agency has the capacity to perform the work and that the additional revenue could help support existing economic development staffing. Board members discussed workload considerations, potential conflicts of interest, and the benefits of providing regional economic development services. Staff requested board approval to continue discussions and negotiate a potential agreement with REDCO if acceptable terms can be reached

A motion was made by Lee Messersmith and seconded by Jason Ashmore to continue discussions with REDCO and pursue an annual contract. The motion carried unanimously.

d) Miscellaneous

Staff discussed a proposed change to the annual meeting schedule, moving the date to December 1st (first Tuesday) instead of December 8th, noting that the existing by-law amendment allows flexibility within December. The change is being considered due to ongoing challenges with venue availability and efforts to coordinate the meeting with Man-Tra-Con and the Workforce Board to reduce the number of separate meetings. Potential locations in Carbondale, including the Tedrick Center and Civic Center, are still being explored.

4. Matters from the Floor

Julie Peterson discussed an email she received regarding a proposed effort led by Paul Jacobs, along with Windhorst, Fowler, and Congressman Mike Bost, exploring potential interconnections among local water districts. A meeting on the topic is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 at 10:00 a.m. Concerns were raised about the purpose and intent of the proposal, with discussion noting that while some have suggested it could support future development such as data centers, others emphasized that water district interconnections have more commonly been considered for emergency redundancy and reliability during system failures. It was also noted that similar concepts have been discussed for years in terms of improving resilience between districts in the event of line breaks or supply disruptions. At this time, there is uncertainty about the specific drivers of the current proposal, and attendance at the upcoming meeting is planned to better understand its scope and objectives.

4. Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee – July 14, 2026 – 12:00 Noon, Greater Egypt Office
Full Board Meeting – August 11, 2026 – 6pm, Greater Egypt Office

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Robert Spencer and seconded by Josh Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 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.