

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Development & Planning (D&P)
CHAIRPERSON: Ron Mapes
DATE/TIME: June 23, 2009

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Merri Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Monk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Mapes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Lorig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marvin Schultz

Other Board members:

Others: Dan Reimer, Pat Leitzen-Fye and Rich Murphy

Ron Mapes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Minutes.** Merri Berlage made the motion to approve the minutes of May 26, 2009. Seconded by Ron Smith and motion passed.
2. **Citizens' Comments.** None.
3. **Staff Reports**
 - a) **Economic Development.** A monthly staff report was provided by Pat Leitzen-Fye. The report included that there will be a CEDS Committee special meeting on July 7, 2009 for discussion of the BRE reports and TCEDA operations. Leitzen-Fye reported that there is a Mayor's meeting on June 24th.
 - b) **Building and Zoning.** Monthly staff reports were provided and there were no questions or comments on the subject of building and zoning.

Item 5a was pulled forward to allow a presentation by Rich Murphy of Acciona.

Rich Murphy, Project Manager for the Wolf Creek Project, reported on the plans for Jo Daviess County and the development and social responsibility. He gave an overview of Acciona Company; they are the second largest wind power company in the world and their company is over 100 years old, they employ over 40,000 employees and have a worth of \$9 billion. He discussed that energy independence has many important benefits and standards that the County should look into and consider. There was discussion on the projected benefits for the County, increased property tax base, construction jobs and the general benefits of this type of economic development. Ron Mapes asked if Acciona was planning on having public meetings and presentations to the community and get their thoughts and feelings. Murphy reported that they were planning on having a meeting in Stockton at the end of July and meeting with the different taxing bodies. After Acciona has a specific path and site plan then they will follow through with applying for a special use permit and apply for the enterprise zone. Merri Berlage was concerned with the public being educated on tax abatements because of some of the confusion that occurred with the enterprise zone tax abatement for the phase I wind towers which were constructed in the Warren School District. Pat Leitzen-Fye commented that she felt that it was the responsibility of the County to educate the public about the benefits of the Enterprise Zone. Kim Monk discussed that in our current zoning ordinance that it is stated that there are set backs of 1.1 times the height of the tower and if Acciona is aware of the current zoning ordinances and prepared to follow those ordinances. It was discussed whether this would be an approval process per tower or for the project and it was decided that it would be for the entire project.

4. Unfinished Business

- a) **Review Comprehensive Plan.** Ron Mapes discussed that this item is on the agenda because we are entering the budget process and would be updated as needed.
- b) **Historic Preservation.** Kim Monk reported that he has several appointments scheduled to meet with different historic districts. He would like to discuss at the County Board meeting on whether any of

the members or individuals of their district would have an interest in talking to him about the historic district. The Committee discussed that Kim may want to consider going to Township meetings and the CEDS committee meeting. This item will remain on the agenda.

c) **Strategic Plan – 2009 Goals.** No discussion.

5. New Business

a) **Acciona Presentation – Plans for JDC.** See above

b) **Blackhawk Hills Broadband Task Force.** Bill Tonne, President of Board of Blackhawk Hills RC&D discussed the economic stimulus package and how this financing could help with the broadband not only in Jo Daviess County but the entire six county NW Illinois RC&D region. Blackhawk Hills RC&D intends to submit a grant application for broadband development funding for Northwest Illinois to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture. The \$35 million grant money would go towards planning and broadband infrastructure improvements. As a part of the national stimulus efforts under the American Recover and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture have been allocated an aggregate \$7.2 billion to spur the growth of broadband services and infrastructure throughout the nation. Tonne reported that he was not sure who will own this infrastructure but part of the stimulus package for broadband is that the private sectors would have to be involved. Kim Monk informed the committee that most of the existing fiber that is laid throughout the County is privately owned. Bill Tonne informed the Committee that they are asking for letters of support from municipalities and units of local government, health care, law enforcement and any additional groups that would be affected by broadband. To get this process started Blackhawk Hills is asking for a \$1,000 contribution from all six Counties that are in the RC&D district. **Ron Smith made a motion for a letter of support from Jo Daviess County for a grant application being prepared by Blackhawk Hills RC&D for broadband development funding thru the ARRA stimulus package and for monetary support of \$1,000. Seconded by Kim Monk and motion passed.**

c) **MediaCom – discuss request for letter of support for Broadband Stimulus.** LeeAnn Herrera, Sr. Manager, Government Relations of Mediacom Communications, has been in contact with Jo Daviess County asking for a letter of support in being able to help close the “digital divide” that exists within our state by providing advanced telecommunications services to communities lacking those services. Bill Tonne discussed that Mediacom does cover some portions of the area but if the broadband communications are piece meal areas then they will not qualify for the stimulus package. It is stated in the stimulus package that there needs to be a region wide approach. The Committee discussed that they would need more regional collaboration and that they would inform Mediacom that they were waiting to see what occurs with the RC&D application efforts.

d) **CEDS Recommended Resolution.** Pat Leitzen-Fye brought forward the motion from CEDS Committee which was as follows; ‘The Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee recommends that the Development & Planning Committee consider the continuation of the existing CEDS Committee be addressed in the TCEDA bylaws; that CEDS, in its present or in a new form, be a function of TCEDA. If the Committee and County Board approve, direct that the TCEDA bylaws committee take up the discussion and that the County Board revises its 2001 resolution which created, and directed the activities of, the Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee.’ Ron Mapes felt that the Committee should wait on writing a resolution to see how the progression of the organization of TCEDA.

e) **Chairman Mapes would like to bring back the issue of the agriculture study that Pat Leitzen-Fye is working on.** Leitzen-Fye gave a handout of a summary of the information that she has collected for Agriculture in Jo Daviess County.

6. **Other Business.** Ron Mapes reminded the Committee members that this will be the last month for paper packets and that the deadline for reimbursement – November 30, 2009. There was discussion on how individual County Board members would receive committee packets, because some members can not get

onto the ftp site. It was determined that if an individual would like to receive an email with attachments that they would contact the Administrative Office with their personal directions.

7. Citizens' Comments. None

8. Board Member Concerns. Marvin Schultz discussed that he received a notice of application for permit to manage waste from IEI Barge Services to receive and transfer spent railroad ties from trucks or railroad cars to temporary storage for less than 1 year. The railroad ties could also be loaded directly from railcar to trucks for immediate shipping off site. From temporary storage, the spent railroad ties will be shipped out by either truck or barge. The facility is an existing transfer station for commodities such as coal and fertilizer, but no waste material of any kind. The County is not obligated to respond to the notice, however, if they have any comments they should submit them within 21 days. Marvin asked that this be placed on the County Board agenda under correspondence. Marvin also shared a request from JDS 4-Lane 20 Association for funding to help pay for appropriate lobbying. Ron Smith reported that he was in contact with Joe Kratcha of the GIS department on the issue of who owns the cemeteries in the County. Smith will follow through with the investigation of the cemeteries that are possible owned by Jo Daviess County.

Next regular meeting July 28, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm following a motion made by Kim Monk and seconded by Mike Lorig.