

## MINUTES

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### Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee

Tuesday, February 6, 5:00 p.m.  
Highland College West, Elizabeth  
Conference Room

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Members Dave Jansen, Pat Keleher, Elaine Klippert, Bill Wolter; Staff: Pat Leitzen Fye

**ABSENT:** Mick Arand, Geoff Barklow

**GUESTS:** Helen Kilgore, Mayor, Village of Elizabeth; Helen Schamberger, Stockton Village Board; John Cox, Galena

Guests Cox and Schamberger presented information at the request of the committee on the status of the Highway 20 Four-Lane Expansion project. They shared some history of the effort and talked of the current status, followed by questions from the committee:

- There is currently \$8 million appropriated for the Galena bypass engineering; a community study group is reviewing the elevations, routes, environmental issues, etc. and is well on schedule. TENG, engineering firm from Chicago, is facilitating the study group as well as conducting the engineering for the bypass. Some rights of way (ROW) have been purchased; currently no further funding for either additional ROW acquisition or for construction.
- Environmental Impact Studies are complete (part of Phase I); Phase II, design engineering & ROW is ongoing; Phase III is construction.
- First priority was the Freeport bypass which still needs another \$20-30 million to complete. Some question as to why the project has slowed down considerably since it started a couple years ago.
- Early in 2005 a trip to Washington DC with the Dubuque Chamber offered some real hope for adequate new funding for the highway 20 project. Those hopes were dashed by a March 2006 trip to Springfield and a meeting with Transportation secretary Tim Martin.
- The Freeway Watch committee still exists, however, they are focused right now on a resolution to re-route the highway south of Tapley Woods, which is a change from current routing.
- If the Governor's capital bill gets approved, we need to be standing in line to capture some of those funds for northwest Illinois.

Committee concerns included IDOT's current 5-year plan and what it entails for the region; should we be considering enhancements to that plan knowing that the 4-lane is still a long way from reality? (encouraging upgrades may lessen the impetus for 4-lane expansion) What impact will the current rail study/movement towards passenger rail have on the highway expansion? (Funds will likely be diverted from IDOT road programs). Is the 4-lane committee still active? (Currently Cox is the chair; they are seeking new leadership and new energy to re-activate the effort.) What should our priorities be in the event the expansion truly is out of the question? What's "Plan B"?

The Committee's consensus is that the four-lane expansion is key to economic growth for the county (what is the economic impact of a new road? What's the negative impact ongoing

without it?) and that this committee needs to be involved in the effort. Committee wishes to invite IDOT officials from Dixon to the next meeting to learn of the 5-year plan and any other information available on the 4-lane project. Leitzen Fye will contact IDOT to issue the invitation to join us at the next regular meeting in April.

**REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING CONVENED:** 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Dave Jansen.

- I. Minutes of the December 5, 2006 meeting were approved by unanimous vote on motion by Wolter, second by Keleher.
- II. Old Business:
  - a. BRE Survey: need to define whether the survey can be done via telephone interview or electronic interview, with possibly personal followup on selected interview; Keleher will look into any possibilities for supporting the survey through Jo-Carroll Energy in the counties not served by ComEd.
  - b. Data base upgrades: Leitzen Fye will spend some additional time reviewing old files in storage at the county for specific data developed by the former E.D. Director; also may need to look into support staff or some other method for data entry/development. Data needed includes:
    - Labor data
    - Building and site inventory (utilize Rockford Area Assn of Realtors/Freepport-Galena Association of Realtors and their Paragon MLS listing as resources; State of Illinois LOIS data base can be completed utilizing information from these sources; consider asking each community to submit information about properties available.
    - Tourism and the economy
  - c. Greenways & Trails Plan: status unchanged.
  - d. CEDS regional meeting (Blackhawk Hills) is February 8, 9:30 a.m., in Milledgeville.
- III. New Business: Members reported on economic development news and activities in their communities:
  - a. Helen Kilgore, Elizabeth Village President, reported that they will be holding a public hearing regarding their CDAP grant request for water/sewer improvements.
  - b. Bill Wolter (Hanover) reported that the former Coyote property is now occupied by a salvage/auction company with five employees. Some other developments are underway but not available for public comment yet.
  - c. Pat Keleher reported that the acquisition of Alliant Energy's territory by Jo-Carroll Energy is complete as of late this afternoon.
  - d. Leitzen Fye noted that the county Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing for a request for special use permit in an agricultural zone by Rentech Energy Midwest, Wednesday, 14 February, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Courtroom #1 at the county courthouse.
- IV. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, 2007, 5:00 p.m. at Highland College West Campus in Elizabeth.
- V. Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Leitzen Fye