

MINUTES

Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee

Tuesday, May 2, 2006, 5:00 p.m.

Jo Daviess County Courthouse, Galena
3rd Floor Board Room

IN ATTENDANCE: Members Dave Ylinen, Doug Reidl, Pat Keleher, Dave Jansen, Steve Haring.
Guest: Elaine Klippert. Staff: Pat Leitzen Fye

MEETING CONVENED: 5:10 p.m. by Economic Development Director, Pat Leitzen Fye. She stated that she will act as Chair Pro Tem and secretary for the next couple of meetings so that we may complete the OEDP, at which time the committee will select officers.

- I. New member, Pat Keleher of Jo Carroll Energy was introduced along with Elaine Klippert, M & W Feed Service in Elizabeth who is to be appointed at the May meeting of the county board. Other new members not present are Geoff Barklow, Mayor of East Dubuque and Mick Arand, of Dura Manufacturing in Stockton.
- II. Roundtable: Each member updated the committee on activities in their community and/or business arena.
 - a. Keleher informed the group that he had just returned from a seminar sponsored by USDA regarding loans and grants available to electric co-ops. Opportunities exist for assisting local business and/or not-for-profit entities in the future.
 - b. Ylinen shared news about the LRA. The Foreign Trade Zone is soon to be approved; he is meeting this week with Dave Keiser of Carroll Cty. Economic Development Corporation and Pat Leitzen Fye to discuss the possibility of hosting a regional forum on the benefits of the FTZ to local and regional businesses; A new entity has taken over the server farm business with estimated 150 + jobs over time; the winery operation/guest house is progressing.
 - c. Klippert described her interest in economic development by her close ties and deep knowledge of the farmers and agricultural industry throughout the county.
 - d. Haring told the committee that Blackhawk Hills RC&D/ED is finalizing their annual planning grant. He recently attended a meeting in Chicago that outlines some of the upcoming changes with EDA in board governance, rules and regs, etc. Updates are forthcoming from his office.

The Entrepreneurs & Inventors Club is going strong; last month's meeting drew around 50 attendees, typical of each meeting held in the region. Already some new businesses have opened, many connections have been made, and some are seeking properties to open their small business.

The logistics workshop in Rochelle last month shed light on the growth and improvements upcoming in rail in our region, adding and upgrading track and increasing rail usage through Savanna.

- e. Reidl reported on the new Apple River fire station/community center; he stated that land prices in the region are reaching a point that makes it difficult for local residents to afford. Also reported on the closing of the Honeywell plant in Warren; those employees will be sent to

either Freeport or Galena. The Eaton building is still on the market; a new wine shop is scheduled to open in downtown Warren.

- f. Jansen reported that there remains keen interest in development in Galena around the WalMart development, though land prices are very high. There is an 11-acre parcel for sale on the north side of the industrial park (the old BelAir Mansion) He noted a slow residential boom – Gifford Township population doubled from 1990-2000 and will likely double again by 2010. He also noted the flurry of activity on Stockton's east end.
- g. Leitzen Fye reported that the flurry in Stockton is related to their newly approved TIF district. The Royster-Clark project is soon to become more active – this expansion will result in 1500 construction jobs over the two-year construction period and 120 ± full-time union jobs at completion. East Dubuque is working with consultants to develop three separate but contiguous TIF districts to encourage both commercial and residential growth. She reported that she has been in contact with Honeywell officials as well as with Mayor Stake of Warren. Warren and Apple River are all looking at ways of growing their economies.

III. The last official Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP) was submitted to Blackhawk Hills in 1998; a simpler version was submitted several years ago and a revised plan is due July 1. The committee reviewed the existing documents and began to formulate new goal statements and action items. The most recent document will be condensed into two or three goal statements (combining redundant or similar items) with action items, timelines and responsibilities outlined in table format. The committee was asked to work on this document on their own time, keeping in mind a couple of important items:

- a. Goals must be realistic and relevant to economic development
- b. Action items are to be short-term, i.e., within one year – 18 mos. for completion. They are also to be specific and measurable.
- c. Consider what types of supporting data might be necessary for completion of the action item, either as base line information or for future needs.
- d. Think small business and entrepreneurial business when considering development goals.
- e. Consider the potential for renewable energy business.
- f. Consider regionalism in both development and in communications and collaborative efforts.
- g. Consider not-for-profits (i.e., hospitals and health care, cooperatives)

IV. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 23 May, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the Highland College Campus in Elizabeth (home of the Economic Development office).

V. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Leitzen Fye