

# MINUTES

## **CED's Committee**

Meeting of September 5, 2002, 7:00pm  
Elizabeth Village Hall

**Present:** CED's Committee Members  
Richard Reusch  
Bill Cowsert  
Caroline Fisher  
David Janson  
Charles Loehr  
Bill Wolter  
Don Schweihs  
David Ylinen

**Absent:** CED's Committee Members  
Terry Heim  
Daniel O' Keefe  
Jill Williams  
William Wubben  
Darryl Barklow  
Dan Leitzen  
Steven McIntyre  
Doug Reidl  
Jill Williams

**Others Present:**  
Don Fouts, CED's Committee Chair Person  
Janet Anderson, Director of Economic Development and Planning

**Introductions:** Don Fouts opened the meeting. Introductions were made by each committee member for the benefit of the speakers.

**Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve the minutes for August 7, 2002 was made by Bill Cowsert and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Reusch. Motion carried.

**Progress Report:** The statistical reports were discussed by Janet and the members present. Janet compared the Elizabeth community profile given by Dale Roberts, as an example of the source from which information is used by DCCA, Northwestern Illinois, other agencies and thus Janet. Janet expressed the importance of submitting accurate data to these agencies. Those present agreed to assist Janet in alerting

her of inaccurate data, so that she may contact the appropriate agency for the necessary changes.

**Business Forum** was discussed in terms of purpose, time, location and the some of the speakers involved.

**Prospectus:** Janet mentioned that the outline and plan for her position is being worked on by her and would soon be completed.

**Presentation:** **A. Dale Roberts, President of Elizabeth, Bill Cowsert, Retired General Manager of Jo Daviess Service Co. and Richard Reusch President of on the Board of Jo Carroll Electric spoke to the issues concerning Elizabeth.**

It was brought to our attention that a DCCA grant has been approved, as well as an EPA low Interest loan for the new water tower (295,000 gallon water tank) and water main. Also mentioned, was the need for a Community Strategic Plan in order that necessary funding be attained for Community. Dale is meeting resistance. Janet offered to help find funding, if possible for the cost of the grant. Bill stated that there is a problem with the accuracy of employers and employment numbers in the community profiles. He presented a list of more accurate references to types of employers and associated employment numbers in an effort to begin the up dating process of more current and accurate statistical information.

Richard contributed additional information speaking to the customer base of Jo Carroll Electric, that being 6000 customers.

**B. Marvin Wurster, PHD Animal Science and owner of M&W Feed Service and M&W Grain Service LTD spoke to the issues of Agriculture in Jo Daviess County.**

Marvin stated that of 1162 farming units in Jo Daviess County, 500 were actual working farms. He explained the short and long term deterioration of farm economy as a result of decreased farming because of incentive programs such as the CRP and housing development. Marvin added that road improvement is mandatory. At this time, the narrowness and stability of the roads in addition to the limited maintenance allowed hinders farmers from moving

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farm equipment and product. His presentation spoke to the overall affect on the economy that stems from lack of farming; unemployment, struggling or closed businesses, diminishing products-raw materials and food and other factors.

Marvin encourage the participation of the CED's Committee to propose a Grassland/Forage CRP Program to the County Board. A copy of the initial proposal has been attached with this agenda. Janet asked Marvin if he would in greater detail format a proposal that she may take to the Planning and Development for approval to take it to the County Board.

**Scheduled next meeting date:**

Next meeting date scheduled Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2002 at 7:00-8:30 pm. Location at the County Board Room at Jo Daviess Court House.

**Meeting adjourned:**

Don Fouts