

MINUTES

Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee (special meeting rescheduled from February 3)

Monday, February 9, 2009, 5:00 p.m.
Highland College West, Elizabeth
Conference Room

IN ATTENDANCE: Members Helen Schamberger, Bridgette Stocks, Dave Jansen, Pat Keleher, Nathan Greiner, Vince Hasken

ABSENT: Bill Wolter, Doug Riedl

GUESTS: Al Griffiths, Dan Reimer

MEETING CONVENED: 5:10 p.m. by Chairman Dave Jansen.

- I. On a motion by Schamberger, second by Hasken approval of minutes of the December 2, 2008 and December 10, 2008 meetings was unanimous.
- II. Old Business:
 - a. BRE Survey: All industrial interviews have been input into the software and preliminary reports are available for internal use. The interviews conducted with retail, service & tourism industries have proven difficult to read (my handwriting); Leitzen Fye has been given access to ComEd's software so that those interviews can be input and reports generated. The committee agreed to hold a special meeting during the first week of March, contingent on availability of ComEd's Ed Sitar, to discuss next steps.
 - b. Greenways & Trails Plan: Bridgette Stocks reported that the final draft has gone to the Zoning Board and that all communities are currently reviewing the draft and maps. It will be on the February 26 agenda of the Development & Planning Committee for recommendation to the county board.
 - c. Strategic Planning/TCEDA update: The mayors will hear from TCEDA a final presentation on Wednesday, February 11; members of the Development & Planning Committee have asked the mayors to stay for a second meeting after TCEDA to further discuss. Russ Simpson, John Cox and Leitzen Fye presented the concept to D/P at their January meeting; they will take it up again at the February meeting for possible recommendation to the county board.
- III. New Business:
 - a. CEDS originating resolution of 2001 and its 2003 amendment were briefly discussed. Committee will take it up again after TCEDA is finalized and any impacts on this committee are known.
 - b. Committee roster was passed around to update contact information. Committee is still short of one member; all members terms extend through 2010, except for Helen Schamberger who's term ends in July 2009.
 - c. Local Foods initiative: Leitzen Fye distributed information from Woodford County Iowa regarding local support, marketing, processing and distribution of local organic and natural foods production. Based on a concept presented by resident Steve McIntyre, the committee expressed interest in the ideas and would like to learn more about it; Mr. McIntyre will be invited to attend the April meeting.
 - d. Blackhawk Hills is working on their regional 5-year projects list and is requesting input from all counties. Leitzen Fye will send out a brief questionnaire to

committee members who will then approach mayors/councils and village boards for their input.

The Broadband Task Force has been formed and has met once in January; the issue is important for overall economic development in the region as it has direct impacts on job creation, business growth and expansion and business attraction. Blackhawk Hills representatives will be pitching the need to legislators in D.C. and are hopeful that the stimulus package will contain ample funds for rural broadband delivery. Nathan Greiner has agreed to serve on the Broadband Task Force as a representative of the Jo Daviess CEDS committee. This issue is similar to the research CEDS conducted a few years back regarding cell tower coverage. CEDS will need to consider broadband as important infrastructure as it reviews and revises the CEDS report:

- e. CEDS document update is due. Leitzen Fye will email the 2006 document to refresh memories; the goal is to complete a revision and update the goals and objectives by late summer/early fall. The committee will work with communities and Leitzen Fye to update this document.
- f. REAP – the local roundtable was held in Elizabeth in December and is being followed up by the regional meeting (17 counties in three states) in Dubuque on Friday, February 20.

IV. Member roundtable:

- a. Elizabeth (Greiner) The new M&W building is up and running (constructed in the TIF district); a new hair salon has located on Main Street; work is being done for a new bar in the building next to The Broken Yolk restaurant. Design Mill is expanding again and will be adding approximately 20 employees.
- b. Scales Mound (Keleher) is continuing progress with the TIF redevelopment plan.
- c. In Stockton (Schamberger) consultant Sharon Pepin is working with DCEO again on the DURA road. A senior housing project is back in the discussion phase.
- d. East Dubuque (Hasken) will be considering how to capitalize on the IBM location in Dubuque; the letter of approval from the IL Dept of Agriculture for the land to be added to the Enterprise Zone has been received and will be included as a part of the Zone application package. The new strip mall in the highway 35 TIF district is filling. The library is considering moving back to city hall, adding and remodeling and adding land for parking; a dollar store is moving into the downtown TIF district.
- e. Dave Jansen reported for Galena that Mayor Tom Brusch is not running for re-election, however there are two candidates, former mayor Dick Auman and Terry Renner. Midwest Medical Center is experiencing stress with the departure of the CEO and board chair; an interim CEO, Mary Sheehan, has been selected.
- f. Jo Daviess County update was provided by Dan Reimer. All economic indicators are down, including building permits which are at a record low. They are discussing the possible sales tax for education. The Galena City Council is weighing the GMI and CVB issues. Jansen added that the zoning updates are back to the zoning board with 16 items for further review. There has been considerable input from residents and county board members alike.

- V. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 5:00 p.m. at Highland College West Campus in Elizabeth. A special meeting will be scheduled to discuss the BRE information and process with ComEd.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Leitzen Fye