

MINUTES

Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee Special Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 5:00 p.m.
Highland College West, Elizabeth
Conference Room

IN ATTENDANCE: Members Dave Jansen, Pat Keleher, Bridgette Stocks, Nathan Greiner, Vince Hasken, Bill Wolter

ABSENT: Helen Schamberger, Doug Riedl

GUESTS: Russ Simpson, John Cox

MEETING CONVENED: 5:03 p.m. by Chairman Dave Jansen.

I. Old Business

- a. Strategic Planning: Jansen convened this special meeting so that the committee could hear the presentation by Simpson and Cox of JoCarroll Energy regarding TCEDA (Tri-County Economic Development Alliance), the public/private partnership corporation that JCE and others have been working on since the meeting in November. Simpson utilized power point slides to describe what TCEDA will look like, including:
 - i. Basic premise: economic development efforts in both Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties are struggling and in need of an infusion of private involvement, a new structure and better funding sources TCEDA will provide consistency in approach, attitude, program and structure to enhance development in the region.
 - ii. Structure: TCEDA's bylaws have been drafted as has the basic board structure; the 501(c)3 non-profit status designation has been applied for, as has the request for a federal employee identification number (FEIN). The concept and structure so far have been heavily modeled after the successful Greater Dubuque Development Corporation.
 - iii. The board will be large (50 members) with mayors, county board chairs, legislators and CEOs making up the membership. Executive Committee will have power to act with ratification of full board.
 - iv. First steps already begun are to conduct continued workshops among Carroll Cty and Jo Daviess Cty staff to familiarize and elicit input and ideas; to meet individually with all mayors, culminating in a mayoral summit in each county; to seek support from both county boards, to conduct a media event to announce the formation of TCEDA, to hold the first formal full board meeting and to create and launch a formal multi-year fundraising initiative, based upon knowledge acquired from previous and ongoing Business Retention interviews.

Two big challenges face the new entity – “turfism” among communities (all on board will agree to work towards the greater good of the region), and funding/equity issues as development occurs. The main focus will be on business retention and expansion, followed by workforce development and business attraction. TCEDA is committed to transparency to its funders, but control will remain with the full board, not individuals, companies or taxing bodies.

After some questions and answers and additional discussion, Bill Wolter moved that the CEDS Committee support the JCE-created entity, TCEDA, and encourage and support moving forward with the planning as presented to the committee. Vince Hasken seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

- II. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 5:00 p.m., Highland College West, in Elizabeth.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Leitzen Fye