

## MINUTES

### CEDS Committee

Meeting Wednesday, August 13, 2003 5:00pm-6:00pm  
County Board Room  
Galena, Illinois

**Present:** CEDS Committee Members  
Bill Wolter  
Carolyn Fisher  
Charles Loehr  
David Jansen  
David Ylinen

**Absent:** CEDS Committee Members  
Bill Cowsert (resigned)  
Doug Reidl  
Richard Reusch

**Others Present:**  
Don Fouts, Chairperson of CEDS Committee  
Janet Anderson, Director of Economic Development and Planning  
Steve Haring, Blackhawk Hills RC & D Director  
Shawn Kaskie, Reg. Planning Specialist Blackhawk Hills RC & D

## AGENDA

### 1. Chairperson Don Fouts

**Meeting called to order:** Don opened the meeting at 5:00pm

**Roll Call:** Roll call taken by Don Fouts

**CEDS Introductions:** Each CEDS member and guest presented information on their current employment status, prior experiences, and future aspirations.

**Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve the minutes for April 9, 2003 was made by Dave Jansen and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Ylinen. Motion carried.

**Revisit purpose of CEDS Committee:** Blackhawk RC & D purpose and guidelines for the CEDS Committee was read by Don Fouts.

**Added to Agenda:** Steve Haring apprised the CEDS Committee of a five year, six county overall economic development plan. The plan creates

policy for counties to receive grants and bonuses from the Economic Development Administration under the U.S. Department of Commerce. Steve and Shawn spoke of the need for each community to supply informational profiles that would be used to market each in a LOIS database. The database is an important mechanism to reach prospective site selectors.

Two manuals were given to Shawn Kaskie by Janet that detail community profiles and other community/County/State information. Two forms requiring information for completion were given to Janet by Shawn: Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies Five-Year Plan Community Survey and Locality Details Overview. Janet suggested that she compare his forms with the manuals given to Shawn. If there were gaps of information between Shawn's forms and Janet's manuals, she would collect and provide the additional information. Any information that is not available to Janet in reference to a community, the CEDS Committee members have graciously offered their assistance.

## **2. Director of Economic Development and Planning Janet Anderson**

### **New Business-**

Janet invited Dave Ylinen to update the committee on the activities of Eagle's Landing (the Savanna Depot). Dave spoke of the server farm that is in process having a potential of employing 2000 long-term individuals. He also spoke of other businesses expressing great interest at Eagle' Landing and of the favorable outlook and great potential for the area.

Janet referred to some of the projects in motion for Jo Daviess County: Whispering Hills Mall is quietly moving forward working through the technical aspect of locating in Elizabeth; she is working with a developer representing two other developers interested in another community in Jo Daviess; Hanover has been presented with an offer from a Chicago business man to purchase land and build in the industrial park-this would be a Chicago business relocation; a new business should be starting construction in Stockton soon followed by another interested party.

### **Progress Report-**

Janet tied in the new business report with the progress report

### **Strategic Plan II-**

Strategic plan I addressed the process of fact finding. The CEDS committee invited and listened to community representatives discuss the challenges and opportunities for their communities. Strategic Plan II addresses those issues put before the CEDS Committee. While the Strategic Plan II offers 4 areas of

concern, Janet requested that serious consideration be given to the Telecommunications issue as a priority for action. A brief history was discussed by Janet of a meeting that took place where Paul Galligos, Illinois Rural Partners introduced Vital Economy, an organization that was offering its service in regard to IT. Carroll County, Jo Daviess County and Whiteside County would be the recipients of the service. The plan was to assess the current IT service, let us know what service we have and what type of service we need. If meeting a criterion as per Vital Economy after the findings, Vital Economy would then assist the Counties in upgrading the service. If the criterion were not met, the findings would be presented to each community to use as each sees beneficial. Because the criterion was not presented clearly and other concerns resulting in lack of information, Carroll County and Jo Daviess held reservations. The Vital Economy program was not pursued by the Jo Daviess County. Another person was contacted by Janet to provide such a service. Because of County budget concerns, Janet felt that it was not a good time to contract services. She also spoke of the previous Telecommunications workshop that she coordinated. While this was a good workshop attended by few, yet attended by those who expressed great interest in advancing our current communication status, Janet felt that perhaps the Committee can take on this project.

Janet requested the CEDS Committee's acceptance to revisit the Telecommunications issue at the next CEDS meeting. At that time, she will present names of those who are in charge of service provision and representation of their organization. If agreed upon, she recommends that each service provider be invited separately so that the CEDS Committee may realize what type of service we have and to what extent. At the same time, she encourages that we address those issues that compromise current business and hinder prospective business. In this manner, the CEDS Committee can express the seriousness of this issue and determine a plan of action to pursue change.

**Committee member participation:** A suggestion was made by Bill that a fund with a certain amount of money should be made available for Economic Development in regard to actions that must be made quickly. Bill suggested that this could be a fund that is overseen by the approval of the CEDS Committee with Janet.

Because of the expressed budget concerns, Janet spoke of the tenuous situation for the new role of Economic Development and Planning. She said that this position could be eliminated and that it was recommended to her that she alert those who may support this

role. She did not know what possible changes could take place, but had spoken to those who expressed concern. She did not now what was going to happen. Dave Jansen and others asked if there was information that she could provide that could help the situation. She said there was information, but that it has been provided and continues to be provided to the County and Planning Development Committee. Her understanding is that it any decision could be based on the fact that Economic Development is the last department in and it was thought that this would be a fair way of making what ever decision needed to be made. Steve informed the committee that the Blackhawk RC & D services to Jo Daviess County could also be terminated because of budget constraints.

**Scheduled next meeting:**     **September 10, 2003** (5:00pm to 6:00pm)  
Jo Daviess County Court House  
County Board Room

**Meeting adjourned:**         Motion to adjourn Bill Wolter  
2<sup>nd</sup> Carolyn Fisher