

## MINUTES

---

### Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee

Tuesday, December 2, 5:00 p.m.  
Highland College West, Elizabeth  
Conference Room

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Members Bill Wolter, Helen Schamberger, Bridgette Stocks, Dave Jansen, Pat Keleher, Doug Riedl, Vince Hasken

**ABSENT:** Nathan Greiner

**GUESTS:** Helen Kilgore, Diane Komiskey

**MEETING CONVENED:** 5:01 p.m. by Chairman Dave Jansen.

- I. On a motion by Schamberger, second by Stocks approval of minutes of the October 7, 2008 meeting was unanimous.
- II. Old Business:
  - a. BRE Survey: All interview responses have been sent to Ed Sitar at ComEd; Chair Jansen offered the committee's appreciation to members who have assisted in planning and interviewing, Helen Schamberger, Bridgette Stocks, Pat Keleher and Elaine Klippert. Still planning to hold a summit in February to announce results of survey.
  - b. Greenways & Trails Plan: Bridgette Stocks reported that the final draft will go to the Zoning Board at their December 30 meeting, and then to the full county board.
  - c. Mayors Meeting: Leitzen Fye is hoping to schedule the first quarter meeting in late January, early February and has emailed mayors with date options. Stocks reported that the Jo Daviess Leadership Forum is interested in working on the economic health of our small rural communities and that she would like to be on the agenda for that meeting.
  - d. Strategic Planning: CEDS members present at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting held at JoCarroll Energy reported that the general consensus of that meeting was that a public/private economic development corporation should be formed. JCE is working aggressively towards this goal; the county will likely renew Leitzen Fye's contract for a year with the aim of finalizing research and the development of such an organization within 6 months. Committee members discussed pros and cons of a p/p corporation, i.e., two-county format, staffing and financing of the corporation, board structure and bylaws, and timeline. Committee agreed that this planning needs to be on a fast track and encouraged Chair Jansen to convene meetings of this group whenever necessary.
- III. New Business:
  - a. Blackhawk Hills RC&D has requested a list of strengths and weaknesses of various economic development issues in the region. The committee brainstormed a list; Leitzen Fye will forward it to Theresa Wittenauer. (List is attached as part of these minutes.)

- IV. Member roundtable: In the interest of time, comments were kept very brief.
- a. Elizabeth (Kilgore) is experiencing new business growth as a result of their TIF district; the residential subdivision is progressing; USDA grant for water & sewer is progressing.
  - b. In Hanover (Wolter) all downtown buildings are now in use which means five new businesses, including a laundromat, an art gallery, a consignment shop and a spa/salon. Invensys is remodeling their offices, an indicator of their strength in the community.
  - c. Scales Mound (Leitzen Fye) is progressing with their TIF district creation and is holding a conference call on 12-3-08 to discuss final annexations.
  - d. The Warren (Riedl) area's wind towers are going up and looking good; two more wind test sites have been approved by the county, and the next phase may well be built in Jo Daviess County, alongside the Stephenson County windfarm site. The Bos dairy has divided the communities and there is support being vocalized.
  - e. In Stockton (Schamberger) the Bos Dairy is the big issue; Helen would like to schedule a meeting of the Stockton Village Boards' economic development committee with Pat. Helen suggests that the NICAAs' rental rehab program should be added to a mayors' quarterly meeting agenda to inform of the service and increase its usage.
  - f. East Dubuque (Hasken) is progressing with its third and final TIF district, with the finalization expected in late January.
  - g. Dave Jansen reported that the paving has been completed on a stretch of Highway 20 (Spring Street), issues appear ongoing with the hospital; city wards are due for reapportioning. Jansen also reported on the split within the tourism board that resulted in the creation of the GMI Galena Marketing Initiative.
  - h. At the former army depot, Komiskey reported that a total of 2,927 acres have come to the LRA, 51.79 in Carroll County, 48 acres in Jo Daviess County. A total of 56 jobs were created; the Riverport Railroad has a new storage facility and 2 miles of additional track laid. N-ovation received a \$1 million grant from USDA for research and development of on-farm nitrogen production and on-farm electrical generation. The Rock Island Tech Society has two buildings in use as archives and museum and is considering a third.
- V. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2009, 5:00 p.m. at Highland College West Campus in Elizabeth.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Leitzen Fye