

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Development & Planning (D&P)

CHAIRPERSON: Diane Gallagher, Chairman

DATE/TIME: October 22, 2019 @ 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Gallagher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert O'Connor
<input type="checkbox"/> Robert Heurman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staci Duerr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Smith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Toot		

A quorum was established.

Other Board members: None.

Others: Beth Baranski, Debbie Boden, Dan Reimer and Eric Tison

1. Approval of Minutes

- a) Review and approve minutes for the September 24, 2019 Development & Planning Committee meeting – **John Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 24, 2019 Development & Planning Committee meeting. Seconded by Staci Duerr and motion passed.**

2. Citizens' Comments - None

3. Unfinished Business

- a) FY2019/FY2020 Strategic Goals & Plans – Timelines/Responsibilities – Diane Gallagher commented that she created a spreadsheet with the committee goals assigned during the 2019 County Board Retreat. She would like to see the committee identify some strategies or objectives to accomplish each one. The committee discussed their goals and Gallagher suggested that each goal be tracked to show incremental process towards completion.
- b) Update on Enterprise Zone – Ron Smith reported there are no new updates since the last meeting. The new enterprise zone was approved in September. They are looking at rebates to the counties because they hired someone to do the application and it cost less than originally expected. John Schultz commented that he attended a meeting of the Jo Carroll Enterprise/Foreign Trade Zone and there has been no new activity in the last six months and they still have \$15,000 to work with. Steve McIntyre is also on the FTZ Board with Schultz but has not attended recent meetings.
- c) Update, discussion and possible action on the Revolving Loan Application request from Dittmar Farms, LLC – Staci Duerr reported on the Jo Daviess County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) request from Mike and Johnna Dittmar, Dittmar Farms LLC. The overall project cost increased considerably so Dittmar requested more funds from the RLF. The RLF policy limit is 25% of the total project cost. Dittmar was able to locate additional funding thru a program with Jo-Carroll Energy. The RLF request from Dittmar Farms LLC is for \$25,000 and Duerr recommends that we move forward on the request. **John Schultz made a motion to approve and move forward to the County Board a Revolving Loan Application request from Dittmar Farms, LLC in the amount of \$25,000, to be amortized over 10 years with a variable interest rate of prime rate less 2.00% (currently 3.00%) variable. Seconded by Bob O'Connor and motion passed. Scott Toot abstained from the vote.**
- d) Update on a Jo Daviess County Karst Feature Database – Joe Kratcha, GIS/IT Director, joined the meeting via conference call. Beth Baranski commented that the Development & Planning committee asked her to discuss the Karst Feature Database with Kratcha. They had a conference call with Don Luman from the state Geological Survey. They had a good conversation. Kratcha discussed the potential county usage and storage of data. He had no problem being the keeper of the data. Baranski envisions moving forward with Luman working with the GIS/IT Department by providing the layers. Scientists are actually coming

tomorrow and will be out in the County the next few days looking at features. Data would be updated once a year or every six months depending on the amount of data. Incrementally this data will be in a place where it won't get lost and will be referenced. IT would be made available to County departments but not made available to the general public. **Scott Toot made a motion to move forward to the Information and Communication Technology Committee a Jo Daviess County Karst Feature Database. Seconded by John Schultz and motion passed.**

- e) Update on Countywide Water Resource Management – Beth Baranski reported the Countywide Water Resource Management includes a whole lot of activities. One she would like to highlight for the committee is the Soil & Water Health Coalition, a farmer led group that started in the Galena area and has expanded County wide. They have been have held a series of field days and they are working on soil health issues that relate to profitability in all kinds of things but also water quality. They meet the second Wednesday of the month. The next field day is October 30th at the Bill Holland farm. The Jo Daviess County coalition group is part of a network in the Upper Mississippi River Region and they hold an annual meeting. Jo Daviess County has been asked to host the next annual meeting which will probably be scheduled in August, 2020.
- f) Update on potential grant applications for water resource management – Beth Baranski reported that the meeting for tomorrow had to be canceled and will be rescheduled. The direction was to meet with the Grant Administration Oversight Committee and bring back a recommendation, so that is yet to occur.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion on Census 2020 – Diane Gallagher commented she and Hendrica Regez are co-chairs of the Jo Daviess 2020 Census Committee; they have been in communication with State and Federal Census 2020 representatives. Gallagher is not sure which County committee they should report to. There really isn't any action at this point. Scott Toot felt the Development & Planning Committee was the logical committee to report to at this time. Gallagher stated that an accurate and full count is important because the local share of state and federal funds is often times based on population, this includes funding for highways, social services and seniors. John Schultz shared that he worked the 2010 census as an interviewer and went to locations where there were no responses. Eric Tison discussed that he worked with Joe Kratcha to provide information to the 2020 Census. Building permit information was collected. If a home is substantially finished as of census day it still helps the count in identifying possible occupancy locations.
- b) Review and discussion on Jo Daviess County 2020 Vision Statement – Diane Gallagher handed out a copy of the 1997 Jo Daviess County 2020 Vision Statement. The County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in September, 1999. The Plan was updated in 2012. An unfunded request was approved for the FY2020 budget to update the Jo Daviess County Comprehensive Plan. The committee reviewed and discussed the JDC Vision Statement.

5. Staff Reports

a) Building & Zoning

- i. Monthly Report – Eric Tison, Planning & Development Administrator, reported that permit activity has increased. Tison and his code enforcement officer will be meeting with a representative from Jo-Carroll Energy regarding the solar installations and to go over the building permit process. There are some differences between the code that the utilities are enforcing and the code that we are enforcing. We all need to make sure we are on the same page so as not to cause a long term problem or danger to residents that we putting these in. Guest accommodations renewals for the new license year have gone out. They are just starting to come back in. Tison has filed with his office a proposed text amendment to allow recreational cannabis facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County. The public hearing on the text amendment will be held on Wednesday, November 20 – the week before the Thanksgiving holiday.

b) Economic Development

- i. NW Illinois Economic Development Monthly Report – Debbie Boden, NW Illinois Economic Development Assistant Developer, reported the State of Illinois has announced the award of enterprise zones which will begin in 2020, including Communities in Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties. While the application was submitted earlier this year, NWILED is very grateful for all the time and effort put into this valuable tool for economic development. The NWILED executive director spoke with a Honeywell Representative this past Thursday. The plant is scheduled to close by the end of 2019. NWILED has posted the real estate listing on its website and on Intersect of Illinois, the state database. All interested parties should make efforts to help facilitate the sale of the property. NWILED is continuing its workforce development efforts. A program from the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) engages employers by industry to examine and prepare for future workforce needs. We held our 3rd quarter meeting this past week, and we currently have 12 collaborators across 3 industries, including health care, manufacturing, and hospitality. Businesses with workforce issues are encouraged to engage. For more information, contact info@nwiled.org. NWILED is representing the tri-county area on a new port expansion study for the Dubuque and East Dubuque Area. Led by Alan Meyers of WSP Consulting, the project involves a variety of stakeholders, on both sides of the river. The second meeting was held this month. In addition to the stakeholders, there is also talk of adding a federal port district for Illinois and Iowa from Dubuque to north of Keokuk in the South. NWILED is pleased to announce that we have been working with two new businesses in Galena on expansion plans. While the projects remain confidential, if you know of any individual looking for help expanding their business, please have them reach out to Emily at elege@nwiled.org. NWILED is pleased to announce the opening of a new business in Hanover. Sulcanna is an indoor growing facility for hemp seed located in the old factory building along Highway 84. The proprietor has shown to be very open to visitors, and NWILED will be cosponsoring a workshop in December for the public to learn more about cannabis from seed to product. The businesses education program is held at the Stockton Township Library on the 2nd Thursday of the month, Jan. Oct., 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Brian McIntyre will have five hours of private consulting available each month from 10:15 – 3:30 p.m. at IL Bank & Trust in Stockton. Businesses can sign up for free consulting at <http://www.nwiled.org/builditgrowit>. Entrepreneurial Mastermind Forum will be held on the 4th Thursday of the month, Jan. – Oct., 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. at Prairie Ridge in Galena. All businesses in the region are welcome. The charge is only \$15 per person. Email info@nwiled.org for more information. Locations have been selected! Northwest Illinois Economic Development is pleased to announce not one but TWO locations for Build It Grow It 2020. While the exact locations are yet to be announced; we will be holding one session in Galena on the fourth Thursday of the month and one session in Fulton on the second Tuesday of the month. Stay tuned with NWILED for more updates. NWILED is pleased to announce its first-ever quarterly report. In this report, you can see an overview of our highlights, as well as a quantified summary of our impact in the region. For more information or to get added to our email list, please email elege@nwiled.org. In the Jo Daviess County, we have three types of finance zones of economic incentives – opportunity zones, foreign trade zones, and the enterprise zone just recently approved. With many of these zones underutilized, NWILED plans to hold workshops to inform local businesses and bankers of the tools available, and how to use them to help existing and new businesses grow here in Jo Daviess County. The next NWILED board meeting will be held December 11th, 2019 from 4:30 - 6 P– at the NWILED office in Hanover.

c) LRA Board

- i. Update on LRA/Port Authority Discussions - Ron Smith had nothing new to report at this time.

6. Citizens' Comments – None.

7. Board Member Concerns – Bob O'Connor commented on the Jo Daviess County 2020 Vision Statement and discussed the proposed elimination of certain small polling places in Jo Daviess

County which seems counter to 2020 Vision Statement. Diane Gallagher commented that there is a meeting of the UCCI in Springfield this Friday and Saturday. There is also a Blackhawk Hills Regional Council meeting on Friday as well. Dan Reimer added that any polling places that would potentially be looked at to be closed it does take County Board action.

The next regular Development & Planning Committee meeting will be Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. following a motion made by Staci Duerr and seconded by John Schultz, motion passed.