



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EST. 1958

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

456 Fulton St. Suite 401

Peoria, IL 61602

CHUCK NAGEL, CHAIRMAN

(Danny Phelan, John Kahl, Greg Menold, Camille Coates, Russ Crawford, Patrick Urich, Autum Jones)

Monday, October 20, 2025 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Chuck Nagel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Present: Chuck Nagel, Greg Menold, Danny Phelan, Camille Coates, Russ Crawford, Patrick Urich, Autum Jones

Absent: John Kahl

Also present were Eric Miller, Reema Abi-Akar, and Lori Reynolds from TCRPC.

3. **Public Input**

None.

4. **Motion to approve August 18, 2025 minutes**

Autum Jones motioned to approve the August 18, 2025 minutes, and Danny Phelan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. **Executive Director report**

Eric Miller reported that the Commission is still monitoring the federal government shutdown, and it has not yet had an effect on the work of the Commission.

The Brownfield PNC project hasn't been disrupted, still working with the City of Peoria. The EPA is still behind on paying Tri-County for staff time.

Chillicothe Viaduct project is on hold because Hanson consultants have identified that Chillicothe would need to pay \$4 million, which the City of Chillicothe doesn't want to do. They don't want to pay anything because it's not a City problem. It's a problem with the railroad and the state route.

Danny Phelan stated that Chillicothe needs to understand that Tri-County isn't going to foot the bill.

Eric stated that communities need to understand that they need to have funds to put in, and Chillicothe needs to be educated on how these things work.

Russ Crawford stated that Chillicothe needs to demonstrate commitment, this is one of the top safety priorities in the area, not just Chillicothe.

Patrick Ulrich asked if there is any ICC money available, and perhaps Representative Spain could inquire. He stated Tri-County should be able to do something to help.

Camille Coates stated that this conversation needs to take place with all communities so they're aware at the start. They can't start out by saying zero.

6. Recommendation to Commission, Proposed Appointments to the Regional Transportation Safety Committee

Danny Phelan motioned to recommend to Commission, proposed appointments to the Regional Transportation Safety Committee, and Patrick Ulrich seconded the motion.

Reema Abi-Akar presented the following information:

- Categories of committee membership were determined
 - Advocacy & Community (2 positions)
 - Business, Industry & Media (4 positions)
 - Education & Training (3 positions)
 - First Responders & Enforcement (5 positions)
 - Human Services (2 positions)
 - Transportation & Infrastructure (5 positions)
- 21 members were proposed

Eric Miller stated the people haven't been notified and are subject to board input.

Russ Crawford complimented the staff for their hard work coming up with a great list

Autum Jones asked when the list gets approved. Eric stated it has to go through the Commission before the people are notified of their approval. There is a 3-year commitment, and a clause in the bylaws about being replaced for excessive absences.

Motion carried.

7. Recommendation to Commission, Promotions in Place (Resolution 26-19)

Greg Menold motioned to approve recommendation to Commission, promotions in place, and Camille Coates seconded the motion.

Eric Miller reported that we recently lost a GIS staff person to the Chicago area due to a 35% increase in pay. In an effort to prevent losing any further staff, the Commission needs to get this in a couple months earlier than what our usual schedule is.

While Gavin Hunt was away serving our country, he missed out on two pay increase cycles. Since Logan Chapman left, his duties have been split between Isaiah Hageman and Gavin. Tri-County down one employee but the workload is increasing. So Tri-County would like to promote Isaiah from GIS Specialist II to GIS Specialist III, and Else

Hayes has been doing a really great job. They stepped in when Debbi LaRue was out on maternity leave and kept up with the work, making grant applications, leading efforts rather than just doing what they're told, and bringing in revenue. So we'd like to promote them to Planner II. These raises average an 8% increase, and total not more than \$15,000 in increased spending.

Russ Crawford stated he trusts Personnel's decision, and he remembers three years ago when Tri-County was losing people, so this is a good plan.

Camille Coates stated that her employer generally does the same.

Patrick Urich stated that it is a challenge to retain good staff.

Motion carried.

8. **Executive Session if needed**

Not needed.

9. **Other**

- a. Next Meeting will be November 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

10. **Adjournment**

Russ Crawford made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Patrick Urich, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Submitted by: Eric Miller, Executive Director
Recorded and transcribed by: Lori Reynolds