



# 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, April 20, 2026 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, Patrick Urich, Camille Coates, Danny Phelan, Autum Jones. Russ Crawford.

Also present were Eric Miller, Reema Abi-Akar, Michael Bruner, and Lori Reynolds from TCRPC, and Cathryn Stump from Tazewell County as Greg Menold's guest.

Absent: John Kahl.

### 3. **Public Input**

Greg Menold introduced Cathryn Stump from Tazewell County to the Executive Board. She will be taking Greg's place on the Full Commission.

### 4. **Motion to approve March 16, 2026 minutes**

Russ Crawford made a motion to approve the minutes from March 16, 2026, and Danny Phelan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### 5. **Executive Director report**

Eric Miller reported the following:

- Advertising for Planning Program Manager and Planner I/II/III. Hope to have positions filled by July 1.
- 2 interns starting mid-May, which will help lesson some of the work load.
- Working on budget
- Working on reauthorization, current bill is set to expire in September. Federal transportation bill – may need to continue the resolution
  - Russ Crawford asked if that will have an effect on the budget. Eric responded that it will not; funding will continue at current level.

6. **Motion to Recommend to Commission the approval of contracting with M|H CPA, LLC to complete the Financial and Compliance Audit for the Fiscal Year 2026 (Resolution 26-50)**

Autum Jones made a motion to approve recommending to the Commission contracting with M|H CPA, LLC to complete the Financial and Compliance Audit for the Fiscal Year 2026. Greg Menold seconded the motion.

Eric Miller reported that the cost of the audit is reimbursable through IDOT. This year's fee will be just under \$30,000. 15 years ago when TCRPC first contracted with M|H, the fee was \$24,000.

Motion carried.

7. **Motion to Recommend to Commission Motion to Approve subcontractor agreement between TCRPC and the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council for professional services related to Water Supply Planning (Resolution 26-52)**

Russ Crawford made a motion to approve subcontracting with Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (GPEDC) for professional services related to Water Supply Planning. Autum Jones seconded the motion.

Eric Miller reported that this is to approve the agreement as it is time-sensitive and won't be going to the Full Commission. This is a \$60,000 overall agreement for Peoria, Woodford, and several counties up north. TCRPC will include an economic development report as it relates to water supply planning in the region, and staff from GPEDC will assist with that if this motion is approved.

Reema Abi-Akar reported that luckily TCRPC does not currently have any water quantity issues, but places like Joliet do, so staff is studying and understanding how to maintain sustainable water quantity in this area.

Motion carried.

8. **Motion to Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peoria for Human Resource Services (Resolution 26-51)**

Autum Jones made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peoria for Human Resource Services. Danny Phelan seconded the motion.

Eric Miller stated that this is also an approval, not a recommendation. Prior to this Executive Board meeting, TCRPC held an Employee Handbook Committee meeting, during which this was discussed that it would be nice to have qualified human resources professionals to lend TCRPC a hand for this project. Patrick Urich's HR Director is Ed Hopkins, and he is willing to do this for Tri-County on an on-call basis at a rate of \$100 per hour, with a cap of \$30,000 for this year, which is in the Commission's budget.

Patrick Urich stated that he fully supports this agreement, but as he is employed by the City, he will abstain from this vote.

Chuck Nagel stated that he appreciates the City of Peoria stepping up to help.

Danny Phelan asked for more specifics on exactly what types of services and who in the Commission is allowed to engage in these services.

- Eric stated that types of services would be policy review, position description review, anything from an HR perspective that TCRPC would need an opinion on, hiring, advertising, applicant screening, background checks, drug screens if necessary. Eric would be the person engaging their services.

Motion carried.

## **9. Discussion of FY27 Draft Commission Budget**

Eric Miller reported that this has not yet gone through Ways & Means, but TCRPC wanted the Executive Committee to have a chance to look at it. Staff is a few months ahead of having a final draft ready. This will be the final year of provisional funds, which was \$130,000 plus the match. Next year, that fund will go down by about \$200,000. Looks very similar to last year. Some of the SPR funds have been completed. TCRPC has new contracts with Mackinaw, El Paso, and Elmwood for comprehensive plans. The Peoria County Comprehensive Plan will conclude this year, and TCRPC is in talks with Tazewell County for the following year. The biggest expense is personnel, and TCRPC is currently recommending to not fill one empty position. Personnel expenses have gone down due to resignations.

Russ Crawford asked how a comprehensive plan will be able to keep out new technologies when the state limits what counties and municipalities can do. Eric responded that policies will need to be written and carefully worded in order to get on top of the situation because the state will continue to take away land use.

Greg Menold asked for clarification on the number of positions that will be advertised.

Danny Phelan asked why the allowance in the budget for \$500 in gas is so low. Eric explained that TCRPC just has the one company car, and it's used sparingly for data collection.

## **10. Discussion of Results of USDOT MPO Certification Review**

Eric Miller reported that TCRPC received eight commendations, no corrections, and nine recommendations. He is very proud of the 40 special transportation studies that have been completed over the last ten years. He stated that he is very happy with the current partnerships in the communities. It's all good news.

Chuck Nagel passed along his congratulations and praise on a job well done.

**11. Other**

- a. Greg Menold reported that this will be his last meeting. He has enjoyed serving, and commended staff on always being prepared and informative. He is happy to move on but sad to leave this group. He received congratulations and a round of applause.
- b. Danny Phelan stated that procedurally, there are Executive Session minutes outstanding, and he will work on having them ready to approve at next meeting.
- c. Eric Miller shared that there is an informative session on data centers being held Tuesday, April 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the board room of Distillery Labs. The session is organized by Chris Setti of GPEDC.
- d. Next Meeting will be May 18, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

**12. Adjournment**

Autum Jones made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Patrick Urich, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

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