



# TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EST. 1958

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

456 Fulton St. Suite 401

Peoria, IL 61602

**Greg Menold, CHAIRMAN**

**(Chuck Nagel, Camille Coates, Russ Crawford, Rita Ali, Autum Jones, John Kahl, and Danny Phelan)**

***Monday, July 15, 2024***

***9:00 a.m.***

## MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman Greg Menold called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Greg Menold, Chuck Nagel, Camille Coates, Russ Crawford, John Kahl, and Danny Phelan.

3. Public Input: None

4. Motion to approve February 12, 2024, minutes

Russ Crawford moved to approve the February 12, 2024, minutes and John Kahl seconded. Motion carried.

5. Executive Director report

Staff is immersed in several plans – among them, Active Transportation Plan (ATP), Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and Kickapoo Creek watershed plan.

- LRTP: The public-facing part of the process is coming soon, where input will be collected.
- Technical Committee:
  - TCRPC issued a joint Call for Projects including STBG funding; staff will program these funds soon.
  - 19 applications were received.
  - Four communities did not apply. They will serve on the selection committee.
- The State of Illinois released the ITEP program, which is due in Fall 2024.
- IDOT issued a press release: A \$1.2 million RAISE grant was awarded for a Bloomington-Peoria express transit route feasibility study (from IDOT's Office of Intermodal Project Implementation)
  - Tri-County will receive a briefing on it soon.

- Ray LaHood is concerned that this will delay the rail study to Chicago.
- The Bloomington-Peoria transit study's aim is to address commuting issues for Rivian, Precision Planting, and Caterpillar.
- Rail
  - Staff is ingrained in this process now.
  - There is a potential fear from a local perspective: Will rail demand decrease if there is Peoria-Bloomington frequent service?
- Administrative Assistant
  - Salary has been an issue here – TCRPC is offering in the \$50,000 range, though there has been a request for over \$75,000.
  - Looking to hire one individual, but we may have to re-advertise if that does not work out.
  - Camille Coates: Have you worked with the minority business group? These folks can help with DEI efforts and are vetted and could be a conversation with Denise Moore in the future.
  - Russ Crawford: Back in the day, we would reach out to Bradley and other universities for planners and GIS, but this admin job is different.
  - Chuck Nagel: Could consider raising the salary to increase the pool.
  - Eric Miller: We are fully staffed, with Else and Isaiah as the newest hires, and staff fill in to complete necessary admin tasks.
  - Eric Miller: The office administrator job has changed a lot since the old days.

## 6. Dissolution Plan

- Conversation with legal counsel – he was unable to fit us in the timeline to be ready today regarding the dissolution plan.
  - It is not an extensive document; it talks about splitting liabilities.
- Danny: Can we have access to it when it is sent out, so we have more time to discuss it? All agreed.
  - If so, it would go straight to Commission.

## 7. Brownfield Grant

- Tri-County has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the US EPA, which is very selective.
- TCRPC had some concerns about the recovery of costs for administrative work (consultant now set to received 90% of cost).
- Staff had to define target areas – zip code 61605 – and expand this area. The rules indicate that we must exhaust the whole site, then move on.
- Then, staff went to the City of Peoria to ask how they would use this.
  - We can use it as a tool in the toolbox and wait for development to come to us.

- We can use it for Phase I and Phase II for a site.
- Anytime a developer would come to use the Phase I and Phase II, we can charge an administrative fee.
- If we do not use all the funds in the four years, it goes back to the government, and there are no penalties.
- Russ Crawford motioned to approve and proceed with the process.
  - He stipulated to also allow 1) consultant negotiation, or 2) change consultants, or 3) use money across the region where possible.
  - Eric Miller: TCRPC has no wiggle room with the US EPA. We must check if we're allowed to charge an admin fee.
  - The work team is mostly comprised of department heads at the City of Peoria.
  - Eric Miller: We hope to be able to switch areas as needed in the future.
  - John Kahl: Wants to make sure that staff is not overly burdened with a non-regional project.

Chuck Nagel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### 8. Office Lease

- The lease will cost the same rate moving forward.
- Eric Miller: There have been some issues with the building, but overall, we are happy.
- Eric guesses that TCRPC's office space is 5,000 square feet.
- Tri-County utilizes the City of Peoria's meeting room at no charge.
- The City of Peoria is acquiring 12,000 square feet on the second floor.

Russ Crawford motioned to approve continuing the office lease, and John Kahl seconded. Motion carried.

#### 9. Other: None

#### 10. Adjournment

John Kahl moved to adjourn at 9:43 a.m. and Camille Coates seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Eric Miller, Executive Director

Recorded and transcribed by: Reema Abi-Akar and Lori Reynolds