

Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission
Executive Board Minutes
211 N. Gear Avenue, West Burlington, IA 52655
February 27, 2014

Members Present: Brent Schleisman, Mark Huston, Hans Trousil, and Gary Folluo

Member Absent: Sue Frice

Staff Present: Mike Norris, Bob Kuskowski, Zach James, Lori Gilpin, Debbie Laughlin, and Tracey Lamm

Guests Present: Kerry Erts, Benefit Management Solutions; Duane Worthy, DMC Jail Administrator; Jim Sholl, Lee County Sheriff; Rynne Wood, Lee County CPC; and Ken Hyndman, DMC CPC

Call to order at 12:00 p.m.

Agenda Approval

Motion by Folluo to approve the February 20, 2014 agenda, second by Trousil. All Ayes, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Norris stated that he presented to the Joint Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee on February 4th. Annually each COG in Iowa received \$10,294 in "COG Assistance" from the State, totaling \$175,000 for all COGs. IARC has requested an increase from \$175,000 to \$500,000 over a period of 3 years. He also took part in the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber Alliance Legislative Forum on February 22nd to discuss the status of federal transportation funding and how that impacts transportation programming decisions in Iowa. Motion by Trousil to accept the consent agenda, second by Folluo. All Ayes, motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Regional CDBG Scoring: Norris stated that Tracey Lamm and the SEIRPC Regional CDBG Scoring Committee met on February 3rd to score our region's housing applications for owner occupied rehabilitation. During this pilot program, questions were generated about the process, which will improve the process in the future. Scores were 136 for Fort Madison, 134 for Wayland, and 131.75 for Salem, which were comparable to other scores statewide. Next year, the housing applications will be rated "live" where the committee's recommendations will be taken into account during state scoring. Folluo made a motion to receive the scores given by the SEIRPC Regional CDBG Scoring Committee for Housing Applications and send the scores to the state, second by Trousil. All ayes, motion carried.
2. Healthcare Update: Norris introduced Kerry Erts from Benefit Management Solutions to the board. Erts stated that preliminary work with the intent of pooling together regional entities to form the SE Iowa Health Plan is going slower than he would like with some of the entities hesitant to change from Wellmark. 8 of our regional entities have submitted for quote, and he still has a few entities he has not yet met with. Some of the quoting entities probably would not join the group by July 1, 2014, but may on July 1, 2015. The timing is perfect as significant changes are coming to healthcare in 2015, such as businesses under 100 employees being considered small businesses as opposed to the current consideration of under 50 employees. Erts feels that we could possibly start July 1, 2014 with about 150

insured employees, which would be a successful start. He foresees 700 to 800 possibly signing up July 1, 2015. He will have a better idea of numbers by the March 27th Full Board Meeting and hopes to have things ready to go. If approved, he is looking at the end of April through May for the enrollment process. No action necessary.

New Business:

1. Resolution No. 104-2014: Naming a Third Signatory: Norris stated that Jim Davidson was previously the third signatory, and is no longer a council member for the City of Burlington. We recommend Bob Beck, Des Moines County Supervisor, as the new third signatory. Trousil made a motion to approve Resolution No. 104-2014 Naming Bob Beck as the Third Signatory for SEIRPC, second by Huston. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.

2. Lee & Des Moines County Jail Diversion Project: Norris stated that Lee County and Des Moines County have been meeting together along with each county's CPC Administrator, Jailer, Sheriff, and SEIRPC planner Tracey Lamm. The group has proposed to SEIRPC the idea of housing a social worker under the SEIRPC umbrella to work with each county in diverting mentally ill inmates out of incarceration and towards resources to help them stabilize. At the 12/19/2014 Executive Board meeting, we were asked to come up with a position description. Lamm introduced the guests, Duane Worthy, DMC Jail Administrator; Jim Sholl, Lee County Sheriff; Ryanne Wood, Lee County CPC; and Ken Hyndman, DMC CPC. The guests each spoke of their support of the important concept and how they feel this solution would solve the problem of how to budget this position. The main focus is to evaluate and assist the petty offenders with connecting with programs and organizations that will ultimately enable them to not end up back in jail. SEIRPC has developed a budget of approximately \$100,000 for the position which includes a probable salary for the position, office supplies and equipment, SEIRPC management fee and indirect costs. Lamm stated that the counties are aware of funding for a Jail to Community Transition Coordinator position and are on board. If the position is approved prior to the end of the fiscal year, then the CPCs can also be able to share in the funding. Huston asked if any other counties can be considered. Schleisman suggested other counties might want to get State Representative Dave Heaton involved in discussions on this topic. Trousil made a motion to pursue moving forward with the Lee & Des Moines County Jail Diversion Project and to bring it to the SEIRPC Full Board, second by Folluo. All ayes, motion carried.

3. EDA RLF Sequestration Process: Norris reported that SEIRPC received a letter from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) stating that SEIRPC was below EDA's capital utilization standard of 75% for two consecutive reporting periods (March 2013 and Sept. 2013) and directed sequestration of \$58,644.47. Sequestration involves opening a separate bank account to deposit the sequestered funds in. The funds are still available for lending, but written approval from EDA is necessary for withdrawal. All interest from the account is also sent to the US Treasury. Trousil made a motion to authorize opening a separate bank account to handle EDA RLF sequestered funds, second by Huston. All ayes, motion carried.

4. EDA RLF Work Plan, Capital Utilization Rate: Norris stated that SEIRPC currently allows up to \$250,000 per regional pool per loan per project. SEIRPC must have 25% or less of its EDA RLF funds (Pool I and II) available for lending at the end of each six-month reporting period. If two periods go by with more than 25% available, this increment is considered 'excess funds' and sequestered. Staff recommends SEIRPC approve a change to the EDA RLF

Consolidated Work Plan to allow a capital utilization standard of 40%, which would allow another \$125,000 to be held and not considered 'excess funds'. Norris stated that there is no negative consequence in doing this. Huston made a motion to petition the Economic Development Association (EDA) to change the EDA RLF Consolidated Work Plan to allow a capital utilization standard of 40%, second by Trousil. All ayes, motion carried.

5. Public Hearing: (TIP) Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: Schleisman opened the public hearing regarding the (TIP) Transportation Improvement Program Amendment at 12:59 p.m. James stated that on behalf of Des Moines County, SEIRPC staff (as administrators of the Flint River Trail project) is requesting a TIP amendment to the FFY2014-2017 TIP. This is necessary to include new Federal Recreational Trail funds into the TIP; and to more accurately describe the project using currently-programmed Transportation Alternatives (Enhancement) funds. He stated that the amendment will more accurately describe the currently programmed funds to the following: "Flint River Trail Phase 1A project from the Starr's Cave Entrance on Irish Ridge Road, through Starr's Cave Park and Preserve to US Highway 61, then north to Flint Bottom Road." No additional money will be allocated. **Trousil made a motion to close the Public Hearing: (TIP) Transportation Improvement Program Amendment at 1:02 p.m., second by Huston.** A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried. **Trousil made a motion to approve the (TIP) Transportation Improvement Program Amendment, second by Huston.** A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.

6. HUD Consolidated Plan: Norris stated that the Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC) is involved with the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) to give key input into the next five-year Consolidated Plan, which guides non-entitlement CDBG spending. He further stated that it is anticipated additional loans will be introduced at a greater level than presently with Revolving Loan Funds or HUD Section 108 Loan Guarantees as part of the mix. SEIRPC staff will keep the board updated as to how the meetings progress and anticipated changed to CDBG spending in Iowa. No action necessary.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR:

Norris stated that the approved CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies) Plan was sent to the EDA (Economic Development Association) for their approval. They came back to us with some things that we need to do, such as some changes to the Disaster Recovery Plan. Staff recommendation will be brought back to the board in order to amend the CEDS Plan.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Folluo.
Second by Trousil. All Ayes

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Laughlin

Mike Norris, Executive Director

Mark Huston, Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____