

**Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission  
Full Board Minutes  
211 N. Gear Avenue, West Burlington, IA 52655  
September 27, 2012**

Members Present: Brent Schleisman, Hans Trousil, Mark Hempen, Bob Beck, Kent White, David File, Gary Folluo, Andy Truitt, Klay Edwards, Byron Smith, and Michael O'Connor

Members Absent: Chris Ball, Steve Bisenius, Jim Davidson, Jim Howell, Bob Hesler, Mark Huston, and Sue Frice

Guests Present: Rex Troute, The Hawkeye; Jason Huddle, IDOT

Staff Present: Mike Norris, Debbie Laughlin, Jeff Hanan, Bob Kuskowski, Zach James, and Dan Eberhardt

Call to order at 12:06 p.m.

### **Agenda Approval**

Norris stated that Old Business Item #4. RLF IRP Amended Work Plan needs to be changed to read RLF IRP#1 Amended Work Plan, and then add Old Business Item #5. RLF IRP#2 Amended Work Plan. He further stated that the Staff Presentation will be given by Dan Eberhardt. Motion by Folluo to approve the September 27, 2012 agenda as amended, second by Trousil. All Ayes, motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda Approval**

Motion by Trousil to accept the consent agenda, second by. All Ayes, motion carried.

### **Staff Presentation:**

Dan Eberhardt, Regional Planner II for SEIRPC Development Department, has worked at SEIRPC since for 13 years. He stated that in November of 1999, SEIRPC had only one housing project, and 4 employees. He stated that since that time he has been involved in numerous programs as we expanded into 14 -15 different housing projects and currently employ 16 at the Commission (not counting Seibus employees). Eberhardt stated that his main priority since 2008 has been the flood buyouts, which is about 1 ½ years ahead of schedule compared to the 1993 flood; FEMA projects should be completed by the end of the year, and CDBG in the Spring.

### **Old Business**

1. Department Reports: Hanan gave an overview of the Great River Housing Trust Fund projects for the region, stating that we have met the goal for the \$71,000 local match for the next round of GRHTF monies which would leverage \$272,000 to the region. Hanan stated that RLF is making changes to their work plans, consolidating into one EDA plan, upping the loan limit to \$250,000, and cleaning up language. James highlighted some points from the Planning Department report stating that the summer interns have been a huge asset to the planning department and organization for the last four months and were involved with a training session on the speed indicators, worked on the CEDS draft plan, Greater Burlington Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Louisa County Trails Plan, and the Wayland Comprehensive Plan. He also went over upcoming grant opportunities such as the Derelict Buildings Program, starting in March 2013 and is a DNR program for communities under 5,000 for help with demolition or rehabilitation. Kuskowski stated all

full and part-time routes have been filled, and that we have interviewed four candidates for the 2 substitute driver positions. He further stated that the new buses have arrived, and one is in our parking lot if anyone would like to take a look. No action necessary.

2. Open 30-Day Comment Period – The Long Range Plan for the Southeast Iowa Region (CEDS Plan): Norris stated that today will mark the first day of the required 30-day comment period by the Economic Development Administration. He further stated that the period will allow for additional time to edit the plan and for review by regional partners and state/federal agencies. Norris stated that the SEIRPC Executive Board will close the comment period and review the final draft at their October meeting, and then the November Full Board Meeting will see the document fully reviewed and ready for final adoption. Smith made a motion to open the 30-day comment period on September 27, 2012 for The Long Range Plan for the Southeast Iowa Region (CEDS Plan), second by Beck. All Ayes, motion carried.
3. RLF EDA Amended Work Plan: Norris stated that the major changes are that the EDA RLF plans are combined into one now, and there is an increase to the per-loan award limit from \$125,000 to \$250,000. He stated that in addition language changes have been made for administration purposes in clarifying the roles of the Loan Review Committee, staff, and the SEIRPC Board. Folluo made a motion to approve the RLF EDA Amended Work Plan, second by White. All Ayes, motion carried.
4. RLF IRP #1 Amended Work Plan: Norris stated that the RLF IRP #1 Amended Work Plan also includes the change to the per-loan award limit from \$125,000 to \$250,000 and clarification verbiage. File made a motion to approve the RLF IRP#1 Amended Work Plan, second by Beck. All Ayes, motion carried.
5. RLF IRP #2 Amended Work Plan: Norris stated that the RLF IRP #2 Amended Work Plan also includes the change to the per-loan award limit from \$125,000 to \$250,000 and clarification verbiage. Edwards made a motion to approve the RLF IRP#2 Amended Work Plan, second by Trousil. All Ayes, motion carried.

#### **New Business:**

1. Keokuk Hospital Support Letter: Norris stated that the Keokuk Area Hospital has been attempting for over two years to change its designation to a Critical Access Hospital to increase its Medicare reimbursement rate, and to allow it to participate in the 'volume decline adjustment' request which provides additional payments to stabilize hospitals when patient volumes decline more than 5%. Norris further stated that the best way SEIRPC can assist them in their venture is to submit a support letter to various persons nationally relevant with information regarding KAH's economic and regional importance. O'Connor stated that he would hate to see the hospital close, as it serves a tri-state population of about 10,500 and they see around 13,000 calls in ER each year. Trousil made a motion to approve the SEIRPC Chair sign the Support Letter on behalf of Keokuk Area Hospital, second by File. All Ayes, motion carried.
2. Iowa Fertilizer Plan: Norris congratulated Lee County for landing the Iowa Fertilizer Company plan project which will have a big impact in our region for years to come. Norris stated that the company's plans to hire 165 permanent, full-time employees, and engage 2,000 – 2,500 construction workers over a period of 24-30 months to construct the plant near Wever. Norris stated that the plan is reported to be the single largest capital

investment in Iowa's history, at \$1,400,000,000. He further stated that staff is pleased to have supported Lee County in the development of the project through completing the Lee County General Plan, assisting with infrastructure funding, and transportation planning, and other planning assistance. Folluo stated that he feels it is more advantageous and goes smoother when you get Regional Planning involved at the beginning of projects. No action necessary.

**MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Norris stated that we had 73 golfers at the golf outing yesterday, and we have surpassed the \$5,000 goal in proceeds to go toward the local match for the Great River Housing Trust Fund application due on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Norris mentioned the need to choose a date for the November Full Board meeting as the fourth Thursday falls on Thanksgiving Day. It was the consensus of the board to move the Full Board meeting one week later on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to adjourn meeting by White, second by Trousil. All Ayes

Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Laughlin

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Mike Norris, Executive Director

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Jim Howell, Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_