

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2024

Members Present:

Ken Sharkey, Chairman
Jerry Dinges, Assistant Chairman
Robert Trentman
Rick Vernier
Marty Crawford
Robert Allen
Matt Smallheer

Members Excused:

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

Call to Order:

Chairman Ken Sharkey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Regarding the Agenda:

Chairman Sharkey asked if anyone present had a question or comment regarding the agenda. There were none.

Approval of the June 12, 2024, Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the June 12, 2024, Committee minutes. Mr. Dinges made the motion to approve the minutes, which were seconded by Mr. Vernier. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):

Mr. Rick Stubblefield stated Crysalis Biosciences, the former Center Ethanol plant in Sauget, is up and running. The facility transforms conventional fuel ethanol production to a Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). He expects a ribbon cutting announcement to be made soon.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that there continues to be multiple manufacturing interest throughout the county including projects in the East St. Louis, Sauget and Shiloh areas.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the feasibility study for the pipeline from Fayetteville port to MidAmerica/SAFB is underway. The Lower Kaskaskia Port District and Ed Weilbacher are leading this effort as Mr. Weilbacher was able to obtain the funding for the study.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that Belleville is proposing a new TIF district for an area in need of economic development. The area includes Bellvue Park Plaza and part of West Main Street where McDonald's and Steak-n-Shake were previously located.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that applications have been sent out for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery projects. Applications are due back by October 16, 2024.

There were no further comments or questions.

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Mr. Darren James stated that they have given notice to Holland Construction to proceed with the construction of the general aviation facility and the federal inspection station. Holland Construction has broken ground on the project. They received a notice of selection for congressionally directed spending from Senator Duckworth. Mr. James also stated Greater St. Louis Inc. reached out to him regarding a defense manufacturing company that is interested in hanger space and aviation development.

There were no further comments or questions.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Ms. Kimberly Huth was not in attendance due to a conflict.

Mr. Crawford made a motion to approve all the Director's reports and Mr. Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Comments:

Mr. Crawford asked who was interested in redeveloping West Main Street.

Mr. Stubblefield responded that there is not a particular person, but they are looking into revitalizing the area.

Adjournment:

Chairman Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Crawford so moved and it was seconded by Mr. Allen. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:21 p.m.