

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2025

Members Present:

Scott Greenwald, Assistant Chairman
Robert Allen
Marty Crawford
Matt Smallheer
Rick Vernier

Members Excused:

Ken Sharkey, Chairman
Robert Trentman

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

Darren James, Airport Director
Kimberly Huth, Director of Military Affairs
Ed Weilbacher, General Manager, Kaskaskia Regional Port District
May Brown

Call to Order:

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

Public Comment Regarding the Agenda:

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

Approval of March 12, 2025, Committee Minutes (action required):

Assistant Chairman Greenwald called for action on the March 12, 2025, Committee minutes. Mr. Vernier made the motion to approve the minutes which were seconded by Mr. Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the announcement date arranged for April 10th to reveal the location of a new billion-dollar plant has been pushed to June to allow airlines to also be in attendance.

Mr. Stubblefield yielded his time to Mr. Ed Weilbacher.

There were no further comments or questions.

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Mr. Darren James stated that March was a record month with a 34% higher passenger load and a 40% jump in concession sales. Expecting similar performance in May-August as well. Gulf Shores, AL will be a new destination starting in May as Allegiant has increased compacity. Steel construction and roof decking have begun for the Federal Inspection Facility and General Aviation Facility.

Mr. Smallheer made a motion to approve the Director's report and Mr. Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Ms. Kimberly Huth stated that she had attended the Association of Defense Communities Summit in Washington D.C. Members from the Pentagon, the White House, Congress, and Mr. Patrick O'Brien from the Office of the Local Defense Community Cooperation were also in attendance. There was a highly informative panel on Base Realignment and Closures. The cuts that are happening to the current workforce are primarily the contractors at this time. Ms. Huth also announced that there will be a ribbon cutting next week for a childcare facility located on the Base.

Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the Director's report and Mr. Smallheer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Comments:

Mr. Ed Weilbacher stated that there were no critical flaws in the final report of the feasible study of the pipeline that will run from the Fayetteville port to MidAmerica/SAFB. The next step will be phase 1, which will cost roughly \$1.5-\$2 million. That will get all the environmental clearances and about 30 % of the project design. The second project to announce will be building a new rail loop inside the current rail loop using a \$10 million IDOT grant. This project will update current rail and build a 2nd rail to transport gypsum and fly ash (waste products from the coal plants). Hoping to go out to bid this summer for this railroad. Estimating this project will take 9 months. The 2nd phase to this project is to build a rail yard and upgrade existing. The 3rd project is to put signals and gates on Baldwin Road and signals on Winter Road where the rail crosses the road.

Adjournment:

Assistant Chairman Greenwald asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Vernier so moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Smallheer. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:25 p.m.