

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2025

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

Scott Greenwald, Assistant Chairman

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

May Brown

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 July 9, 2025, Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the July 9, 2025, Committee minutes. Mr. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes which were seconded by Mr. Crawford. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Global Aerospace Summit is currently underway. This regional event serves as a platform to explore innovation, workforce development, and public-private partnerships within the aerospace sector. The summit convenes industry leaders, government officials, and subject matter experts to discuss the future of flight, technological advancements, and the economic and environmental sustainability of the aerospace industry. This marks the first time the summit is being held in this region, with approximately 220 attendees representing 11 states. Mr. Stubblefield expressed appreciation to Mr. Sharkey and Transit for coordinating transportation services for the event.

Mr. Stubblefield also shared that several discussions have taken place with the Village of Brooklyn and its newly elected mayor. The village is taking active steps to improve the community's appearance. Burlington Southern Railroad has committed to cleaning up areas along its tracks and will be contracting

a service provider to conduct a major cleanup effort. A follow-up meeting is scheduled next week with representatives for Terminal Railroad and Ameren.

Mr. Stubblefield reported continued collaboration with Scott Air Force Base (SAFB) regarding ongoing flood management issues, as well as participation in the Metro East Flood Collaboration Group. All related infrastructure contracts have been fully executed and are now awaiting environmental clearances.

Mr. Stubblefield mentioned that Avina has again postponed their formal announcement, though the company maintains that it is still progressing with its plans.

Mr. Stubblefield highlighted another major initiative in conjunction with the Aerospace Summit. The St. Louis Regional Freightway will be launching the Aero Careers Roadmap initiative on Tues, August 19, 2025, at the CAVE. This date coincides with National Aviation Day and also marks the one-year anniversary of the launch of the St. Louis Aerospace program. The CAVE has made significant progress in advancing aerospace career development and training in the region.

Mr. Crawford asked if they would be able to tour the CAVE. Mr. Stubblefield said he would be happy to set that up.

There were no further comments or questions.

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

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Mr. Darren James was unable to attend due to conflict.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Ms. Kimberly Huth was unable to attend due to conflict.

Other Comments:

There were no further comments or questions.

Adjournment:

Chairman Sharkey 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 5:14 p.m.