

To Grants Committee Meeting

May 14, 2025

MINUTES

Members Present:

Steve Reeb, Chairman
Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman
Scott Greenwald
Ken Sharkey
Matt Smallheer

Members Excused:

Courtney Moore
Richie Meile

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

May Brown

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Chairman Steve Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the St. Clair County Annex Conference Room, 2nd Floor.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Reeb took roll call.

Chairman Reeb asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were none.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey and a second by Mr. Smallheer, the minutes from the April 9, 2025 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smallheer, and a second by Ms. Gruberman, the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of April, 2025 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in April, 2025 were approved unanimously and placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Services Group and the reports were placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Development Group and the report was placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Workforce Development Group and the report was placed on file.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, the Community Services, Community Development, and Workforce Development Group reports were approved unanimously and placed on file.

Resolutions

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

A. Director's Report

Mr. Rick Stubblefield stated that budgets are currently being prepared for Program Year 2026 (PY26) for both Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and Weatherization. These grants are scheduled to begin in July.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that this year will bring significant changes to LIHEAP. All federal LIHEAP employees have been terminated, and program responsibilities have been transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services. Furthermore, no federal funding for LIHEAP has been allocated in the new budget. While 90% of this year's LIHEAP funds had already been drawn down, the remaining 10% has now also been secured. Currently, there is no immediate concern. LIHEAP is supported by both federal and state funding. If the federal portion is eliminated, a scaled-down version of the program would continue using only state funds. This would result in reduced benefits and eligibility limited to individuals served by utility companies that contribute to the LIHEAP fund-primarily Ameren customers in our area. Propane assistance would no longer be available.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Community Service Block Grant program has not been reauthorized and could potentially be eliminated entirely. Unlike LIHEAP, CSBG receives no state funding. The program currently provides critical support such as rental assistance, aid for domestic violence survivors and fire victims, dental services, and food pantry resources.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that all Disaster Recovery employees have been laid off. However, two of those grants remain active; a \$30 million grant for which contracts have recently been sent out, and a \$90 million grant. Progress continues on the \$90 million, with a contract recently signed to begin developing an action plan. The administrative portion has already been approved. The rest of the Community Development Block Grant program remain fully intact.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that Workforce Development allocations, also set to begin July 1, were recently withdrawn for reevaluation of all Workforce programs.

Mr. Stubblefield concluded by emphasizing that St. Clair County operates differently from most. While other counties have separate entities-and separate administrative costs-for Community Action, Workforce, and Community Development, St. Clair County consolidates all three departments under one structure. This lean operational model allows for flexibility in staffing and resource allocation, especially during budget cuts. Mr. Stubblefield expressed confidence in the department's ability to adapt and continue providing essential services to the community.

Mr. Greenwald made a motion to approve the Director's report and Ms. Gruberman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Comments

None.

Adjournment

Chairman Steve Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, motion passed, and Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.