

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

19 Public Square, Suite 200
Belleville, IL 62220-1695
Phone: 618-825-3200
www.co.st-clair.il.us
Facebook: StClairCountyEconDev
Twitter: @SCCEconDev



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2025

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

Kimberly Huth, Military Affairs Director
Ed Weilbacher, Kaskaskia Port District Manager
Brent Donavon, Kaskaskia Port District Manager
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 October 8, 2025, Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the October 8, 2025, Committee minutes. Mr. Greenwald made the motion to approve the minutes which were seconded by Mr. Smallheer. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):

Mr. Stubblefield yielded his time to Ed Weilbacher, Kaskaskia Port District Manager.

Mr. Ed Weilbacher informed the Board of his intention to retire at the end of the year and introduced Brent Donavon as the incoming General Manager of the Kaskaskia Port District. Mr. Donavon explained that he is originally from the region and has spent the past fifteen years on the East Coast working for Class I railroads. He expressed enthusiasm about returning to the area and assuming this new role.

Mr. Weilbacher also provided an update on the pipeline infrastructure study assessing the movement of fuel from the Fayetteville terminal to Scott Airforce Base (SAFB). The study concluded that the pipeline is feasible and identified no significant issues that would impede the project. Efforts are now focused on securing approximately \$68 million in funding.

Additionally, Mr. Weilbacher reported that legislation has been passed to merge the Southwest Regional Port District with the Kaskaskia Port District, and the Board is awaiting the Governor's signature. The consolidated district will continue to operate with a fifteen-member board, consisting of eight representatives from St. Clair County, four from Randolph County, and three from Monroe County.

There were no further comments or questions.

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 discussed the impact of the government shutdown. She stated that the Department of Defense (DoD) Guidance for Continuation of Operations during a lapse in appropriations confirms that public and community outreach programs are paused during the funding lapse unless supported by non-appropriated funds. This DoD policy is being enforced uniformly across installations.

As of late October 2025, there has been no official notice identifying construction projects at SAFB that are directly halted. However, standard DoD shutdown procedures suspend any Military Construction (MILCON) or facility improvement work not already funded or obligated. Routine maintenance and mission-critical projects continue with minimal staffing, while non-mission essential construction and contracting may be delayed until funding resumes.

Last week's SAFB Food Drive was a tremendous success-collecting enough donations to assemble 500 complete meals and restock the base's shopping area for families affected by the shutdown. Residents, including furloughed workers, contributed from a few cans to full carloads of groceries.

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

Other Comments:

There were no further comments or questions.

Adjournment:

Chairman Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Smallheer so moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Greenwald. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:28 p.m.