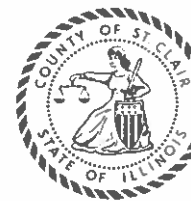


ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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 September 10, 2025

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

Rick Vernier

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

May Brown
Stephaine Smallheer

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 August 13, 2025, Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the August 13, 2025, Committee minutes. Mr. Smallheer 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 collaboration continues with the newly elected mayor of the Village of Brooklyn on community revitalization efforts aimed at preparing the area for future business attractions. Ameren, Terminal Railroad Association, and Burlington Southern are all actively participating in these discussions, demonstrating strong public-private alignment and regional support.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that Rheinisch-Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk (RWE) Energy has proposed the addition of an energy storage facility to the existing Bee Hollow project, representing a significant step forward in modernizing the region's energy infrastructure and enhancing grid reliability. This development positions the area as a potential leader in sustainable energy innovation.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Enjoy Illinois 300, held last weekend, once again served as a strong economic driver for the region. During the event, productive discussions were held with several site selectors. One notable interaction involved a selector specializing in aerospace development, who was previously unfamiliar with the region. The discussion highlighted Boeings regional operations, West Star Aviation and Gulfstream, MidAmerica Airport and its aerospace industrial park, and the joint-use agreement with Scott Air Force Base (SAFB). This engagement opened the door for potential future investment in aerospace-related initiatives.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that engagement continues with the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) team to address persistent flooding challenges on and around SAFB. These efforts are critical to preserving base operation and ensuring long-term infrastructure resilience.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Environmental assessments are currently underway for all 2022 projects. The action plan for the 2024 grant has been reviewed, and modifications have been formally requested. Public hearings were held as part of the process, though no public comments were received. The team remains committed to ensuring the plan aligns with community needs and regional priorities.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the recently concluded Global Aerospace Summit was a strong success and exceeded expectations. Planning is already underway to host the event again next year, with the goal of further positioning the region as a strategic hub for aerospace investment and innovation.

There were no further comments or questions.

Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the Director's report and Mr. Greenwald 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 but sent an update to be presented.

Those updates are as follows:

EPA "Feed It Onward" Produce Donation Pilot: On September 6, 2025, Scott AFB hosted the national launch of the EPA's pilot program, donating 40,000 pounds of fresh produce to military families, highlighting environmental stewardship and support for the community.

New VA Clinic Opens On-Base: A ribbon cutting ceremony on August 28, 2025, marked the opening of a new Veterans Affairs primary care clinic at the 375th Medical Group. This expansion enhances access to healthcare for Metro East veterans, eliminating some of the travel burdens to St. Louis facilities.

Jet Fuel Pipeline Feasibility Study: A \$350K study (published July 2025) confirmed the feasibility of constructing a 16-mile underground jet fuel pipeline from the Kaskaskia River to Scott AFB. The project, estimated at \$68M, aims to improve fuel delivery reliability and safety; next steps include environmental review and funding.

These developments underscore Scott AFB's commitment to sustainability, veteran care, infrastructure modernization, and regional economic integration.

Mr. Smallheer made a motion to receive the report, and Mr. Greenwald 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. Crawford so moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Smallheer. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:14 p.m.