



East Central Illinois  
Economic Development District

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, December 5, 2008**  
**J. Dimit Meeting Room – CCRPC**  
**10:00 a.m.**

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**In Attendance:** Lloyd Murphy (Tuscola) President, Barbara Wysocki, John Dimit, C. Pius Weibel and Tom Carrino (Champaign Co.), Brian Moody (Douglas Co.), Ken Barragree (Iroquois Co), Max Olson, Mike Wileaver (Piatt Co), Diane Johnson (Ford Co.), Todd Lee (Vermilion Co.)  
**Others:** Paul Faraci (DCEO), Joe Streit (Parkland Bus Dev Center), Erik Kotewa (CCEDC)  
**CCRPC Staff:** Susan Chavarria, Brent Rose, Mary Cummings

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*Minutes*

**I. Call to Order**

Vice-President Pius Weibel called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

**II. Roll Call – Sign-in Sheet**

Roll was taken by written record and a quorum declared present.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

*A. Tuesday, September 5, 2008*

There being no changes or additions, **Ms. Wysocki made the motion to approve the minutes of September 5, 2008 as presented. Mr. Lee seconded the motion.**

Mr. Wileaver asked a question about fees on Page 5, section C. regarding how the minutes state the fees discussion was not left for discussion at today's meeting. Ms Chavarria recognized the error and stated that the sentence "He stated that the model is available..." on line 39, Page 5 would be removed because it is not accurate.

**Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously as amended.**

**IV. Approval of Financials**

*A. Balance Sheet and Income Statement from October 1-2007 to August 31, 2008*

*B. Balance Sheet and Income Statement from October 1-2007 to September 30, 2008*

*C. Balance Sheet and Income Statement from October 1-2007 to October 31, 2008 (not available this meeting)*

**Ms. Wysocki moved to accept all three balance sheets and income statements, Mr. Barragree seconded.**

Mr. Rose stated that the checking account shows net profit. The revenue is our grant that we receive quarterly from the EDA and each county's cost share. As of the end of October, the District has \$14,708 in the checking account.

**Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

1       **V. Old Business**

2       *A. Model Fee Structure*

3       Ms. Chavarria distributed the proposed fee structure for the model, the same that was distributed  
4       at the September meeting. She stated that staff recommends using three different pricing tiers.  
5       Tier 1 would be for all EDD members that pay the local cost share for the EDA planning grant.  
6       Tier 2 pricing would include all other EDD members and a few other agencies as listed, who  
7       would be charged \$100 per run. All others would be \$200/run. She stated that there was a  
8       suggestion made that any EDC in the 6-county area should be in Tier 1 rather than Tier 2. She  
9       said that staff is recommending this method, but the decision is for the committee to finalize.

10       Discussion followed.

11       Mr. Carrino asked about prior discussions about distributing the software and how that would  
12       relate to the fee structure.

13       Ms. Chavarria affirmed that there had been discussion about making the model available via  
14       internet, with RPC maintaining the black box and agencies being able to do their own runs for  
15       those who have access. She stated that it could be a ways off due to the \$3-4 thousand cost that  
16       we can't take into consideration this year.

17       Mr. Carrino asked about purchasing municipal multipliers for the model. Ms. Chavarria  
18       responded that if the municipality is willing to pay for the multipliers, then we would acquire  
19       them for use.

20       **Mr. Wileaver moved to adopt the fee schedule as presented, with the caveat that Tier 2  
21       agencies can solicit runs from paying members under Tier 1. Mr. Barragree seconded.  
22       Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

23       *B. EDD Resource Guide*

24       Ms. Chavarria handed out the draft EDD Resource Guide, stating that it is a benefit we agreed to  
25       provide to members as part of this fiscal year's tasks. She requested any comments by the end of  
26       the year.

27       Mr. Carrino asked that the EDD logo be added to the booklet. Ms. Chavarria agreed to add it.

28       Mr. Murphy asked if it was meant to be distributed to anyone. Ms. Chavarria answered in the  
29       affirmative. He requested that it be made available in PDF format. Ms. Chavarria responded that  
30       it would be put in PDF format on an EDD website that is to be created.

31       There was agreement to print 1,000 copies.

32       *C. I-Open Retreat Update*

33       Ms. Wysocki stated that Mr. Moody, Mr. Faraci, Mr. Rose, and she attended the retreat. She  
34       stated that it was a good experience on different levels. Ms. Wysocki and Mr. Rose attended as  
35       observers.

36       Ms. Wysocki provided a synopsis of the retreat. She stated that the business of strategic doing is  
37       a way of establishing networks and putting like people together to say what is going on here and  
38       here and what can we do together and establish relationships. The process was taking them by  
39       the hand and encouraging them to talk to each other and to establish a communication network on  
40       e-mail or a website to touch base. Trying to draw lessons for our own situation, there was a lot to  
41       be gained. She thinks that our group has potential for good collaboration, but we only talk to  
42       each other when we meet four times a year. If we are going to agree to do a project, that level of

1 interaction and collaboration would have to be ratcheted up to make some projects possible. The  
2 idea of developing comprehensive plans or strategic plans and thinking how these translate into  
3 implementation and action on their own is not working; we have been frustrated developing plans  
4 and then have them collect dust on a shelf. She thinks that this points to that next step, a lot of  
5 which is being more collaborative. It points to the message that she thinks we all have gotten  
6 from the federal government that if your area wants to receive money, you have to be part of a  
7 broader regional organization. They want to see activity going on between the various units.  
8

9 Mr. Moody concurred. He stated that Douglas County is trying to go into the next phase of what  
10 the retreat tried to do with the group. He thought it would have been nice for a couple more days  
11 of this type of interaction. He stated that it was unique because the people in the room were  
12 community foundations, economic development, education, workforce development,  
13 university/community college, k-12, superintendents, all with the thinking that economic  
14 development covers more things than what is typically thought of as economic development.  
15

16 Mr. Moody said that they just completed asset mapping, basically identifying all the assets in the  
17 region. The next step will be to figure out with all these assets in all these communities, how can  
18 we link them to other programs and other communities. He saw a lot of good ideas come out of  
19 the retreat that he thinks would benefit our group. He will try to get invitations out within the  
20 next two weeks so that we can have access to their new website, forums and blogs. He would  
21 like to see us do something in this vein.  
22

23 Mr. Barragree asked for more information on the website. Mr. Moody responded that ECIDC is  
24 hosting the website at this point, and that he will get the link out to members. He stated that files  
25 can be posted, there are about 46 members at the moment, and a lot of material is being posted on  
26 the site. It has the potential for being a neat way to communicate. He said that it is a way to be  
27 productive without depending on just periodic meetings.  
28

#### 29 *D. Community Ventures Network Update*

30 Ms. Chavarria stated that of the \$6,500 annual membership, we have \$5,850 covered. We still  
31 need \$650. We have heard from all but Iroquois and Ford Counties on cost shares. Ms. Johnson  
32 stated that the Ford County Board would discuss this at their meeting next Tuesday. Ms.  
33 Chavarria said that the membership would be covered even if those counties could not contribute.  
34

35 Mr. Dimit stated that CCEDC attended the last meeting of that group, and that there were seven  
36 presentations. Three of them were worthy of some follow up. He thinks it is a good place to  
37 generate a reasonable number of leads. A lot of the natures of businesses that Champaign County  
38 chooses not to follow up are more appropriate for outlying counties.  
39

40 Mr. Moody expressed that there was a concern about whether all six counties can go to this, and  
41 how do you fairly distribute that. He said his answer to them was that this is more of an  
42 information session, then follow-up on the businesses occurs after the fact. Mr. Dimit stated that  
43 there is such a wide variety of businesses. He could see a time where Iroquois and Piatt might be  
44 interested in the same company. There are a lot of agri businesses where CC might be interested  
45 in, but not to degree that others might. He said he can't see us fighting over leads. A couple of  
46 counties might pursue the same company, but eventually it will fall out where one would be more  
47 appropriate than the others.  
48

49 Mr. Wileaver asked how much notice we get for these meetings. Mr. Dimit said that dates, but  
50 not the companies, are scheduled a year in advance. Once we are members, we will get more  
51 advance notice.  
52

1 Mr. Wileaver asked if each participant county is allowed 5 members. Mr. Dimit stated that they  
2 don't want an army of people coming up. He thinks two or three representatives from each  
3 county would be appropriate, based on his experience with prior meetings.  
4

5 Mr. Dimit stated that a check to the Network would be best sent by the end of the year.  
6

## 7 VI. New Business

### 8 A. Annual Rotation of Officers

9 Mr. Rose said that only three counties officially can rotate for officers. He proposed the  
10 following slate:

- 11 1. Chairperson – Champaign County – Barb Wysocki
- 12 2. Vice-Chairperson – Iroquois County – Ken Barragree
- 13 3. Treasurer – Douglas County – Brian Moody
- 14 4. Secretary – CCRPC CEO – Cameron Moore

15 **Mr. Lee moved to accept the slate. Mr. Weibel seconded. Upon vote, the motion carried**  
16 **unanimously.**  
17

### 18 B. RPC Financial Assistance Programs

19 Ms. Chavarria pointed out a handout on the new Municipal Planning Programs initiative that RPC  
20 is taking on. RPC is offering to subsidize planning projects for all municipalities with the  
21 exception of those in urbanized areas. The program has \$20,000 available per year, contingent  
22 upon receipt of funds from State. RPC can fund up to 50% with a limit of \$10,000 for a planning  
23 project.  
24

25 Mr. Weibel asked if all six counties are eligible for the program. Ms. Chavarria responded in the  
26 affirmative. She stated that municipalities could come to RPC staff with a request, and staff  
27 would set up a proposed work plan and budget. If only one application is received in a year, we  
28 would go ahead and go with that project. If there are multiple applicants, RPC staff will decide  
29 who will receive assistance.  
30

31 Ms. Wysocki asked if this had been announced to all the communities. Ms. Chavarria said that  
32 they had not yet been contacted, but would be soon. She requested that everyone announce the  
33 program if they have an opportunity to do so.  
34

35 Ms. Chavarria stated that RPC is always looking for additional funding sources, and asked what  
36 revolving loan funds are available for each county. The group provided the following  
37 information:

38 Douglas: none  
39 Champaign: Rantoul  
40 Ford: Paxton and Gibson City  
41 Iroquois: Iroquois County and Watseka  
42 Piatt: none  
43 Vermilion: Danville  
44

### 45 C. County Fact Sheets

46 Ms. Chavarria stated that as another benefit to EDD members, we would like to create county fact  
47 sheets; we are doing one for Champaign County now. She asked if any county needs work done  
48 on updating or creating fact sheets. She added that staff will create a new demographic profile for  
49 each county, probably 10 to 12 pages, for each county.  
50

51 Mr. Lee stated that Vermilion County has pretty extensive information and it is in electronic  
52 format on their internet site. Ms. Chavarria asked him to send the URL. Mr. Baragree stated that  
53 his agency's website has a link for demographic profile.

1  
2 Mr. Moody stated that ESRI did a profile for Douglas County that he could send to staff.

3  
4 *D. Approval of 2009 ECIEDD Meeting Calendar*

5 Mr. Murphy introduced the proposed 2009 meeting calendar and asked if there were any known  
6 conflicts.

7  
8 Mr. Lee said that there are some that have conflicts around the noon hour with this meeting, and  
9 said that he likes the 9 a.m. start time better. Consensus agreed.

10  
11 Mr. Murphy stated that he will not be available for the June meeting. Mr. Carrino asked if the  
12 September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting might be the Friday prior to Labor Day weekend. Ms. Chavarria stated  
13 that we could work around that if we need to.

14  
15 **Mr. Wileaver moved to approve the calendar. Mr. Weibel seconded the motion.**  
16 **Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

17  
18 **VII. Public Participation**

19 Mr. Lee stated that some of the group has been in contact regarding wind energy. Since there are  
20 projects in multiple counties, and other counties are moving along with implementation, he asked  
21 what the possibility would be of this group being a focus point to get with counties regarding how  
22 far along projects are. He stated that if one county is moving along and others are not, the other  
23 counties might hold up progress for that county.

24  
25 Mr. Moody thought it was good idea. He stated that anything we can do to coordinate efforts  
26 would be useful. Everyone is in various stages of development. Regarding the ordinance issue,  
27 we have zoning in place but not throughout the county. Others do not have ordinances.

28  
29 Mr. Lee stated that Vermilion County used a model ordinance from the Illinois Institute of Rural  
30 Affairs. Mr. Moody stated that we should have similar ordinance in place for all counties. Mr.  
31 Lee stated that it could be modified to fit everyone's concerns, but it provides a good basis model.

32  
33 Ms. Johnson stated that both Iroquois and Ford have ordinances.

34  
35 Mr. Weibel stated that we are working on Champaign County's, and thinks that John Hall has  
36 numerous counties' ordinances.

37  
38 Ms. Johnson stated that Ford County has one wind farm that is under construction and another is  
39 being proposed in Paxton. Paxton is wavering right now on whether they are going to enforce  
40 their 1-1/2 mile radius. Some of the farm leases have already been signed within that 1-1/2 miles.  
41 If they push the farm any further east, there is not enough wind, so there is some controversy  
42 about the location. If the 1-1/2 mile limit is enforced, it may kill the whole deal.

43  
44 Mr. Lee said he has talked with companies and the ones who are on their game understand those  
45 cities' zoning laws long before entering lease agreements. He stated that the company working  
46 near Paxton should have been aware.

47  
48 Ms. Johnson stated that no one foresaw the problem. The Planning Commission went along with  
49 the county zoning. But there are a couple of city council members who didn't finalize it. The  
50 City has tabled action on the issue.

51  
52 Mr. Barragree asked if it was EON Renewables that is the company seeking to build near Paxton.  
53 Ms. Johnson answered in the affirmative. She stated that they have signed leases in Iroquois

1 County, but there may not be enough wind to move east to justify the project. Ford County has  
2 five or six wind farms in varying stages of construction.

3  
4 Mr. Murphy offered that this is not a competitive situation between the communities. Ms.  
5 Johnson concurred.

6  
7 Mr. Lee said that McLean County was able to get as much from the wind farm developer as other  
8 projects in the state. He stated that there needs to be a balance as to what we need and what they  
9 need. Mr. Dimit added that McLean County extended their enterprise zone and put wind farms in  
10 enterprise zones. The McLean County Economic Development Corporation is the primary  
11 beneficiary of the enterprise zones, the capture of those property taxes.

12  
13 Mr. Lee stated he has heard that so far, all the wind farm projects in Illinois have been given  
14 enterprise zone extensions. In their case, they only have four miles left in their enterprise zone.

15 Mr. Dimit interjected that the expansions are occurring in 3-foot wide corridors out to the wind  
16 farms. Mr. Lee said that the only incentive the companies really need is the sales tax exemption;  
17 if the state can somehow make an allowance or law for the wind energy companies, then  
18 expanding the enterprise zones would not be necessary.

19  
20 Ms. Chavarria stated that if an agenda item on wind energy is desired, that could be done. She  
21 reminded everyone that they have 60 hours of free labor and that staff could do research on this or  
22 other topics for discussion at the next meeting.

23  
24 Mr. Lee said that he thinks their county boards will come to them asking many questions. Having  
25 one source for all the information would be helpful. He stated that we need to be consistent with  
26 information.

27  
28 Mr. Murphy stated that he would like an on-going agenda item for project discussion and contact  
29 information for point people for all these communities. He suggested having a meeting with all  
30 these point people. Mr. Lee suggested that a meeting be held sooner rather than later.

31  
32 Ms. Chavarria offered that staff could gather all the information and schedule a meeting.

33  
34 Mr. Wileaver stated that Piatt County is getting ready to do an ordinance sometime this year, so  
35 he was in agreement that we should all be on the same page.

36  
37 Ms. Chavarria asked what kind of timeline the group would like for scheduling a meeting.

38  
39 Mr. Lee stated that the companies have a process for establishing wind farms. They enter into a  
40 queue system to get on the electric grid, which is a 2-year process from the time they apply.  
41 Some are in the queue and some are undergoing wind testing using MET towers. They need one  
42 year of information in order to decide to move forward. Because there is so much competition  
43 among them, they are already entering into lease agreements with property owners in case their  
44 information is what they want it to be and they get permission to move forward.

45  
46 Ms. Wysocki stated that as chair of ELUC, she expressed interest in membership of that  
47 committee and the ZBA to do study session on this subject. She stated that some would be  
48 interested in a tour of McLean County to get a visual. If this committee is interested we could  
49 coordinate efforts.

50  
51 Ms. Chavarria stated that staff could set up a tour.  
52

1 Mr. Lee said that he would like us to figure out the wind farms' supply chains. There are still  
2 plenty of opportunities for getting in on the supply chain. But if we are two years down the road,  
3 we may be too late. Mr. Lee stated that there are over 1200 components to a wind turbine, such  
4 as blades, tower poles, etc. Most are foreign owned and there would be cost savings if parts are  
5 manufactured here where the farms are. His thought is how we figure out a strategy to get  
6 manufacturing here. The US offices are in the Chicago area because of O'Hare and because they  
7 are close to the farms.

8  
9 Mr. Dimit stated that they have had a couple inquiries from manufacturers. Mr. Lee stated that  
10 they had as well, but lost some primarily to Iowa. He knows that there are inquiries out there, and  
11 wants to know how we can strengthen ourselves to get more. He thinks that one of our strengths  
12 is through community college wind tech programs. The technicians are in short supply and  
13 companies are giving them jobs before they finish the programs. He added that they could make  
14 \$100,000 if they are willing to travel, and this should continue to grow.

15  
16 Mr. Wileaver stated that there is a firm in DeWitt County that is making tower bases.

17  
18 Mr. Weibel stated that there is going to be a talk on February 5<sup>th</sup>. They are bringing in an  
19 extension officer from McLean County to talk about wind farms. He will get information to staff  
20 to distribute.

21  
22 Mr. Murphy summarized that different agencies are at different levels and some may not need the  
23 tour. He suggested getting the contact information to the entire board and to schedule physical  
24 meetings and get things rolling.

25  
26 Mr. Lee mentioned that with bio-fuels even though we have seen a decrease in ethanol, with  
27 biodiesel we are still seeing some strengths. With the Blackhawk Plant in Danville, we're seeing  
28 additional interest in co-products. In talking with some of the wind companies, he found out that  
29 they are co-owners of the biodiesel facility. He suggested that they are all rather interrelated.

30  
31 Mr. Weibel added that there is a plan to put an ethanol plant out west of Champaign, and there  
32 was inquiry about putting a feed lot in next to it as a natural use of byproducts.

33  
34 Mr. Lee stated that the UIUC Masters in Bioenergy that is looking for people for their internship  
35 program. Mr. Barragree stated that Kankakee Community College has a wind tech course in their  
36 next semester. Mr. Moody stated that Lakeland Community College has a couple of programs as  
37 well.

38  
39 **VIII. Adjournment**

40 There being no further business to conduct, **Mr. Weibel moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr.**  
41 **Moody seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.** The meeting  
42 adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

43  
44 Respectfully submitted,  
45 Susan Chavarria  
46 ECIEDD/RPC staff