



SIREPA

SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL ECONOMIC & PORT AUTHORITY

Minutes of the SIREPA Board of Directors
Tuesday, January 28, 2020
Lee County Economic Development Group Offices
2700 Kindustry Park Road, Keokuk, IA

I. Call to Order at 1:00 p.m. by Mike Hickey

Roll Call:

Members Present: Director Mike Hickey (*Vice Chair*); Director Michael Dunn (*Treasurer*); Director Jack Smith; Director Bob Dodds; Director Bruce Hardy; Gary Folluo (*Ex-Officio*); Rick Larkin (*Ex-Officio*); Matt Larson, Iowa Treasurer's Office (*Ex-Officio*) on the phone

Members Absent: Director Denise Boyer (*Chair*);

SEIRPC Staff Present: Mike Norris and Zach James, SEIRPC

Guest(s) Present: Charles Bell (MAPC), Dan Wiedemeier (MAPC), Nancy Snaadt (Alliant Energy), Joe Stiel (MAPC), Dennis Fraise (Lee County Economic Development Group)

II. Consider Approval of Agenda

Smith made a motion to approve the January 28, 2020 meeting agenda with the move of **Item VI to Item IV**, second by Dunn. All ayes, motion carried.

III. Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dodds made a motion to approve the November 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes, second by Hardy. All ayes, motion carried.

IV. Directors and Officer's Insurance Update (Board Action)

Norris briefly reviewed proposed budget highlighting the line item for Director's and Officer's Insurance. He then turned his attention to his memo regarding Director's and Officer's Insurance highlighting the two quotes received. Hickey asked the question of why coverage was so much cheaper for one quote. Norris explained his thoughts based on the one provider's coverage of similar organizations statewide likely attributing to the lower cost. There was additional cost about the coverage and what all it included. Board members felt comfortable with the proposal but would like to have a presentation at a

future meeting to describe in more detail what the insurance coverage includes. Dodds made a motion to approve the quote from **ICAP Insurance**, second by Dunn. All ayes, motion carried.

V. FY2021 Budget (Board Action)

Norris reviewed his memo on the SIREPA budget for FY2021. He highlighted that this budget is a simplified budget for basic administration of SIREPA that does not include potential additional costs that may come about if projects such as a joint education center, land bank, or other special projects were to drastically change the staff time and/or expenditures for FY2021. He touched on the revenues of organizing member dues and the ability to leverage SEIRPC Transportation Planning Grant. He also highlighted anticipated expenses, include the previous item on Director's and Officer's Insurance. Smith made a motion to approve the FY2021 Budget, second by Dunn. All ayes, motion carried.

VI. Member Meetings (Board Information)

Norris highlighted the Boards discussion from the previous meeting about meeting with member entities to discuss the status of SIREPA and to make a request for continued funding. He further mentioned that the strategic plan was just released, so it would be a good time to provide an update and make a request for funds. The board had previously mentioned attending these meetings with staff and wanted to know if this was still the direction of the board. It was decided that the members appointed by each entity would plan to attend a city council or board of supervisors meeting with staff sometime in mid to late February. Norris also noted a need to do a SIREPA Orientation with Director Hardy and Director Dodds.

VII. Lee County Joint Education Center Update (Board Information):

Norris turned the floor over to Dennis Fraise with LCEDG to give an update. Fraise mentioned that LCEDG has negotiated an option for purchase that is good for 6 months and was approved on January 23rd. Currently SCC is meeting with local school districts and industry to finalize curriculum, cost of programs, cost of operations, and working on a SAVE grant. Fraise mentioned there will be one SAVE grant across the entire state for \$1,000,000. Industry is working on determining a feasible amount of funding they can provide towards the operation of a center. There was some discussion regarding the property of the proposed Joint Education Center and previous plans for a Joint Education Center in the late 1990's. Norris wrapped up the conversation mentioning that SIREPA fits in at the right to participate and will continue to work on the things we need to as an organization such as talking with the banks, anticipating carrying costs, etc. Dunn mentioned the need for an attorney if we continue moving forward. Norris mention he had reached out to two local attorneys, in addition to previously contacted Lynch Dallas. It was noted that one attorney had a conflict of interest, but **Jim Dennis** was willing to help when we were ready.

VIII. Port Statistical Area (PSA) Discussion (Board Information):

Norris reviewed a memo he had prepared that provided some general knowledge of Port Statistical Area including an upcoming meeting on Thursday, January 30th to discuss the topic in more detail. He highlighted two efforts underway to name certain Mississippi River miles, and ports on either side of the river a Port Statistical Area. He introduced Charles Bell, Dan Wiedemeier, and Joe Steil with Mid-American Port Commission (MAPC).

Charles Bell, Administrator of the MAPC, also updated the directors on MAPC efforts and perspective on the Port Statistical Area concept. Dennis Fraise mentioned the importance of the PSA from an economic development standpoint in the ability to use it for marketing and PR. Dunn and Hickey both questioned if there was a role for SIREPA in this discussion. Gary Folluo mentioned that he felt it would be beneficial for SIREPA to provide a recommendation to the Lee County Supervisors. Norris provided additional details about the meeting on January 30th and encourage everyone to attend to learn more about PSAs.

IX. Matters from the Floor:

Mike Hickey mentioned that we will need to schedule our next meeting, likely based on any new information regarding the Joint Education Center. There was also some discussion about future agenda items including discussion and recommendation on PSA boundaries and a review of bylaws. Directors also requested Norris schedule meetings with members to present the strategic plan and coordinate budget requests.

X. Consider Adjournment (Board Action)

Hickey made a motion to adjourn, second by Dunn. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting ended at 2:10 pm.