



SIREPA

SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL
ECONOMIC & PORT AUTHORITY

September 24, 2020

**Meeting of the Board of Directors
10:00am – 11:00am**

Via Zoom or in Person at SEIRPC Offices, West Burlington

Call-In: (312) 626-6799 Meeting ID: 835 4124 6406

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83541246406>

Agenda

I. Call to Order, Chair (Boyer):

Roll Call:

- a. Director Denise Boyer, Chair
- b. Director Mike Hickey, Vice-Chair
- c. Director Michael Dunn, Treasurer
- d. Director Jack Smith
- e. Director, Bob Dodds
- f. Ex-Officio, Gary Folluo, Lee County Supervisor
- g. Ex-Officio, Rick Larkin, Lee County Supervisor
- h. Ex-Officio, Matt Larson, State Treasurer's Office

II. Consider Approval of Agenda of Sept 24, 2020 Meeting (Board Action)

III. Consider Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2020 Meeting (Board Action)

IV. Port Statistical Areas (Memo from SEIRPC, Board Update)

V. Strategic Plan (Memo from SEIRPC, Board Update)

VI. Closed Session

To go into Closed Session for the purpose of: To discuss the purchase of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property as per State Code, Chapter 21.5.1(j)

VII. To go back into regular meeting (Board Action)

VIII. Matters from the Floor

IX. Consider Adjournment (Board Action)



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.



Memo

To: SIREPA Board of Directors
From: Mike Norris, SEIRPC
Date: September 24, 2020
Re: Port Statistical Area (PSA) Information

Information on Port Statistical Areas (PSA) are presented as a matter of general and regional interest and utility.

PSAs are a way to collect and present data of inbound and outbound port tonnages. A traffic count by weight. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) annually collect data voluntarily from every port receiving freight in the U.S. The top 150 ports by tonnage are presented annually in a report and other data is available.

By tonnage, Iowa ranks 39th in the U.S. for waterborne freight. Louisiana ranks 1st with nearly 600,000 tons. Iowa doesn't have any federally recognized PSAs at the present time.

Col. Bob Sinkler (Ret.), USACE, has brought PSAs to regional awareness over end of 2019 and beginning of 2020. He has proposed various PSAs for the Iowa/Illinois ports on the Mississippi River and waterway, Mid-America Port Commission on the Mississippi/Illinois Rivers and for Illinois counties on the Illinois waterway.

A point of discussion is how to structure PSAs in the Tri-State area, given the presence of the Mid-America Port Commission. All other Iowa counties plan to sign onto a Iowa-Illinois port. In fact, SIREPA could theoretically apply on behalf of Lee County to be recognized as a PSA.

SEIRPC will host a meeting on January 30, 10:00am, SEIRPC offices, as an informational gathering to learn more about PSAs and their usefulness. Keynoting the meeting will be USACE Navigation and Civil Works Decision Support Center Director, Dr. Mark Sudol.

It is clear the area should be federally recognized with PSAs. A PSA simply counts the tonnage under a name in a boundary. The question is what the boundaries look like.

UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

All of Iowa counties save Lee County has joined the Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois Port Statistical Area (MRPEIWI, I might suggest to them a shorter acronym and pronunciation (PIM or Ports of Iowa and Illinois on the Mississippi) but I digress. MRPEIWI as proposed is not yet a formal PSA.

The vast majority of counties in the Mid-American Port Commission (MAPC) area have joined by resolution or by default joined the MAPC Port Statistical Area.

The Lee County Board of Supervisors are looking to SIREPA for a recommendation on which board to join. Here is a short list of pros (no cons here, others can come up with cons; joining any port statistical area is better than none, and Lee County can always retract and join another).

MRPEIWI Pros:

- Consistency with the rest of Iowa
 - Leverage one point of contact with Iowa and Illinois DOT
 - Leverage State of Iowa advocating for ports in Iowa
 - Analyze port data in Iowa bloc
 - Recognizable initiative to increase port data collection

MAPC Pros:

- Long-standing group that unites counties in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri under development initiative via ports and economic development
- Consistent with Tri-State Summit initiatives
- Leverage Tri-State Summit contacts and influence

There may be other pros for each, but members can inquire as to other issues that could be in each groups' favor. Lee County hasn't joined a PSA yet, and having port data included in either would be better than the present with no affiliation.

It comes down to marketing and influence as to which one is a better fit for Lee County. I'm happy to provide additional information for the groups' benefit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM MR. CHARLES BELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MID-AMERICA PORT COMMISSION

Mike,

Tonnage for the two ports if the MAPC legislative boundaries are used :
MAPC 14,385,829
MRPEIWI 8,222,770

Lee County tonnage is 1,944,639

These are all 5-year averages from the USACE

The MAP would rank about #42 in U.S. Ports if everyone stays together. Since Lee County's SIREPA is the only public port in Southeast Iowa if they do not remain in the MAPC PSA that PSA would no longer have public ports in 3-states and SIREPA would be in a 2-state PSA, Iowa & Illinois. It could remain in the MAPC but its tonnage would not be counted toward the MAPC PSA. It also seems like it would be confusing to market as being located in the MAPC but the PSA be a different area.

MAPC has been in existence for over 20 years and has been recognized by USDOT and MARAD. We worked with the five other states to get both the M-29 Marine Highway and the M-35 Marine Highway established on both sides of Iowa. This gives the state an advantage in getting funds for navigation and intermodal projects. MAPC has had a good working relationship with the DOTs in all three states. If Lee County remains in the MAPC PSA and at some time in the future the MRPEIWI does form north or us Iowa can market having the two largest ports on the Upper Mississippi River and a top 50 port. At this point MRPEIWI does not exist.

Let me know if you have any other questions or think any other information would help in the decision making process.

Thanks,

Charlie
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Memo

To: SIREPA Board of Directors
From: Mike Norris, SEIRPC
Date: September 24, 2020
Re: Strategic Plan Update

Nearly a year ago the SIREPA board of directors adopted its 2020 Strategic Plan. Since that time, SEIRPC staff have been working on what could be called the top priority of the organization – the Lee County Joint Education Center (JEC).

Of all the potential projects SIREPA has had the opportunity in, this would be the one with highest potential of completion.

Since 2019, SEIRPC staff have been involved in many, many calls, meetings and correspondences. SEIRPC staff have been acting in a capacity to both represent SEIRPC and SIREPA. The JEC is #1 on the Leveraging Capabilities goal.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

GOAL: **LEVERAGING CAPABILITIES**

SIREPA will leverage its unique capabilities as a port authority to complete projects that will improve economic development in the Southeast Iowa region.

STRATEGIES:

1. Support ongoing Joint Education Facility efforts to enable additional educational opportunities that support current and future Lee County businesses and industries.

Other goals of Organizational Operation and Legislative Issues have seen less attention. And the COVID-19 issues bombarding everyone have also affected SEIRPC's time in these areas. Staff has prioritized the primary reason SIREPA was created: to do something to positively affect economic development.

Staff encourages the board to revisit the 2020 strategic plan and measure where SIREPA is and where the board would like it to be over the next two to three years.