

**BOOTHEEL REGIONAL PLANNING
AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes

April 20, 2017

Chairman Lonnie Thurmond called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. It is noted that a quorum of the BRPC Executive Committee Board Members was not present.

Those in attendance included:

- Chairman Lonnie Thurmond, City of East Prairie
- Jim Grebing, City of Kennett
- Marilyn Fiddler, City of Malden
- Darrell Jones, Mississippi County
- David Blalock, Executive Director, BRPC
- Angela Earnheart, Fiscal Officer, BRPC
- Willard Adams, BRPC

EDA REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Mr. Blalock reported he has been in contact with a representative from the Economic Development Administration regarding the possibility of the BRP & EDC terminating the Revolving Loan Fund Program. The EDA Revolving Loan Fund is currently underutilized to the point the BRP & EDC has a sequester account to hold excess funds reported to the Economic Development Administration. EDA has stated the BRP & EDC can give back the excess funds and dissolve the program with no penalty if that would be the wish of the Executive Board. The current RLF Plan is outdated and any new loans in the future will be under intense reporting requirements and analysis. There will also be numerous requirements for reporting and servicing of these loans along with a risk analysis. Mr. Blalock noted Janet Miller of EDA has forwarded the BRP & EDC a process to request termination of the RLF grant award should the Executive Board approve. This will be tabled until the next regular meeting and/or a quorum is present.

VICE-CHAIRMAN VACANCY

It was noted there is currently a vacancy in the Vice-Chairman position on the Executive Board. A new board member will need to be appointed to represent Scott County in the future. After some discussion, it was noted Jonathan Douglas, City Administrator of the City of Sikeston, would be an excellent candidate for this position if he would agree.

This nomination will be tabled until the next meeting for a vote.

CHANGE OF TIME FOR JUNE 15, 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Executive Director Blalock stated the next regular meeting on June 15, 2017 will include review and approval of the FY 17-18 Budget and possibly review of the FY 15-16 Audit. Therefore, it was noted the Executive Committee will need to meet earlier to accommodate all issues. All in attendance agreed the Board should meet at 1:00 p.m. on June 15, 2017.

CDBG APPLICATION SUBMITTED

Community Development Block Grant applications have been submitted for the following cities/counties: City of Hornersville – street project; City of Malden – street project; City of Charleston – new fire station; and the

Pemiscot County Memorial Hospital – emergency application. We have been informed that a total of 38 CDBG applications were submitted state-wide this application cycle.

CURRENT APPLICATIONS

The BRP & EDC is currently working with the cities of Arbyrd and Puxico to submit water/wastewater improvement applications.

Mrs. Cindy-Lyn White, Community Development Director, is currently working with the cities of Homestown and Morley on completing a LMI survey in each community for use in future projects.

HIRING OF NEW PART-TIME EMPLOYEE

David Blalock noted the BRP & EDC has hired Debra McKay as a Grant Administrative Assistant to work part-time with a maximum 24 hours a week.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR POSITION

The BRP & EDC has received a total of nine applications for the Economic Development Director position currently vacant. Three of those individuals will be interviewed on April 21, 2017.

PINHOOK RELOCATION PROJECT

The Department of Economic Development has required a fair housing survey of the residents of the Village of Pinhook regarding the possibility of moving the village to land located in the City of Morley or whether the residents would prefer to accept individual housing units of their choice. A meeting was held with the residents of the Village of Pinhook April 19, 2017 to reveal the results of the survey. The residents will now be working on a one on one basis for housing/locations of their choice as long as the location is within a 30 mile radius of the previous Village of Pinhook.

MODOT WORKPLAN FY 2018

The FY 2018 MoDOT Workplan will be due June 1, 2017.

BLOOMFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Bloomfield Housing Authority Environmental Review has been completed and upon approval, the Housing Authority will be invoiced for \$1,500.00.

NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATES

The BRP & EDC has received the contracts for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan updates for each of the six counties in the Bootheel and the contracts have been executed. Mr. Marcus Norden, Regional Planner, is currently working with New Madrid County to begin the plan update and will be contacting the remaining five counties at a later date.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Executive Director Blalock noted the budget President Trump has signed will eliminate approximately 80-85% of the BRP & EDC's funding including the elimination of the Economic Development Administration, the Community Development Block Grant program, and the Rural Development Water and Wastewater Program.

GUEST SPEAKER – KALEIGH PENROD, OUTREACH COORDINATOR - BOOTHEEL BABIES AND FAMILIES

Executive Director Blalock announced the guest speaker for today will be Kaleigh Penrod, Outreach Coordinator with Bootheel Babies and Families.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

**BOOTHEEL REGIONAL PLANNING
AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

FULL COMMISSION

Minutes

April 20, 2017

Mr. David Blalock called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. It was noted that a quorum of the BRP & EDC members was present.

GUEST SPEAKER – KALEIGH PENROD, OUTREACH COORDINATOR – BOOTHEEL BABIES AND FAMILIES

Executive Director David Blalock introduced Ms. Kaleigh Penrod, Outreach Coordinator with Bootheel Babies and Families. Ms. Penrod began by explaining that Bootheel Babies and Families is an infant mortality reduction initiative spearheaded by Bootheel Network for Health Improvement and Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium.

The backbone of the organization is Bootheel Network for Health Improvement which supports initiative efforts and guides the vision and strategy of the program. The organization shares knowledge, coordinates and manages the policies and resources of Bootheel Babies and Families.

Ms. Penrod explained the factors associated with infant mortality including maternal health and behaviors, race, socioeconomics, and quality of and access to medical care. The top areas addressed by the organization include safe sleep, pre and post-natal care and substance use and misuse. In the Bootheel of Missouri; 135 babies died before their first birthday between 2009 and 2016.

The goal of Bootheel Babies and Families is to reduce the infant mortality rate and help babies celebrate their 1st birthday, eliminate health disparities, improve the health of women and educate families and communities about how they are impacted by this issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

Executive Director David Blalock called the business meeting to order at 2:41 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the February and March 2017 financials and the February 2017 minutes. With a motion by Marilyn Fiddler seconded by Dovie Sebourn, it was moved to approve the February and March 2017 financials and the February 2017 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

David Blalock announced the traffic fatality rate statewide is 230 as of April 16, 2017 which is an 8% decrease from last year with 66 fatalities being unbuckled drivers.

MoDOT has let bridge repair contracts in March 2017 for paving of Highway 25 from Kennett to White Oak. In April 2017, over \$1 million contract will be bid for ADA improvements in the cities of Campbell and Caruthersville.

According to Ms. Brittany Limburg, coordinator for the IRT Program and liaison with the Delta Regional Authority, the IRT Program and the Health Fair to be originally held on May 2 – 12, 2017 has been postponed to September 11 – 24, 2017 at the same locations. The locations are currently Hayti, Caruthersville and Charleston, Missouri. The soldiers will provide medical screenings, sports physicals, vision screenings and

provide glasses on site, along with dental services including extractions, cleaning and fillings.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Executive Director Blalock noted the budget President Trump has signed will eliminate approximately 80-85% of the BRP & EDC's funding including the elimination of the Economic Development Administration, the Community Development Block Grant program, and the Rural Development Water and Wastewater Program. Attendees were encouraged to let their respective State Senators and Area Representatives know the importance of keeping these programs for this area.

LOCAL BUSINESS

During discussion, it was noted the City of Sikeston has a new airport terminal and the open house will be in June 2017.

The City of Portageville hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the wastewater project currently underway to benefit the city and SRG Global. Funding for the project included USDA, CDBG and EDA.

The City of Malden is currently replacing all water lines for an original cost of \$30 million. The city has purchased a boring machine and hired additional employees which brought the cost down to approximately \$7 to \$8 million. The city has also purchased a machine used to look underground before boring. It was noted City Clerk Marilyn Fiddler will be retiring June 2, 2017.

The City of Charleston will host the annual Dogwood-Azalea Festival this weekend.

NEXT MEETING JUNE 15, 2017

Executive Director Blalock noted the next regular meeting will be June 15, 2017.

With there being no further business, with a motion by Marilyn Fiddler seconded by Lonnie Thurmond, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Lonnie Thurmond, Chairman

Date