

**Central Indiana Regional Development Authority**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 3, 2019**  
3:00 p.m.  
MIBOR Board Room  
1912 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Committee Members Present, Representing Quorum:

Mitch Frazier, City of Westfield  
Keith Lauter, City of Greenwood  
Dr. Roderick Perry, City of Indianapolis  
Chris Pryor, City of Carmel

Committee Members Absent:

Tavonna Askew, City of Indianapolis

Others Present:

Anna Gremling, Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Sean Northup, MPO  
Taylor Firestine, MPO  
Chris Steinmetz, City of Indianapolis—Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC)  
Rick Cockrum, Capitol Assets, LLC  
Kim Irwin, Health by Design  
Erica Tait, Health by Design

1. ***Welcome and Introductions***

**Chair Chris Pryor** called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. and introductions were made around the room. Welcome to newest board member, **Dr. Roderick Perry**, Representative for the City of Indianapolis.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

2. ***Meeting Minutes***

***MOTION by Keith Lauter to approve meeting minutes from October 29, 2018, SECOND by Mitch Frazier, pending recommended revision to correct year on Page 2, Section 5 in the sixth sentence. Motion passed.***

3. ***Resolution 2019-RDA-001 Audit***

**Anna Gremling** explained that the Central Indiana RDA was granted an extension by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to complete the agency's 2018 audit beyond original April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to compile required information. City of Greenwood Representative **Keith Lauter** was recognized for negotiating a revised fee with London Witte Group (LWG)—decreasing the fee from \$15,000 to \$9,000. As CIRDA's Secretary-Treasurer, **Lauter** signed the engagement letter, included as Exhibit A to Resolution 2019-RDA-001.

***MOTION by Keith Lauter to approve Resolution 2019-RDA-001, SECOND by Mitch Frazier. Motion passed.***

4. **Resolution 2019-RDA-002 2019 Budget**

**Sean Northup** introduced the 2019 budget which was not previously approved at the October 29, 2018 CIRDA board meeting. The \$18,700 budget is composed of membership dues (based on population) by the member municipalities of Indianapolis, Carmel, Greenwood, and Westfield.

Some discussion ensued on the distinction between Included Towns and Excluded Town and Cities in Marion County. Per bylaws, all Included Towns and the Excluded Cities of Beech Grove, Lawrence, and Southport are part of the Indianapolis membership and dues calculation. The Excluded Town of Speedway is not a member and is not part of the dues calculation.

City of Westfield Representative **Mitch Frazier** requested revisiting the Central Indiana RDA's \$5,000 expenditure budgeted for website maintenance through its contract with Matchbook Creative.

**MOTION by Mitch Frazier to approve Resolution 2019-RDA-002, SECOND Keith Lauter. Motion passed.**

5. **Resolution 2019-RDA-003 2020 Budget**

**Sean Northup** introduced the 2020 budget for approval. He noted this is anticipated to be essentially flat (100% local funds). **Northup** also mentioned that the MPO will kickstart the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Central Indiana this year.

**Gremling** and **Northup** confirmed that all members appear current, but will doublecheck to confirm that 2019 dues were paid.

**Frazier** asked how the CEDS process may impact the 2020 budget. **Gremling** responded that if the Central Indiana RDA decides to take ownership of the CEDS, the budget could be amended.

**MOTION by Keith Lauter to approve Resolution 2019-RDA-003, SECOND by Dr. Roderick Perry. Motion passed.**

6. **Elections**

**Gremling** mention that, per bylaws, elections should be held in annually at the Central Indiana RDA's Q1 meeting.

**Chris Pryor** and **Keith Lauter** agreed to maintain their current roles on the board, Chair and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively. Should **Tavonna Askew** no longer serve on the board, **Frazier** agreed to take on her role as Vice Chair.

**MOTION by Keith Lauter to appoint Mitch Frazier Vice Chair of the Central Indiana RDA, in lieu of Tavonna Askew vacating her seat. SECOND by Mitch Frazier. Motion passed.**

**Northup** informed board members that Regional Development Authority (RDA) statute was assigned to a summer legislative study committee in the Indiana General Assembly. It's possible that board members may be invited to provide testimony before the committee in coming months.

STATUS REPORTS

7. **Financial Report**

**Northup** presented the financial report, including 2018 close-out. He noted that no expenses have been incurred yet in 2019.

8. **Strategic Plan Update**

**Gremling** provided a brief summary updating the board on the MPO's Strategic Plan implementation and moved *Agenda Item 9. Legislative Update* with **Rick Cockrum** up on the docket.

- MPO's Organizational Structure

**Gremling** presented a summary of the Indianapolis MPO Strategic Plan and how it connects with CIRDA's Strategic Plan, both of which were completed in 2018. She discussed the MPO's role to "convene, inform, plan, and fund," as well as the panels that were developed on the areas of transportation, housing, land use, water, economic development, and data.

Discussion ensued on the MPO's preferred governing structure and the need for enabling legislation. **Rick Cockrum**, of Capitol Assets, LLC, provided insight into the 2019 Legislative Session. An amendment to the RDA statute was assigned to the Ways and Means Committee at the end of the legislative session, then relegated to summer study committee. The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority was the first RDA designated in Indiana with its own state statute. RDAs eventually became the vehicles for the Pence Administration's Regional Cities Initiative grant funding program.

**Cockrum** noted recent developments in regionalism at the Statehouse, including so-called "Investment Hubs"—legislation that could enable cities, towns, and counties to create their own RDAs contingent on a food and beverage or local income tax. Fifty percent of this new revenue would fund a catalytic project of regional significance, fifty percent would stay with the local government where it was generated. He mentioned that the "Investment Hubs" legislation does not address pre-existing RDAs. In addition, **Cockrum** mentioned a task force was created by the state to investigate water supply and water quality.

**Northup** added that by statute, RDAs have eminent domain powers, authority to issue bonds, etc. Almost all powers have been stripped from the Central Indiana RDA.

**Frazier** asked for MPO staff perspective on merits of the current RDA governing structure versus the proposed RDA structure. **Northup** explained a hybrid would be best, using Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)'s umbrella structure as an example. He then presented a scenario known as the Central Indiana Regional Commission to illustrate how a similar structure might look in Central Indiana.

**Frazier** asked about the MPO's transportation funding process as it relates to the governing structure. **Gremling** responded that through a competitive annual call for projects, member jurisdictions apply for federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and are awarded through objective scoring criteria. She and **Northup** discussed how the MPO designation and associated funds could be layered with other federally-administered funds, like Economic Development Administration (EDA) program funding through the designation of an Economic Development District (EDD).

**Northup** discussed the pros and cons of the RDA versus Regional Planning Commission (RPC) government structures and how the MPO intends on tackling the issue by the agency's June 1, 2020 re-designation date as an independent organization. **Kim Irwin**, of Health by Design, asked if a council of governments legislation could be considered. **Northup** responded that the COG structure was outlawed by state statute in the early-1990s. **Erica Tait**, of Health by Design, asked if the MPO and CIRDA would compete, should the MPO adopt the RDA structure on the interim. **Northup** responded that this wouldn't be an issue since both groups would be funded through their own revenue streams.

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy / Regional Development Plan

**Taylor Firestine** provided a presentation on the process of adopting a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as part of the Economic Development Administration (EDA)'s requirements for designating an Economic Development District (EDD)—something the MPO will be taking on as part of its expanded role as a regional convener. The presentation included information on the federal funding programs currently restricted to Central Indiana and highlighted economic development projects and programs supplemented by EDA grants administered to peer regions.

**Pryor** asked whether the Central Indiana Chief Elected Officials (CICEO) has been briefed on the MPO moving forward with CEDS. **Gremling** affirmed and discussed how the process would happen if led by the MPO. Northup recommended that the entire CIRDA board participate in the CEDS steering committee.

**Chair Chris Pryor** entertained a motion of support.

***MOTION by Mitch Frazier to support the MPO in pursuit of CEDS and incorporating a list of priority projects for the Central Indiana RDA, SECOND by Keith Lauter. Motion passed.***

#### OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

9. ***Other Items of Business***

**Gremling** reminded board members **Chris Pryor** and **Keith Lauter** to provide reappointment letters from their respective mayors to enter into second four-year terms on the Central Indiana RDA.

10. ***Adjournment***

***MOTION by Chris Pryor to adjourn meeting, SECOND by Mitch Frazier. Motion passed.***

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.