



**Accelerate Rural Indiana  
Regional Development Authority  
Development Board Meeting  
Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
1:00 pm**

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**Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Development Board of the Accelerate Rural Indiana Regional Development Authority (Development Board) met on the above date and time at 314 W Washington St, Greensburg, Indiana 47240. Bryan Robbins called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Virgil Bremer, Bruce Everhart, Bryan Robbins, and David Toll answered roll call. Andy Saner arrived after roll call. No members were absent.

**REPORT OF SECRETARY/TREASURER ON GIVING NOTICE OF MEETING:** Everhart reported that proper notice of the meeting had been given in consultation with Indiana's Open Door Law and legal counsel.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes from the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Special Meeting of the Development Board were presented. Everhart moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bremer seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS, CONSULTANTS, AND STAFF:**

- **Officers** – Everhart presented the ARI RDA Development Fund October 2023 statement as the Secretary-Treasurer's report. Everhart noted that READI 2.0 contributions from Batesville and Greensburg had been deposited and were reflected in the October 2023 statement balance. Everhart also noted that contributions from Shelbyville, Shelby County, and Decatur County had been received, but had not yet been deposited. Everhart asked Gordon to follow-up with Rushville and Rush County regarding READI 2.0 contribution status.
- **Consultants** – Mason Gordon provided a consultant report on behalf of HWC Engineering:
  - **Project Updates** – Gordon shared that a total of \$2,277,481 of READI funds have been disbursed to the region's projects to-date. Gordon added that there are disbursements of \$178,864 pending approval in the Grants Management Tool.

- **RDA Updates** – Gordon provided a report on the upcoming Fiscal Agent transition.
  - Gordon shared that IEDC drafted an amendment to DCCF’s READI Grant Agreement. Adam Steuerwald, the ARI RDA’s legal counsel, has reviewed the amendment will soon be proposing alternative language in consultation with Barnes and Thornburg’s in-house ARPA expert and IEDC.
  - Gordon also shared a report outlining efforts to-date regarding the procurement of an accountant, accounting software, and audit firm. Gordon noted there is still one outstanding quote to be provided by Reedy Financial and an additional audit quote is needed based upon the quote received by Blue and Co. Everhart volunteered to contact Crowe regarding a second audit quote. Development Board stressed the importance of making an accountant selection at December board meeting and allowing accountant to advise on software and audit vendor selection.
  - Gordon also noted that the ARI RDA’s 2023 audit requirement can be waived by the Department of Local Government Finance for a lack of financial activity. Bremer moved to allow Gordon to reach out to IEDC and Development Board’s legal counsel to investigate a 2023 audit requirement waiver. Toll seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

□ **Staff** - None

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

□ **ARI READI Steering Committee –**

- Robbins and Gordon presented a report from the ARI READI Steering Committee’s October 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Gordon shared that a bulk of the meeting centered around the READI 2.0 Focus Group conversations held on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Robbins and Gordon presented a report from the READI 2.0 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Focus Group discussion held on October 26th. Development Board discussed key findings.
- Robbins and Gordon presented a report from the READI 2.0 Childcare Focus Group discussion held on October 26th. Development Board discussed key findings.
- Development Board discussed potential topics for a third READI 2.0 Focus Group discussion. Agricultural Innovation and Housing were the main topics discussed. Gordon, Bremer, and Everhart to brainstorm potential attendees and outcomes for Agricultural Innovation discussion and report back to Development Board with a recommendation.
- The next ARI READI Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Fiscal Agent Transition** – Robbins noted that Gordon’s earlier consultant report covered the Fiscal Agent transition discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Resolution 2023-04 Supporting Blue River Community Foundation’s Regional Lilly Endowment GIFT VIII Planning Grant Submssion** – Gordon presented Resolution 2023-04 Supporting Decatur County Community Foundation’s Regional Lilly Endowment GIFT VIII Planning Grant Submssion. Gordon provided an overview of the GIFT VIII planning grant program. Gordon announced that the Blue River Community Foundaiton will be submitting a planning grant proposal with the Decatur County Community Foundation to study childcare in Shelby and Decatur Counties. Gordon noted the childcare study’s synergy with READI 2.0. Bremer moved to adopt Resolution 2023-03 as presented. Saner seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Toll adjourned the meeting at 2:00pm. Quroum was maintained and the meeting continued.

- **2024 Meeting Calendar** – Gordon presented a proposed 2024 ARI RDA Development Board meeting calendar. Gordon noted the proposed calendar maintained the Development Board’s existing monthly meeting schedule of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 1pm. Everhart moved to adopt the 2024 meeting calendar as presented. Bremer seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- **Invoices** – Gordon presented one invoice for approval and payment by the Development Board. Invoice #2023-162-S-6 dated 10/31/2023 from HWC Engineering totaling \$17,762.50 was presented. Gordon noted that \$9,937.50 of the invoiced amount was for READI 2.0 planning services. Gordon advised that READI 2.0 planning is an eligible expense for READI 1.0 administrivie funds. Saner moved to submit the entire invoice to Wenning to be paid from the RDA’s portion of the administrative advance. Bremer seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

**ITEMS NOT KNOWN IN ADVANCE:**

**ADJOURN:** There was no further business to come before the Development Board. Bremer moved to adjourn. Everhart seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

  
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Bruce Everhart, Secretary-Treasurer