



**Accelerate Rural Indiana
Regional Development Authority
Development Board Meeting
Friday, December 8th, 2023
1:00 pm**

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 Washington St, Greensburg, Indiana 47240. Bryan Robbins called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Virgil Bremer, Bruce Everhart, Bryan Robbins, Andy Saner, and David Toll answered 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 November 8th, 2023, meeting of the Development Board were presented. Bremer moved to approve the minutes as presented. Everhart seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, CONSULTANTS, AND STAFF:

- Officers** – Everhart presented the ARI RDA Development Fund November 2023 statement as the Secretary-Treasurer's report. Everhart noted that READI 2.0 contributions have been received and deposited from all ARI RDA members except Rushville and Rush County. Bremer 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** –
 - **Disbursements:** Gordon shared that a total of \$2,295,243 of READI funds have been disbursed to the region's projects to-date. Gordon added that there are disbursements of \$193,517 pending approval in the Grants Management Tool.

- **Budget Updates:** Gordon shared that a few project budgets have been, or will be, updated in the Grants Management Tool:
 - Welding Program – additional public match
 - Community Center – Federal New Markets Tax Credit award
 - Preserving Main Street – Community Crossings Matching Grant award
 - Early Learning Center - additional private match
 - **RDA Updates** – Gordon provided a report on the upcoming Fiscal Agent transition.
 - **READI Grant Agreement:** Gordon presented a draft amendment to DCCF's READI Grant Agreement with IEDC prepared by the Development Board's legal counsel. Gordon noted that the draft was still being reviewed by IEDC. The Development Board reviewed and discussed the amendment. Everhart made the following motion: That the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer of the Board are, and each of them is, authorized and directed, on behalf of the RDA, to enter into the Grant Agreement substantially in the form presented at this meeting, with such changes as such officers shall approve, such approval to be evidenced by their execution thereof; and to execute and deliver, on behalf of the RDA, any other agreement, instrument, or document which may be necessary or desirable to consummate or facilitate the transactions contemplated by the Grant Agreement or discussed at this meeting. Bremer seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
 - **Project Subrecipient Agreements:** Gordon noted that all projects will need an executed subrecipient agreement with the Development Board. Saner moved to allow Robbins to enter into subrecipient agreements, at the direction of the Development Board's legal counsel, with all ARI READI projects upon the execution of the amended READI grant agreement with IEDC. Toll seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
 - **Accounting Vendor:** Gordon presented a summary of the two accounting vendor proposals from RBSK and Reedy Financial. Gordon also presented the two audit vendor proposals from Blue & Co. and Crowe. The Development Board reviewed and discussed the proposals. Everhart recommended the selection of RBSK and Crowe. Saner moved to enter into an agreement with RBSK and consult with Crowe regarding future audits. Everhart seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Staff - None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

ARI READI Steering Committee –.

- **Meeting Report:** Gordon presented a report from the ARI READI Steering Committee's November 14th meeting. Gordon shared that a bulk of the meeting was a discussion of potential READI 2.0 projects. The Development Board reviewed and discussed the report.
- **READI 2.0 Updates:** Gordon provided several updates relating to READI 2.0:
 - **New Hire:** Gordon shared that HWC has hired Nicholas Neuman, a Rushville native and current Purdue University student, to assist Gordon in ARI.
 - **Ag Innovation Discussions:** Gordon presented a report of several Agricultural Innovation discussions. The Development Board reviewed and discussed the report.
 - **January 16th Site Visit:** Gordon presented ideas relating to ARI's READI 2.0 site visit. The Development Board brainstormed additional ideas.
 - **Q1 2024 READI Forum:** Gordon shared that IEDC has asked ARI to host IEDC's Q1 2024 READI Forum. The Development Board brainstormed event ideas.

OLD BUSINESS:


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

NEW BUSINESS:

- Invoices** – Gordon presented two invoices for approval and payment by the Development Board. Invoice #3176717 dated 11/13/2023 from Barnes and Thornburg totaling \$2,019.00 and invoice #2023-162-S-7 dated 11/30/2023 from HWC Engineering totaling \$20,459.00 were presented. Gordon noted that \$12,934.00 of HWC's invoiced amount was for READI 2.0 planning services. Toll moved to pay the invoices from the RDA's READI administrative funding. Saner seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- Subrecipient Agreement** – Robbins noted that the Development Board handled this order of business during Gordon's consultant report.

ITEMS NOT KNOWN IN ADVANCE:

ADJOURN: There was no further business to come before the Development Board. Toll moved to adjourn. Bremer seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.



 Bruce Everhart, Secretary-Treasurer