

Minutes of the CDAP Executive Sub-Committee Meeting

The CDAP Executive Sub-Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Soeldner, Members Segobiano, Gordon, Erickson, and Rankin and Dave Selzer

Members Absent:

Board Members Present: Chairman McIntyre, Members Schafer, Caisley and Metsker

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, Mr. Don Knapp, First Assistant State's Attorney – Civil Division; Mr. Eric Schmitt, Administrative Services Director Ms. Diana. Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary;

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: None

Others Present: None

Chairman Soeldner called to order a meeting of the CDAP Executive Sub-Committee at 3:30 p.m. and declared a quorum.

Chairman Soeldner presented the Minutes of the July 12, 2017 CDAP Executive Sub-Committee Meeting.

Motion by Segobiano/Selzer to recommend approval of the July 12, 2017 CDAP Executive Sub-Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner confirmed with Staff that there were no appearances by the members of the public.

Chairman Soeldner asked Mr. Knapp to comment on memo from the Illinois Department of Community and Economic Opportunity. Mr. Knapp stated that at first glance it seemed to suggest that the revolving loan funds in the State are not fully unrestricted and that the State was going to look to recapture the funds in those. He stated that he called the author of the memo and person they had worked with at the State Department to verify that our prior analysis that these are unrestricted funds was accurate and he confirmed that because our CDAP program was capitalized prior to October of 1992; it was and remains fully unrestricted. Mr. Wasson noted that status of many of these funds that we have reported on will change with this outcome. Peoria and Will county funds have been designated unrestricted but others will no longer exist. Mr. Wasson stated that of the 65 remaining funds 57 have not made a loan in the last 12 months. Mr. Gordon asked if any relevance to action

of loan or just when capitalized. Mr. Knapp stated that two things make it unrestricted including date it was capitalized and that we had no other similar programs capitalized after that. He stated that if we had block grants this might not have been unrestricted. Mr. Gordon asked if this was an administrative rule as opposed to coming from the general assembly. Mr. Knapp stated that he did not know what led to this memo. Mr. Soeldner asked Mr. Wasson to confirm that the Funds were in our unencumbered account and not with the State. Mr. Wasson stated that was the case with all of the 65 remaining funds so those with restricted funds might have to return the amounts to the State, but yes, these funds remain in our unencumbered fund balance.

Mr. Soeldner stated that he would like to start the meeting with a discussion of how much we would want to use. Mr. Segobiano indicated that he felt that we should not make any decisions regarding the CDAP money at this time. He stated that we are going to be in a financial crunch and should leave it there until budget finalized. Mr. Sezler stated that he would second that. Mr. Gordon stated that if there was a priority program already on the table with some clear immediate benefits might feel different but since there is not, he would support Mr. Segobiano's position to leave the funds where they are. Mr. Erickson stated that he would prefer we go ahead and designate funds to a Rural Development CDAP program, but hold off acting on it until after the budget process. He stated that he did not want to send signal to some department heads that there is a million dollars setting in our unencumbered fund that they can have access to right now. Mr. Segobiano stated that his statement was to leave money as is. Mr. Erickson stated that he understood statement, but really want to see us create some type of rural development program, and designate something to it so that the money is not spent on something else. Mr. Knapp reminded the Committee that there was no action item on the agenda but if they come to a consensus, Staff would put information together for a stand up. Mr. Soeldner stated that he hoped that Administration would make it clear that Departments are not to use these funds for budget purposes.

Mr. Gordon stated that in previous discussions most of the Committee was in support of rural development and he didn't think that had changed, but given the budget crunch now is not the time to ask Staff to draft a Resolution for a specific program. Mr. Selzer stated that he agreed that rural development is important, and thought a grant writer could assist with that. He stated that time is not right to set aside funds at this time. Mr. Erickson restated his position to designate funds to rural development. He stated that we can always change commitment in November when we see the final budget, but the message should be that we are focused on rural development. Mr. Selzer asked if Mr. Erickson was looking at a direct loan program or some incentives to secure a business in the county. Mr. Erickson stated he had nothing specific in mind as another Committee would have to set up the parameters. Mr. Segobiano stated that the Committee is dedicated to rural development, but need to protect those funds for now. He stated we are discussing employees losing their jobs and rural development might need to take a back seat. Mr. Gordon reminded the Committee that when this Committee was first formed there were different financial circumstances. Mr. Erickson restated his position and stated that nothing stated today changed his opinion that we need to commit to it now instead of losing funding in the budget process. Mr. Soeldner

asked about other things we can do to make sure departments are made aware that the funds are off limits. Mr. Wasson stated that he felt the Committee had made it clear to Staff their stance on the funds being off limits.

Mr. Soeldner let the Committee know there was going to be a lunch and learn with Karen Bussone from the Illinois Wesleyan Small Business Center presenting information. He stated that at one point the Committee had talked about putting money toward this organization and encouraged anyone available to attend to gather more information and insight into the programs they are offering.

Mr. Beard stated that the question of employing a grant writer had been brought up at some other meetings. He asked if there was a way to find someone internally who could fit that position. He asked if budget situation changed thought on need of a grant writer position. Mr. Soeldner indicated that as far as he was concerned the budget did affect that because of salary and how quickly the grant writer could bring a return on investment.

Chairman Soeldner asked if there was anything further to come before the Committee; hearing nothing, he adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diana Hospelhorn".

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary