

THE KIRPC NEWS

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KIRPC LEADS THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE REGION

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is required by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) on an annual basis. However, every five years a complete revision is submitted, with yearly performance updates provided to the EDA. Each of the eight counties within the KIRPC Regional Planning Commission is also in the EDA region, which entitles each county to receive funding from EDA. And, having potential economic development projects listed in the CEDS document is a prerequisite for any entity to receive funding

from EDA. Additionally, the CEDS provides a roadmap for well thought out economic development projects at the local, county, and regional levels.

To assist in this effort, KIRPC asked Don Koverman, Senior Associate with the Purdue Center for Regional Development to lead and facilitate a series of meetings with a newly formed CEDS committee. This committee was comprised of member counties economic development Directors, elected officials and businessmen. It was explained that the

role of KIRPC was to play an expanded part in working with member communities in facilitating a regional approach to economic development.

The committee met on December 17 at the KIRPC offices in Monon with all regional counties present. At that time, the committee learned about the CEDS process, and then voted to prioritize regional projects, discussed the implementation of the CEDS once approved by EDA, and planned for the future work of the committee.

LT. GOVERNOR SKILLMAN AWARDS THE TOWN OF MONON \$150,000

Recently, the Town of Monon received a grant in the amount of \$150,000 from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The Town of Monon and the Monon Township worked with KIRPC to apply for a new pumper fire truck for the Monon Volunteer Fire Department that will be equally owned by the town and the township.

The Volunteer Fire Department serves the 3,142 residents in Monon Township in White County which includes the Town of Monon. The new truck will be purchased to replace the department's current pumper truck, which is a 1986 model that was purchased used in 1996 and is in very poor condition and is no longer safe or reliable.

A new pumper truck is essential to the fire fighting capabilities of the department. The ISO rating for the town is a 6, while the township rat-



Representatives from the Town of Monon and KIRPC accept the award from Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman

ing is a 9. If the existing engine is not replaced, the ISO rating will increase which leads to increased insurance costs. Therefore, this truck will be needed just to maintain their current ISO

rating. The Town of Monon and Monon Township recognize the need to further enhance the fleet of trucks to improve on the fire department's capability to respond to emergencies.

KIRPC HEAD START REACHES OUT TO LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR SUPPORT

“KIRPC Head Start is thankful for the generosity of all our county businesses, churches, nonprofit organizations, and residents. We appreciate the goods, services, and cash donations from Jasper, Newton and Pulaski counties which allow fieldtrips and other “extras” for the children from low income families.”

*Belinda Gutwein,
Head Start Director*

Mayor Herbert Arihood is an example of how the **KIRPC Head Start** program utilizes volunteers from local communities to support their program. **KIRPC Head Start** is a federally funded preschool for 148 low income children living in Newton, Jasper, and Pulaski counties. The **Head Start** grant has a local match of \$276,587 that comes in the form of donations to the program from the local community. **KIRPC** is thankful for the generosity of all county businesses, churches, nonprofit organizations, and residents. These donations allow for fieldtrips and other “extras” for the children.

Examples of local match at work include: cash donations to enhance playgrounds; parent/community volunteers in the classrooms as “guest readers and

classroom aides”; books/other donations from nonprofit groups within the counties. There are so

many ways to assist with the program. The greatest gift to children is the gift of “time”.



Herbert Arihood, Mayor of Rensselaer, reads to a KIRPC Head Start classroom in Rensselaer.

KIRPC TO HOST CDBG GRANT WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

“Many of the questions that we are asked during the grant process will be addressed at this workshop, so we hope that local elected officials will take advantage of this opportunity.”

*Edwin Buswell,
KIRPC Executive Director*

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) will be holding a CDBG Local Elected Officials Training at the **KIRPC** office in Monon on April 8, 2010 from 8:30am to 5:00pm EDT.

Local elected officials play a vital role in the administration of a CDBG grant. The training is designed to equip local elected officials with information to effectively carry out the responsibilities of a CDBG grant award.

The training will provide an

overview of federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements that are required for successful implementation and completion of CDBG projects. Additional information can be obtained from the OCRA website at www.in.gov/ocra/2375.htm. A registration form is available on the website, or you may contact **KIRPC** directly.

The registration deadline for the training at the **KIRPC** office is April 5, 2010.

KIRPC and OCRA encourage all

local officials within the **KIRPC** region to take advantage of this opportunity.



Edwin Buswell, KIRPC Executive Director

“With the uncertainty of weather creating the potential for hazards, it is critical that our counties have a plan developed that will open the door for funding from Homeland Security.”

Ed Gutwein, KIRPC

THE COUNTIES OF NEWTON, STARKE, PULASKI AND WHITE CLOSE IN ON HAZARD MITIGATION

After months of gathering information regarding natural and human-caused hazards, Newton Starke, Pulaski and White counties have submitted their hazard mitigation plan to FEMA for approval.

These four counties are responding to a requirement by the Department of Homeland Security to have plans in place to address the previously mentioned hazards. Approval of

these plans will open the doors for funding from Homeland Security.

These plans will serve as the framework for developing hazard mitigation projects which will reduce the negative impact of future disasters on the communities.

Past hazards have been river flooding, flash flooding, severe winter weather, and lightening related to heavy thunderstorms and tornados. Mitigation strategies can be developed to address items such as storm

shelters, warning sirens, flood walls, and fire protection enhancements.

Ed Gutwein with **KIRPC** is working with the Polis Center on the campus of IUPUI to write a grant for Benton County to develop a similar plan.

The anticipated approval of Benton County will total six counties in the **KIRPC** region to receive approval for their plans.

PULASKI COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, INC., CELEBRATES THE ARRIVAL OF NEW VEHICLE

In early fall, Pulaski County Human Services received a 2010 Small Transit Vehicle from INDOT through their 5311 transportation program. Eighty percent of the cost of the vehicle was obtained through a Capital Grant, with the remaining funds coming from the community.

This addition brings to nine the total vehicles available to all residents of Pulaski County.

KIRPC is the Grantee and Administrator of Arrowhead Country Public Transit Service, and has contracted for provision of service with community service agencies like PCHS in Jasper and Starke counties as well.

The new vehicle will replace an older one whose useful life has exceeded INDOT serviceability requirements.



Supporters, local officials and employees of PCHS, along with KIRPC, celebrate the arrival of a new small transit vehicle from INDOT

“All of Pulaski County residents can benefit from the newly designed small transit vehicle provided under the 5311 program sponsored by INDOT.”

Jacki Frain,

*Director, Pulaski County
Human Services, Inc.*

ARROWHEAD COUNTRY PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE RECEIVES INITIAL STIMULUS FUNDING

After being awarded \$544,524 in ARRA stimulus funding for transportation in 2009, the spending is underway for new vehicles, office equipment, GPS systems, security equipment, and communication equipment.

According to Randy Mitchell, Transportation Manager for **KIRPC**, Arrowhead Country Public Transit Service will initially receive

four 30' small transit vehicles for Jasper County Community Services and for Community Services of Starke County. These vehicles will serve as replacements for existing vehicles that have exceeded their useful life. Arrowhead Country will also receive four Low Floor Mini Vans for Pulaski County Human Services and for Community Services of Starke County.

“With the current fleets starting to show some age, the stimulus funding has come at a most opportune time”, according to Randy Mitchell, Transportation Manager for **KIRPC**.

In addition to the vehicles, the transportation system will receive copiers, computers, and updated software to increase efficiencies.

“With the current fleet inventory starting to show some age, the stimulus funding has come at a most opportune time.”

Randy Mitchell

***KIRPC** Transit Manager*

BENTON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF DELPHI AWARDED PLANNING GRANTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

At the close of 2009, Benton County and the City of Delphi were awarded planning grants from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

These grants will enable funding for studies to assist in the decisions for identified projects in 2010. **KIRPC** submitted and will administer the grants for each of the recipients.

Specifically, Benton County received \$38,600 to select a site and to design a facility to house a community center as well as a

visitors center for the Wind Farms that are so prevalent throughout the county. The study will look into 3 or 4 potential sites for the center. The potential financial impact of the wind farms to the county is immense, with an investment by the developers exceeding \$1.5B and lease payments going to over 370 landowners. The visitors center will contain displays of the technology through interactive kiosks. The community center will fill a void that has been missing—to serve as a gathering place for seniors and youth activities.

The City of Delphi received \$48,600 to renovate the existing 100 year old building located in downtown Delphi. The renovation study will look at the structural soundness of the existing facility and identify problem areas. There will also be a thorough review of the current mechanical and electrical systems to determine compliance with the latest codes and standards. The engineering consultant will also provide several conceptual plans and layouts for the renovation.

“The Education/Visitors Center Project will fulfill two needs for the county - namely, to provide a facility for our residents to gather, and secondly, to attract visitors to see and understand wind technology.”

Leon Cyr,

Benton County Commissioner

115 East Fourth Street
P.O. Box 127
Monon, Indiana 47959

Phone: 219-253-6658
Fax: 219-253-6659
Email: elb@kirpc.net
Web: www.kirpc.net

SERVING TODAY AND TOMORROW

Administrative Staff

Edwin Buswell, AICP
Executive Director
elb@kirpc.net

Belinda Gutwein
KIRPC Head Start
Director
bgutwein@kirpc.net

Randy Mitchell
Project Development/
Transit Manager
rmitchell@kirpc.net

Kimberly Baker
Grant Administrator
kbaker@kirpc.net

Lynette Carpenter
Financial Manager
lcarpenter@kirpc.net

Laurie Burton
Administrative Asst
lburton@kirpc.net

KIRPC MISSION STATEMENT

KIRPC is a voluntary public partnership serving Benton, Carroll, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski, Starke, Warren and White Counties that provides assistance to local units of government to maximize community and economic development opportunities for the benefit of all citizens.

Representation/Governance

The **KIRPC** agency is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of appointees from each member county, city, and incorporated town within the region. At least two-thirds of the membership consists of locally elected officials. While **KIRPC** personnel work in cooperation and coordination with federal, state, and local agencies on behalf of the member units of government, they remain directly responsible to the governing board.

CARROLL COUNTY RECEIVES A CFF GRANT FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT MID-LAND MEALS

On December 14, the Carroll County Mid-Land Meals organization was awarded a grant in the amount of \$250,000 to construct improvements at their Lafayette, Indiana facility.

KIRPC worked with Elaine Brovont, Director of Mid-Land Meals to apply for a grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs which was sponsored by the Carroll County Commissioners.

The project will include a new food storage/delivery dock addition constructed from concrete masonry walls, a walk-in freezer, a 6' high chain link fence and gates, a backup generator, and electrical system upgrades for the generator and freezer.

The Carroll County Mid-Land Meals project will help the agency meet its mission of providing a nutritious daily meal to those in need. The agency has outgrown its existing space and the freezer space is no longer adequate.

Including all meals, Mid-Land is averaging 1,825 meals served



Commissioner Hylton, KIRPC and representatives from Mid-Land Meals accept the award from Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman.

per day in 2009. This represents a 140% increase from the 750 per day in 2002 when they moved into their current building.

In addition to the increased frozen meals for sites, a need has surfaced for Medicaid Waiver Meals that can be shipped Fed Ex directly to meal clients all over the State of Indiana. This program began in

June of 2009, and already over 1,300 meals have been shipped Fed Ex in the first three months that the program was in place.

Mid-Land Meals is one of the very few agencies that can offer frozen meals that meet the current state guidelines for nutrition. Numerous agencies in several counties have come to them asking for an agreement to provide food in an emergency situation.