



# Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Bruce Rauner, Governor

## Minutes for the August 2, 2017 Enterprise Zone Board Meeting

### Location:

Illinois Building  
607 East Adams Street, Floor 12  
Director's Board Room  
Springfield, Illinois 62701

James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 3-400  
Illinois Conference Room  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

### Members Present:

(In Chicago) Sean McCarthy, Larry Falby  
(In Springfield) Larry Ivory, Connie Beard  
(Via Call-In) Jovita Carranza

### DCEO Staff Present:

(In Chicago) Sean McCarthy, Justin Heather, Victor Narusis, Nick Bender  
(In Springfield) Ben Denney, Emily Cully, Sheila Chernis, Teri Whitfield

### Others Present:

(In Chicago) Andrew Hamilton Jr.  
(In Springfield) Daniel Schmidt (Economic Development Resources), Gene Norber (EDR), Craig Coil (The Development Consortium), Bill Ratzlourg (Deere & Company), Ray Forsythe (City of Moline/QC), Brian Moody (Tuscola Economic Development), Don Althoff (City of Effingham), Gray Bradley (City of Kewanee), Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer (State Rep, Jersey County), Jeff Torricelli (Opportunity Alliance), Shari Albrecht (Jerseyville Regional), Jeff Soer (City of Jerseyville), Steve McClure (Opportunity Alliance/Effingham), Andy Hamilton (Quad Cities RDA), Jim Arndt (City of Effingham), Sasha Althoff (City of Effingham), Todd Hull (City of Effingham), Jeff Risby (Bartlett: Wert), Tim Carr (Kansas City Southern RR), Keith Moran (Jersey/White Co.)

Mr. Falby stated that beginning with the Whiteside Carroll application, the points for Criteria 3 begin to “fall off” and he asked if that could be explained. Mr. Narusis explained that as areas become more rural, numbers will decline and can have a significant impact on the scores.

Ms. Beard noted that the unemployment numbers didn’t seem consistent with the poverty levels and asked how this was possible. Mr. Narusis stated that there are different percentages that determine points based on the Illinois unemployment and poverty levels.

Mr. Falby inquired about the applicant creating a DZO. Is this new? Are specific points given for agreeing to do a DZO? Mr. Heather responded the scoring is based on statues and that agreeing to do a DZO would not affect scoring.

Mr. Falby inquired as to how they received no points. Mr. Narusis explained that DCEO staff reviewed the information that was submitted separately and then again collaboratively. Once the scores were entered into the scoring matrix the perfect scores as well as any zero scores were reviewed again.

Mr. Falby noted that the expiration date of this zone was quite different from the others and asked what the reason for that was. Mr. Heather explained that in previous years, certificates were given on different dates. Going forward, all Enterprise Zones will be approved effective first of the year.

**5. Review of and further actions regarding pending Enterprise Zone applications:** Chairman McCarthy thanked Mr. Narusis as well as the rest of the DCEO team. The Chairman then confirmed the next Enterprise Zone Board meeting to be Wednesday, September 6, 2017 in Chicago. He noted that the Illinois Department of Revenue would present its report and the Board would make its recommendations at this meeting. He then mentioned that a follow-up meeting would be held on Thursday, September 21, 2017 if necessary.

**6. Public Comments:** Chairman McCarthy opened the floor to the public for comment. Craig Coil with the Development Consortium introduced himself and stated the he represented Douglas County and that he assisted with the oversight of the Quad Cities application. He explained that a letter should have been received from John Deere which outlines \$1 Billion in investment plus the retention of jobs. He also stated that the Quad Cities had applied twice and that an Enterprise Zone is critical to the area. He has requested clarification and asked that the letter from John Deere be taken into consideration when making a final decision.

Tim Carr with the Kansas City Southern Railroad spoke on behalf of the Jersey-Greene Intermodal and just reiterated how important it was for their zone to be approved.

Keith Moran, representative for Carmi/White County/Edwards County stated that this is a smaller, rural area and that LLMA borders are limited due to the Indiana state line. He also mentioned that an in-house study had been completed to show additional information on the LLMA.

Gene Norber, speaking on behalf of Kewanee/Henry County had questions regarding zero points received for criterial 3 – Poverty/Free/Reduced Lunch/SNAP. He stated that at least 1 tract within the LLMA met this criteria. Chairman McCarthy then asked Mr. Narusis to clarify some of the zero point areas.

Mr. Narusis stated that it is very possible to receive zero points because the applications are being ranked against one another. This particular criterion can have a significant impact on an application’s overall score. As areas become more rural the population becomes less dense and therefore numbers start to decline.

**7. Adjournment:** With no further public comments, Chairman McCarthy moved to adjourn the meeting. Connie Beard seconded the motion. No objections, all were in favor.