



Rail Authority Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2024, 5:00 pm

Chicago Rockford International Airport auditorium
60 Airport Drive, Rockford, IL 61109

Agenda

Members: Paul Cicero, Chairman; Tom Myers, Vice-Chairman; Pat Agnew; Leslie West; Mike Schablaske; Jake Castanza; Dianne Parvin

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. CONSENT AGENDA: Approval of August 22, 2024 meeting minutes
5. PRESENTATION: Site Development Update – Charles Koontz
6. ACTION: **Resolution 2025-01** Authorizing Contract to Conduct Archaeological Survey for Site Development
7. ACTION: **Resolution 2025-02** Disbursement of Funds for Site Development
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

Opportunities for public comment will be provided at all meetings. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Region 1 Planning Council at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.



Rail Authority Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2024, 5:00 pm
Chicago Rockford International Airport auditorium
60 Airport Drive, Rockford, IL 61109

Minutes

Members: Paul Cicero, Chairman; Tom Myers, Vice-Chairman; Pat Agnew; Leslie West; Mike Schablaske; Jake Castanza; Dianne Parvin; Thomas Lester; Zack Oakley; Michael Dunn, Jr.

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Cicero at 5:30 pm

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the Board.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of February 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Agnew, seconded by Commissioner Castanza, to **approve** the Consent Agenda.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

5. Presentation on DCEO Site Readiness Grant Update

Mr. Dunn gave an update on the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) application for a Site Readiness Grant to provide planning and infrastructure on a future rail-served industrial park south of the airport. The developer continues to be highly motivated in developing this site and plans are on track.

Mr. Dunn asked the board for authorization to negotiate with DCEO and enter into a grant agreement should the grant be awarded. It is likely that the Rail Authority will receive the grant and it is desirable to get funds to the developer as soon as possible. There was some discussion.

Mr. Dunn discussed specifics to the proposed Rail Authority budget. A budget creation was necessary, as the DCEO grant requires inclusion of the applicant's budget, which also informs the overall project budget. Mr. Dunn emphasized that in this budget, the airport does not pay anything to the Authority and R1 does not receive any funds from the Authority. Discussion followed.



Mr. Dunn also discussed the need to retain legal counsel for the Rail Authority for future business dealings. Discussion followed.

6. Action: Approval of FY25 operating budget

Motion by Commissioner Castanza, seconded by Commissioner Myers, to **approve** FY25 operating budget

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

7. Action: Approval of Resolution 2024-02

Motion by Commissioner Schablaske, seconded by Commissioner Parvin, to **approve** Resolution 2024-02.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

8. Action: Approval of engagement letter for legal representation

Motion by Commissioner West, seconded by Commissioner Parvin, to **approve** engagement letter.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Chairman Cicero, seconded by Commissioner Schablaske to **adjourn**.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

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**WINNEBAGO COUNTY RAIL AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION 2025-01**

- RE:** To Support an Archaeological Survey for Site Development at the Rail-Served Industrial Park as required by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office
- WHEREAS** Illinois State Statute (70 ILCS 5/22.1) authorizes the establishment of a Rail Authority within Winnebago County; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority was established on June 26, 2008 by adoption of Resolution 08-48; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority can provide non-rail transportation services with the Counties; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority can set and collect fares or other charges for the use of rail or other facilities of the Rail Authority; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority can borrow money and issue bonds or notes by resolution; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority is tax exempt from all State and local government taxes, registration, and license fees, and all property of the Rail Authority is tax exempt; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority can apply for, receive, and expend grants, loans, or other funds from the State or federal government agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

the Winnebago County Rail Authority has authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into an agreement with a certified Phase I Archaeology Survey provider as directed by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

that the Winnebago County Rail Authority directs the administrative staff from Region 1 Planning Council to conduct any necessary revisions or related tasks for said survey.

Dated this 24th of April 2025.

Paul R. Cicero, Chairman

Attest:

Pat Agnew, Secretary



**WINNEBAGO COUNTY RAIL AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION 2025-02**

- RE:** **To Disburse Funds for Site Development at the Rail-Served Industrial Park**
- WHEREAS** Illinois State Statute (70 ILCS 5/22.1) authorizes the establishment of a Rail Authority within Winnebago County; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority was established on June 26, 2008 by adoption of Resolution 08-48; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority can provide non-rail transportation services with the Counties; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority can set and collect fares or other charges for the use of rail or other facilities of the Rail Authority; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority can borrow money and issue bonds or notes by resolution; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority is tax exempt from all State and local government taxes, registration, and license fees, and all property of the Rail Authority is tax exempt; and
- WHEREAS** the Winnebago County Rail Authority can apply for, receive, and expend grants, loans, or other funds from the State or federal government agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

the Winnebago County Rail Authority has authorized the Executive Director to disburse funds to subgrantees for the active Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Megasite Development Grant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

that the Winnebago County Rail Authority directs the administrative staff from Region 1 Planning Council to conduct any necessary revisions or related tasks for said disbursement.

Dated this 24th of April 2025.

Paul R. Cicero, Chairman

Attest:

Pat Agnew, Secretary