



Warrick County Economic Development Advisory Council

Regular Meeting – July 17th, 2025 –3:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jenna Richardt, Paul Perry, Brad Pemberton, Courtney TenBarge, Steve Smith

Members Online: Ron Bacon

Others Present: Steve Roelle, Holly Gossman, Jacob Shelton, Herb Davis, Greg Richmond (online), Abbie Redmon

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Paul Perry called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes – June 19th, 2025
 - a. As not enough board members were present for a quorum, the June 19th meeting minutes will be approved at the August EDAC meeting.
- III. Financial Reports – July 2025
 - a. As not enough board members were present for a quorum, the July EDIT financial reports will be discussed and approved at the August EDAC meeting.
- IV. New Business
 - a. Meeting Updates
 - i. Steve told the board that all of our meeting documents have been updated to include the required board member names, terms, and appointments. He said our website has also been updated to allow the public to access the meeting videos and documents.
 - b. Abatement Updates
 - i. Steve said he presented all of our tax abatements at the July County Council meeting and all were in compliance.
 - c. Economic Development Commission
 - i. Steve said the three members of the Economic Development Commission (Steve Roelle, Steve Smith, and Aric Pryor) have officially been appointed and are taking the required oath. He said this board has been around since the 1970s, but has rarely been used in recent years. However, the board could facilitate things like developer purchased bonds if needed for a project.

d. Park Projects Support

- i. Steve said he wants the board's feedback on supporting a couple of park projects in Warrick County. These wouldn't be County projects; we would just help provide funding like we have done in the past for projects like the trails in Lynnville and Newburgh.
- ii. Boonville Aquatic Center
 1. Steve showed the board the renderings for the planned aquatic complex in Boonville that would include a pool, splash pad, and an updated event room. This project is a part of Boonville's plan to make upgrades at parks across the city.
 - a. Herb Davis asked if this would be a 50-meter pool. Steve said yes.
 - b. Brad Pemberton asked if this would be the only public pool in Warrick County. Steve said yes, and that a pool was one of the most requested amenities in our housing study survey and the parks survey.
 - c. Courtney TenBarge asked if there were plans to update Studio Bee nearby. Steve said he wasn't sure if they had plans for Studio Bee.
 - d. Steve showed the board the detailed budget for the aquatic center project. He said the pool itself is \$17 million, which Boonville can already fund. He said the other costs are for the other additions at the site. He said this facility would be a game changer for Boonville, but they can't complete the entire project without additional funding.
 - e. Steve said his recommendation would be to ask for \$500,000 in EDIT funds at the September County Council meeting. This was the same amount of EDIT funds approved for the Ohio Township Park.
 - f. Paul Perry asked if Boonville was taking out a bond for the project. Steve said yes.
 - g. Herb Davis added that there are no other outdoor 50-meter pools in the area.
 - h. Steve Smith asked if Boonville has applied for grant funding for the project. Steve said yes, they applied for READI, but they need to show matching funds.

- i. Courtney TenBarge asked how much funding they have committed at this point. Steve said they think they only have enough funding for the pool itself.
- j. Paul Perry added that the City of Boonville's ability to finance a major project is different than a place like Ohio Township.
- k. Steve asked the board if we should proceed with considering funding the project. The board agreed to continue the conversation. Courtney TenBarge added that it would be good to get some additional information about funding for the project.

iii. Elberfeld Pocket Park

- 1. Steve said Elberfeld has a parcel of land in town donated by Heritage Federal they would like to use for a pocket park. The lot is about the same size as Johnson Park in Boonville.
- 2. Steve said they applied for an IU grant to help with design for the park and showed the board some of the renderings. The projected cost came back at about \$200,000, but it could be as low as \$150,000 depending on options.
- 3. There is a new nonprofit group in Elberfeld that was formed to work on this park and other community projects.
- 4. Steve said he would like ask County Council for \$50,000-\$75,000 of EDIT funds to help support the pocket park. It is important for the project to have support from the County to secure funding. Steve asked the board for their thoughts.
- 5. Paul Perry asked if potential funding from other sources is dependent on the project having funding from the County. Steve said yes, and added that they have about \$25,000 so far from grants.
- 6. Steve Smith said it is great that they have a nonprofit organization, and that it will be very beneficial.
- 7. Paul Perry added that there may also be an opportunity for naming rights.
- 8. Steve said we still have time to get more information about the project before the board makes a recommendation.

V. Old Business

a. OCRA Red Program

- i. Steve said we submitted an application for OCRA's RED (Rural Empowerment & Development) program. He said they only choose two counties for each grant cycle, but we had a strong application with participation from every municipality in the county. They will announce the awards in August.
- ii. Paul Perry asked if all of the municipalities will be able to participate in the program. Steve said yes, it applies to all incorporated communities with a population under 50,000, so all of Warrick County's cities and towns qualify.

b. Rural Community Support

- i. Steve said we are continuing to reach out to the rural communities in Warrick County to organize quality of efforts. He said we are particularly trying to engage Tennyson for some much-needed community projects.

c. Parks and Trails Projects

- i. Steve showed the board a list of other parks and trails projects currently in progress.
- ii. Herb Davis asked about the plan to build a new gatehouse at Scales Lake. Steve said they applied for a grant through DNR for the project, but were not selected, so they are now trying to move forward with available parks funds.

d. Kaiser Roll Coat 4

- i. Steve showed the board a video from Kaiser Aluminum that shows the new Roll Coat 4 line in production.

VI. Additional Items

a. Upcoming Dates

- i. Steve showed the board a slide with upcoming dates and events including:
 1. The Warrick County Fair – this week
 2. The Warrick Trails ribbon cutting for the Nevins Trailhead and AMAX Trail – July 25th
 3. Concert in the Park – July 19th
 4. Lloyd4All meeting – July 22nd
 5. The ePackage Supply ribbon cutting - TBA

VII. Adjournment

- a. Courtney TenBarge made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenna Richardt seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:35 pm.