Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Koukol at 8:35 a.m.

Roll Call
Committee Members Present: Chairman Dan Koukol, Judy Gilmour, Lynn Cullick, Scott Gryder, Matt Prochaska (arrived at 9:00 am)
Committee Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Andrez Beltran, Economic Development and Special Projects Coordinator; Jeff Wilkins, County Administrator
Members of the Public: Yanos Hagos, CEO and Ernest Johnson, CMO, Civilian Force Arms; Reagan Gryder, potential business owner

Approval of Agenda – Ms. Gilmour made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Gryder. **Approved 4-0**.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Ms. Cullick made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May 22, 2015 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gryder. **Approved 4-0**.

New Business

Discussion of Kendall County Economic Development Strategic Plan
Chairman Koukol stated that there was a misprint in the agenda; the topic labeled Approval of Kendall County Economic Development Strategic Plan was meant to be discussion.

Mr. Beltran informed the Committee that the Strategic Plan is a continuation of Economic Development Comprehensive Plan developed by the County in 2011. The document will be a small update but primarily be more operations focused compared to the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Beltran stated he has already taken the advice of the Committee in reconfiguring the foreword to the document from a letter style to a more introduction style to eliminate confusion. He continued that it will also help with reporting accomplishments.

Mr. Gryder asked about the cooperative efforts with economic development corporations in the County. Chairman Koukol stated the Kendall Economic Development Alliance (KEDA) is still going strong and that Mr. Beltran has been shadowing the member groups. Mr. Beltran added that the recent micro-grant awarded from Metro Chicago Exports shows that the members are finding the relationship helpful. Mr. Gryder stated that he was pleased as he thinks cooperation is paramount.

Growing Our Regional Economy Lake County Forum – July 9 – Review
Mr. Beltran informed that on July 9 Mr. Wilkins and he went to Takeda Pharmaceuticals in Deerfield for a forum primarily on foreign direct investment (FDI). Takeda Pharmaceuticals is an international top 20 pharmaceutical company. The event had a panel on FDI with a representative from Takeda and two other foreign companies to discuss the major factors of
investing in the Chicago Metropolitan region. They also held a second panel of two other metropolitan organizations that targeted FDI: Minneapolis-St. Paul and Columbus.

Mr. Beltran stated that the two key factors for investing in the Chicago Metropolitan area were talent and the State of Illinois’ EDGE program. With the web of universities in the metro area turning out highly skilled workers there was a large amount of talent in the area from which to pull from. Mr. Wilkins stated the EDGE program, which is the income tax credit offered by the State for creating jobs, was mentioned by all.

Ms. Gilmour asked if it was unique for Illinois. Mr. Wilkins stated other states have incentive packages also but EDGE is Illinois’ primary. Mr. Gryder stated that some states don’t have income tax, or lower. Ms. Gilmour stated that they might not have the talent. Mr. Wilkins agreed it is the combination of both that keeps Illinois attractive.

Mr. Wilkins stated that there was a group that is meeting with municipalities to continue the process of streamlining truck permitting. Mr. Gryder stated he was a part of a CMAP committee helping with the process. He further stated it has really shown him the difficulty getting wide load trucks moved around the state.

**Economic Indicator Dashboard – Review**

Mr. Beltran stated that this information had previously been compiled monthly, but due to lagging of information reported that a quarterly perspective was clearer. Most of the information shows that the economy has slowly been improving. Mr. Beltran stated the unemployment was up to 5.8% from 4.6% but it was not seasonally adjusted.

**Old Business**

**Revolving Fund Loans Update**

- **Revolving Fund Loan Closing Process: Countryside Café**
  
  Mr. Beltran stated the he and the State’s Attorney’s Office were coordinating a closing time with a tentative date on Tuesday, July 28. Chairman Koukol stated that the Committee had done their part and were waiting on other entities. Mr. Wilkins added that after the closing, the State’s Attorney would record the documents and funds would be disbursed. Chairman Koukol stated that this is the first loan with a time crunch so that is why there is a second report to the Committee.

- **Revolving Fund Loan Closing Process: Civilian Force Arms**
  
  Chairman Koukol stated that Yonas Hagos and Ernest Johnson were here, and asked Mr. Beltran to bring the Committee up to speed. Mr. Beltran stated that this loan was similar to the previous loans with the exception of a third partner residing out of state. This meant an additional acceptable process had to be developed. After exploring the options, having the partner sign and certify the documents and mailing them back was determined to be the best course of action. Mr. Beltran stated that he received the paperwork today.

  In addition, in the UCC-1 search a judgment was discovered against an Ernest Johnson by the City of Chicago in Cook County. However, due to lack of information on the judgment documents, it could not be determined if the judgment was against the loan
applicant. Mr. Beltran stated that the State’s Attorney wanted it brought to the Committee’s attention and direction.

Mr. Gryder asked whether the sole issue with Ernest Johnson was the unverifiable UCC-1 judgment. Mr. Beltran stated affirmatively. Mr. Gryder stated an affidavit could be signed stating that the person was not the same one as the judgment.

Chairman Koukol asked Mr. Beltran if what was needed was a consensus from the Committee to have them sign the promissory notes. Mr. Beltran stated in the affirmative. Chairman Koukol decided to get individual responses.

Ms. Gilmour asked for clarification. She asked that in the background check that something was found for an Ernest Johnson. Mr. Beltran answered in the affirmative. She asked what information was found. Mr. Beltran stated that a judgment of $1500 in Cook County.

Ms. Cullick asked if it was on their credit score. Mr. Beltran answered in the negative. Ms. Cullick stated that it was typical that it happens, and that Cook County records were not as precise as other counties. She stated it was a common enough issue with a common name.

Mr. Beltran read that the judgment was memorandum of judgment in the Circuit Court of Cook County against a Johnson, Ernest. He continued it was August 11, 2011. Mr. Gryder asked about the nature of the judgment. Mr. Beltran said the judgment did not specify.

Chairman Koukol asked if Ms. Gilmour asked if she found it acceptable for them to sign and go forward. She stated that she thought signing the affidavit was a good idea. She also asked for clarification of the process.

Mr. Wilkins stated they needed all the paperwork signed before moving forward. He also stated that drafting an affidavit would take some time.

Mr. Gryder stated that Mr. Johnson could affirm at the meeting that he was not the same Ernest Johnson as the one in the judgment. Mr. Prochaska added that a county board could legally swear a person in under oath and have them give testimony.

Chairman Koukol asked for a consensus from the Committee. The Committee’s unanimous consensus was the promissory note agreement could be signed after Mr. Johnson gave his sworn testimony.

Chairman Koukol called Mr. Johnson to the podium. Mr. Gryder swore Ernest Johnson in under oath. Mr. Gryder asked Mr. Johnson whether he was the same Ernest Johnson as the judgment read by Mr. Beltran. Mr. Johnson stated he was not.

Ms. Cullick stated that the loan process should be examined. Chairman Koukol agreed.
Update: Fiber Initiative
Mr. Wilkins briefly updated the Committee on the fiber optic service to the County. The initial service area proposed is Plainfield, Oswego, Montgomery, North Aurora, Yorkville, and unincorporated Montgomery in the Boulder Hill area. They are currently in the final stages of their due diligence and will need individual franchise agreements with each entity. Boulder Hill is under the County for franchise authority. The Boulder Hill area would be the initial service area in unincorporated Kendall County under the franchise agreement. Mr. Wilkins stated that to expand they would need fifteen committed customers within 1200 feet of a line.

Mr. Wilkins stated that the company was looking for a consensus of support as they were looking to make a presentation their own board. If there was not a consensus, then the Boulder Hill area would be omitted.

Chairman Koukol stated that he would like to make a resolution on the Committee of the Whole. He asked if they would be able to presentation to the whole County Board. Mr. Wilkins stated that their timeline was to present to their own Board in August and they were not looking for a formal resolution. Chairman Koukol stated that the Committee was in consensus but also they wanted to do a resolution to show their strong support.

Planning 2015 Kendall Economic Development Alliance Legislative Business Forum – White Tail Ridge reserved for September 23
Chairman Koukol stated that this event will be marked as a meeting. Mr. Gryder asked the start time. Mr. Beltran responded that registration starts at 7:15 a.m. and at 8:15 a.m. the panel will start. He also stated that he has sent the save the dates and partnerships forms to the KEDA members and is working on sending it out to the Chambers of Commerce. He stated that there were two possible sponsors already.

Coordinated Responses to Business Retention & Expansion Survey
Mr. Beltran stated they have their targets picked but are currently attempting to coordinate a time with them. He also stated that the grantee for the Metro Chicago Exports micro-grant is also a potential business.

Regional Initiatives Update
Mr. Beltran stated that the Metro Chicago Exports awarded one business in Kendall a micro-grant of $5,000. He continued that the second wave of applications closed on July 31. Mr. Beltran added that in the second wave there was an additional Kendall County business.

Chairman’s Report
Chairman Koukol stated that in the old Panera in Oswego will now house a Salsa Verde. Mr. Gryder stated that they have three restaurants now.

Chairman Koukol stated that the Oswego Economic Development Commission has been created. Chairman Koukol asked Mr. Gryder if that was an open meeting. Mr. Gryder stated that it was. Mr. Gryder asked who the representative from the taxing body. Mr. Beltran stated he thought it was from the school district. He continued that the next meeting was on August 5.

Chairman Koukol went around the Committee for updates.
Ms. Gilmour stated that Yorkville road construction is moving along.

Mr. Gryder added no updates in Oswego other than Salsa Verde.

Mr. Prochaska added no updates.

Ms. Cullick added no updates.

Chairman Koukol asked the Committee a question. If there is a dry township, is there a process to which a business could sell alcohol. Mr. Prochaska stated if it was incorporated. Mr. Gryder stated that the local winery had managed. Mr. Wilkins stated that the used chattum where a municipality extends their zoning. Mr. Wilkins stated otherwise they would need to go through a township election to change their code.

Chairman Koukol asked Mr. Gryder what he thought about commercial development along Ridge Road. Mr. Gryder stated he think it would be a good idea. Chairman Koukol stated that it was perhaps something to keep in mind during the planning process over the next couple of years. Mr. Wilkins stated that the Wikaduke Corridor Plan included that area and may be helpful to consult. Mr. Prochaska noted that Oswego is finishing their Comprehensive Plan revision and should be looked at.

Mr. Wilkins stated that the City of Plano arranged a meeting with Upper Illinois River Valley Development Authority. Their goal is to examine how they could use tax-exempt bonds to help develop their main corridor.

Public Comment – None
Executive Committee - None
Adjournment
With no further business to discuss, Ms. Cullick moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gryder. There being no objection, the Economic Development Committee at 9:47 a.m., adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrez P. Beltran
Economic Development and Special Projects Coordinator