Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Koukol at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call
Committee Members Present: Chairman Dan Koukol, Judy Gilmour, Lynn Cullick, Scott Gryder (arrived at 8:35 a.m.), Matt Prochaska
Committee Members Absent:
Staff Present: Andres Beltran, Economic Development and Special Projects Coordinator; Jeff Wilkins, County Administrator
Members of the Public: Kathy Scheller, MetroNet.

Approval of Agenda – Ms. Cullick made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Ms. Gilmour. Approved 5-0.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Mr. Prochaska made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May 22, 2015 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Cullick. Approved 5-0.

New Business

MetroNet Presentation

Ms. Scheller gave a presentation on MetroNet. MetroNet is a fiber optic provider headquartered in Evansville, Indiana. Currently in 23 communities, MetroNet provides video, audio, and data services to premises. It also looks to have high penetration in the communities it serves (40% in 40 months). Current proposed areas in Kendall County include: Plainfield, Oswego, Montgomery, and unincorporated Boulder Hill.

Chairman Koukol asked if they used their own crews or if they used local businesses. Ms. Scheller stated that MetroNet brings in a program manager but uses local crews.

Mr. Prochaska asked if the pricing would be similar to Indiana. Ms. Scheller said it should be. Mr. Prochaska also asked if there was a data cap for users. Ms. Scheller said there was not. Mr. Prochaska inquired when the franchise agreement process will start. Ms Scheller said most likely September.

The Committee asked Ms. Scheller to look into several unincorporated areas in the County to get an estimate of when service could be expanded to them. She said she would ask her engineers.

The Committee also asked on the timeframe of the build outs. Ms. Scheller stated they were looking to do engineering through the rest of the year with digging to start next year. She also stated an estimate of two to three years between phase one and two.

CMAP LTA Industrial Market Analysis: Kick-off Meeting September 2
Mr. Beltran stated on September 2 the kick-off meeting for the Industrial Market Analysis will be held at the quarterly Mayor-Managers of Kendall County meeting. In addition to County mayors and managers/administrators, economic and community development staff have been invited. CMAP staff will be present to go over the project and answer questions.

Old Business

**Revolving Fund Loans Update**
- **Dearborn Café**
  Mr. Beltran stated on Friday, August 7, funds in the amount of $80,000 were disbursed to the Dearborn Café. The Café’s original name had been Countryside, but the owners, Robert and Debra Dearborn, had decided to change a name. This did not impact the process.
- **Civilian Force Arms**
  Mr. Beltran stated on Friday, August 7, funds in the amount of $90,000 were disbursed to Civilian Force Arms.
- **Update: Process**
  Mr. Beltran went over a rough outline of the process with the Committee. Chairman Koukol stated he and Ms. Cullick would set up a meeting with the State’s Attorney’s Office to discuss it further.
- **Possible Loan**
  Mr. Wilkins stated that there was a possible loan that was brought to staff’s attention. Staff would keep the Committee apprised.

**Planning 2015 Kendall Economic Development Alliance Legislative Business Forum – White Tail Ridge reserved for September 23**

Mr. Beltran stated that reservation and sponsorship forms have to been sent out to groups such as the municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, and interested businesses. He continued that currently there are four sponsors for the event: ComEd, Waubonsee Community College Bridgeview Bank, and Yorkville National Bank and Trust.

In addition, Mr. Beltran said he would be contacting legislators today to supply a short summary of initiatives they have proposed and supported to grow the private sector in Kendall County, and a list of questions to be asked at the event. The questions were as follows:

1. Do you believe revision of Illinois income tax structure would improve business climate and spur private sector job growth? Why?
2. What infrastructure projects in Kendall County do you support and believe would create long term private sector job growth?
3. Do you believe revising workers compensation laws would help spur private sector job growth? Why?
4. Would you be in favor of legislation preserving the centerline for the proposed Prairie Parkway?
5. Would you support enabling legislation for units of government in Kendall County to either become part of, or contract with, the RTA for the purpose of a Metra extension?
Coordinated Responses to Business Retention & Expansion Survey

On August 12, Mr. Beltran stated he and Mr. Wilkins along with Executive Director of the Upper Illinois River Valley Development Authority (UIRVDA) and the Mayor of Plano met with a Plano business to discuss possible financing options for brownfield redevelopment. During the discussion staff explored their various needs in relation to expansion. After getting their contact information, staff will be contacting the business again in the next year to follow up on their progress.

Regional Initiatives Update

Mr. Beltran gave the following updates:

- **Chicago Metro Metals Consortium (CMMC)**
  The CMMC met on August 13. There are two Manufacturing Matchmaking events coming up: October 12 in Elk Grove and October 20 in Lake County. There are also discussions about hiring a manager for the program.

- **Metro Chicago Exports**
  Tom Hulseman came out to July’s KEDA meeting to go over the program with the members and clear up any questions. The second wave of the micro-grant had forty-nine eligible applicants for a total of $220,000 in possible loans. Currently there is only $127,000 in monies left. One Kendall business was amongst them. The Grant Committee has started formulating how to award the remaining grants. The Grant Committee is comprised of:
    - Tom Boon, Summit Industries (IL-District Export Council)
    - David Boulay, Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center
    - Laura Ortega, IL Chamber of Commerce / International Business Council
    - Philip Pittsford, Corr-Jensen (IL-District Export Council)
    - Haley Stevens, Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute
    - Ursula Wegrzynowicz, Trade Acceptance Group (IL-District Export Council)

- **Growing Our Regional Economy**
  The group updated on truck permitting process. They bid out the process to Cambridge Systematics. They are currently in information gathering stage and are looking to set up meetings with County executives at the end of September, possibly early October. By May the outcome will be a set of guidelines for governments to help streamline truck permitting. They are also looking for contacts in overweight/oversized.

  Mr. Gryder added that the group surveying counties has reached out to Fran Klass, the County Engineer.

  Foreign Direct Investment strategies were also discussed. Mergers and Acquisitions is the dominant form of FDI compared to Greenfield. Examination of FDI in the Chicago Metro area shows that manufacturing has the largest, and with biggest investor being Japan. This data will help develop regional priorities that can be used
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to create a targeted strategy. A possible next step is collaboration on branding the Chicago Metro area.

- Oswego Rotary Club on August 12
  On August 12 the Mr. Beltran and Mr. Wilkins were invited to the Oswego Rotary Club to speak on economic development in Kendall County. After a brief overview of the County, its past and current economic development initiatives, staff answered questions on topic such as MetroNet and the current state of the Metra extension. There was also interest in the Legislative Business Forum.

  Mr. Wilkins stated they were also interested in the 5th Street extension in Oswego.

Chairman’s Report

Chairman Koukol asked Mr. Gryder to give an update on the Metra Meeting held on August 25 in conjunction with County, municipality, and Metra officials and staff. Mr. Gryder stated that the status of the $75 million dollars appropriated several years ago is unknown. He continued to say that the majority of the $7.5 million appropriated to study a Metra extension has to been spent as the Metra does not want to spend money on studies that will be outdated. Mr. Gryder stated both Representative Randy Hultgren and Senator Mark Kirk are looking into it. He also stated the Governor’s office has been contacted as the project will need state and federal funding to happen.

  Mr. Gryder also stated he met with the BNSF Railroad on Monday. He stated they were excited but understanding of the challenges. They saw the potential for a spur somewhere on the line. They stated that there were two major challenges: funding, but also a treacherous portion of track in Colorado.

  Mr. Gryder spoke on the Federal Reserve Roundtable he recently attended. Manufacturing and stocks are not doing well right now. Commercial construction is up, however.

Finally, Chairman Koukol stated that the budget for Economic Development was included in the packet. The Committee had no questions on it.

Public Comment – None
Executive Committee - None
Adjournment
With no further business to discuss, Mr. Prochaska moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gryder. There being no objection, the Economic Development Committee at 9:58 a.m., adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrez P. Beltran
Economic Development and Special Projects Coordinator