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, Lynn Cullick, Scott Gryder, Matt Prochaska
Committee Members Absent: Judy Gilmour
Staff Present: Andrez Beltran, Economic Development and Special Projects Coordinator; Jeff Wilkins, County Administrator
Members of the Public:

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Mr. Prochaska made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the August 28, 2015 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Cullick. Approved 4-0.

New Business

Discussion: Developing a Communication Strategy

Mr. Beltran stated as part of the County’s strategy to engage businesses and the community, a Communication Strategy has been discussed. The foundation of the strategy would be the County’s website with other communication avenues being used to bring visitors back to the website. These avenues include social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), monthly e-newsletter and news releases for events. He stated that the website being the center point would cover the bases for FOIA. He continued it helps with both communication and education.

Mr. Wilkins stated that the information on the website would be reviewed and streamlined to be more user friendly.

The Committee agreed that branching out into social media was a good idea. Mr. Prochaska asked if there was a way to tie it to a non-personal email as there had been some issues in the past. Mr. Beltran stated that Kendall County Economic Development has its own email that is not personal and was planning to use that as the County Administrator also has access to it. Mr. Wilkins also stated that they would talk to technology to develop a procedure for FOIA compliance.

Review: Making Manufacturing Matter Dinner

Mr. Gryder stated that Wrigley was pleased to be nominated and accept the reward. He continued that they were the most recognizable of the recipients. Mr. Gryder stated that the expansion also seemed to be going well.
Review: Economic Indicator Dashboard

Mr. Beltran stated that the indicators as a whole were positive showing slow growth in the county.

Old Business

Revolving Fund Loans

Mr. Beltran stated that the Dearborn Café opened this week to good reviews. He added that from pictures on Facebook and driving by the parking lot seemed full.

- Review: Monthly Statements
  Mr. Beltran stated that the current Revolving Fund Loan Reports are from August 1, 2015 to August 31, 2015. All current payments are in for the month; Civilian Force Arms made two payments. Current available loan amount is approximately $1.7 million.

  Chairman Koukol stated that he set up a meeting to view Civilian Force Arms.

- Update: Process
  Chairman Koukol stated that after he and Ms. Cullick spoke to State’s Attorney Mr. Weis that applicants would be notified that there would be a sixty day time table from the first Economic Development Committee meeting approving moving forward with the process.


Mr. Wilkins stated that to have seven of eight legislators attend was particularly good due to legislative timetables at the State level. He continued that while individual tickets were not as high as in the past that sponsorships were up. The full account was in the packet. He stated that this type of event was in competition with other events held by other entities. Finally, he observed that the Prairie Parkway did not seem to be on the legislators’ priorities.

Chairman Koukol asked about the Prairie Parkway status. Mr. Prochaska stated the centerline was still there. Mr. Wilkins stated that in 2018 or 2019 they would review the centerline. The Committee discussed possible uses for the land currently occupied if the State were to release those properties.

Update: CMAP LTA Industrial Market Analysis

Mr. Beltran stated that on September 28, Mr. Wilkins and he attended Sandwich Economic Development Corporation meeting to give an update on the progress on the Industrial Market Analysis. CMAP Associate Planner Don Hughes was also in attendance.

On September 29, CMAP and Kretchmer Associates personnel working on the study met with Mr. Wilkins and Beltran to tour the County’s current industrial and manufacturing sites.
On October 6 and 14, stakeholder meetings were held in Plano and Oswego, respectively. These meetings brought together stakeholders from local manufacturers and brokers as well as economic and commerce personnel to gather in depth information about the County’s industrial market. The meetings had strong representation from all parts of the County. Summary and themes are expected by mid-November.

Currently, phone interviews are being scheduled for some stakeholders who could not attend.

The Committee discussed the current occupancy of the Industrial Parks in the County. The concern was the increasing amount of service businesses in the industrial areas.

**Update: Coordinated Responses to Business Retention & Expansion Survey**

Mr. Beltran stated that the stakeholders for the Industrial Market Analysis are being added to the retention list as much of the information gathered by the Analysis is relevant to the survey. These businesses will be contacted in the future to measure any changes.

Mr. Gryder asked if there was any information regarding Caterpillar layoffs. Chairman Koukol stated that the State requires a business to file notice if they are laying off a certain number of people, and no such notices have been filed. Mr. Wilkins stated as they are unincorporated the notices could come to the County.

**Update: Regional Initiatives**

- **Waubonsee Community College Vision 2050 Roundtable**
  Mr. Beltran stated that on October 5, Mr. Wilkins and he attended Waubonsee Community College Vision 2050 Roundtable at Waubonsee Plano Campus. He continued that the Roundtable was a follow up to Vision 2050 conference held in July. Waubonsee synthesized the information gathered at that event into a draft vision plan and was seeking specific feedback from community leaders.

  Mr. Wilkins stated that the main point was how Waubonsee would be relevant in the future. One concern is the trend of state and federal funding becoming smaller. Waubonsee is examining their options including being more than being a two year institution.

- **Chicago Metro Metals Consortium**
  Mr. Beltran the CMMC obtained a grant from JP Morgan Chase to conduct thirty PROBE assessments. By assessing what growth phase the company is in, IMEC is able to create actionable steps for a company to continue expanding. He is currently discussing possible manufacturers out here.

- **Metro Chicago Exports**
  Mr. Beltran stated Wave 2 of the Export micro-grant completed. One applicant from Kendall County, Bookoo, was rewarded a grant of $5,000. In addition, second year
KENDALL COUNTY ILLINOIS
Economic Development Committee

Funding was granted by JP Morgan Chase with approximately a 10% increase for the grant program.

- Growing Our Regional Economy Forum
  Mr. Beltran stated the next meeting is in February at Waubonsee Community College. That meeting conflicts with the Economic Development meeting for the month. Mr. Prochaska asked when Kendall County’s turn was to host. Mr. Beltran stated it was to be determined.

Mr. Gryder added that some counties are looking at implementing a gas tax to fund infrastructure due to federal and state funding concerns.

Chairman’s Report

Chairman Koukol stated that he looked into the store in Oswego called Brothers Country Store. Chairman Koukol asked the Committee for updates.

Mr. Gryder stated that the Casey’s in Plano broke ground, and the Harvester Café has been doing well. In addition, there is a pizza place going into the old Mobile gas station. In addition, O’Reilly’s has started occupying their building in the west side of town. Mr. Gryder also added that in Montgomery at Orchard Road the Speedway gas station is well under construction.

Mr. Prochaska stated that Yorkville was working with the County on infrastructure development. For Bristol, both the Bristol Tap and Blackberry Oaks Golf Course are doing well.

Public Comment – None
Executive Committee - None
Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Prochaska moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cullick. There being no objection, the Economic Development Committee at 9:31 a.m., adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrez P. Beltran
Economic Development and Special Projects Coordinator