

WABASH RIVER REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RDA) BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

A public meeting of the Wabash River Regional Development Authority (RDA) Board was held on the above date and time. Members of the Board and staff participated in the meeting in person at the Excel Center of West Central Indiana's new location at 2800 Poplar Street, Suite 70, Terre Haute, IN.

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Jon Ford called the meeting to order and asked Meredith Osburn, CEO of Wabash Valley Goodwill and the Excel Center of West Central Indiana, to welcome all attendees and provide an update on the Excel Center (READI 2.0 project).
2. **Call of the Roll:** Present: Jon Ford (Vigo County); Jim Exline (Sullivan County); Josh Alsip (Clay County); Bill Rennels (Vermillion County).
3. **Others Present:** Meredith Osburn, CEO of Wabash Valley Goodwill and the Excel Center of West Central Indiana; Rachel Leslie, RJI Solutions (consultant); Betsy Peperak, RJI Solutions (consultant/admin); Brooklynn Sibley, RJI Solutions (PR); McKenzie Ross, RJI Solutions (admin); Richard Shagley, Wright, Shagley, Lowery (legal representative).
4. **Public Comment:** None.
5. **Regional Arts & Culture Plan Update (Designing Local):** Designing Local gave an update on the Regional Arts & Culture Plan and took questions/comments from the board.
6. **Approval of the Board Minutes:** February 26, 2025 – public meeting; Bill Rennels made a motion to approve the minutes, Josh Alsip seconded, passed unanimously.
7. **Vote to Approve Arts & Culture Planning Grant Pre-Commitment Letter for Compliance**
 - 7.1. Josh Alsip motioned to approve. Jim Exline seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
8. **IEDC Listening Session Recap (Rachel Leslie):** RJI Solutions provided a brief recap on Secretary Adams' listening session in West Central Indiana. As part of Governor Mike Braun's administration, Secretary of Commerce David Adams conducted listening sessions and meetings across Indiana to gather feedback on the state's economic strategy.
9. **READI 1.0 Update (RJI Solutions)**
 - 9.1. Disbursement Update - Disbursed \$9,374,414.34 to date, representing 48% of READI 1.0 funds. To access READI 2.0 funds, 65% of READI 1.0 must be expended.
 - 9.2. Projects that have not disbursed at least 50% of their allocated READI 1.0 funds by June 30, 2025 will be considered non-compliant.
10. **READI 2.0 Update (RJI Solutions)**
 - 10.1. READI 2.0 Projects:
 - 10.1.1. Projects Preapproved: Excel Center of West Central Indiana, Innovation Grove, NCP Early Learning Initiative
 - 10.1.2. Projects in Review: Parke County Regional Wastewater Project - Phase 1, CASY Early Learning Center, Ivy Tech - Terre Haute
 - 10.1.3. Projects to Submit: Homes for the Future; Ernie Pyle Childhood Center; Union Christian Church Early Childhood Education Center
11. **Old Business**
 - 11.1. **Adoption of the Regional Plan.** Jim Exline motioned to approve. Bill Rennels seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
12. **New Business**

- 12.1. **RJL Solutions Board Administration/Grant Administration Contract Renewal:** Josh Alsip motioned to approve. Bill Rennels seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 12.2. **Regional Summit:** The board discussed a potential partnership event with the RDA through the hosting of a West Central Indiana Partnership (WCIP) Regional Summit event. The proposed event would be a three-hour morning session scheduled for late September. Preliminary programming ideas include Education of Regional Assets, Post-Analysis READI conversation, Arts and Cultural plan, etc. Josh Alsip motioned to approve. Jim Exline seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- 12.3. **Upcoming IEDC Capacity Building Workshop:** June 18th event hosted by the IEDC in Terre Haute.
- 12.4. **Clay County Plan Update:** The plan has officially launched.
13. **Adjournment:** Followed by a tour of the Excel Center of West Central Indiana.

Adopted and approved by the Regional Development Authority Board of Managers on this 29th day of Oct (month) 2025 (year) by roll call vote with the member votes indicated below.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF MANAGERS

Jon Ford, Chair	AYE NAY <u>✓</u> <u> </u>	Jim Exline	AYE NAY <u> </u> <u> </u>
Chadd Jenkins	AYE NAY <u>✓</u> <u> </u>	Bill Rennels	AYE NAY <u>✓</u> <u> </u>
Josh Alsip	AYE NAY <u>✓</u> <u> </u>		

CERTIFICATION

I certify under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing members of the Regional Development Authority Board of Managers were in attendance at the meeting either in person, by electronic or telephonic means and that all votes were taken by roll call observable by the public. I further certify that no final action was taken or other matters discussed at any Executive Session.

