

WABASH RIVER REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RDA) BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 2026 at 8:00 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 Hub at 900 Wabash Avenue, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Terre Haute, IN.

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Jon Ford called the meeting to order.
2. **Call of the Roll:** Present: Jon Ford (Vigo County); Josh Alsip (Clay County); Chadd Jenkins (Parke County); Bill Rennels (Vermillion County). Absent: Jim Exline (Sullivan County).
3. **Others Present:** Betsy Peperak, RJL Solutions (consultant/admin); Brooklynn Sibley, RJL Solutions (communications/PR); Ryan Keller, Thrive West Central (fiscal agent); Richard Shagley, Wright, Shagley, Lowery (legal representative).
4. **Public Comment:** None.
5. **Approval of the Board Minutes:**
 - 5.1. October 29, 2025 – public meeting; Chadd Jenkins made a motion to approve the minutes. Bill Rennels seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Arts & Culture Program Update:** Josh Alsip attended the Arts & Culture Program Event hosted by the IEDC on January 13, 2026. The LEI funded program is expected to be released to the public in February. Entities will apply through the State’s portal, and the RDA will have the ability to indicate their support for projects after all applications have been submitted. Interested entities are encouraged to read the Wabash River RDA Regional Arts & Culture Plan to ensure alignment with the region’s priorities.
7. **Regional Plan Education Events:** On behalf of the West Central Indiana Partnership, Josh Alsip presented a framework for educational capacity building events over the next 2 years. The IEDC is requiring that regions spend a portion of their READI 2.0 admin funding on educational programming.
 - 7.1. **Vote to Approve the Outline/Budget for Regional Plan Education Events:** Bill Rennels motioned to approve. Chadd Jenkins seconded. Josh Alsip abstained from the vote. Motion passed unanimously.
8. **READI 1.0 Update (RJL Solutions)**
 - 8.1. **Disbursement Update:** The region has disbursed \$13,337,398.72 of the \$19,400,000 in READI 1.0 funds. All funds must be disbursed by September 30, 2026. There are 7 projects remaining with funds to be disbursed.
9. **READI 2.0 Update (RJL Solutions)**
 - 9.1. **Project Update:** Most READI 2.0 projects are currently working through the Compliance stage. All projects must be through Compliance by June 30, 2026 and must receive their first disbursement by September 30, 2026.
 - 9.2. **READI 2.0 Subrecipient Agreement:** A copy of the draft agreement was included in Board Packet for approval.
 - 9.2.1. **Vote to Approve READI 2.0 Subrecipient Agreement:** Josh Alsip made a motion to approve the minutes. Chadd Jenkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - 9.3. **Homes for the Future READI 2.0 Proposed Funding Letter:** IEDC has preapproved \$1,686,250.00 in READI 2.0 Funding. Board must vote to sign the preapproval letter and move the project to the Compliance stage.
 - 9.3.1. **Vote to Approve \$1,686,250.00 in READI 2.0 Funds for Homes for the Future:** Josh Alsip made a motion to approve the minutes. Chadd Jenkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

10. **Wabash River RDA 2022-2024 Audit:** Audit produced positive findings. No concerns. Board must vote to approve the Financial Audit. Additionally, Thrive West Central requested permission to move forward with the same firm for 2025 Audit.

10.1. **Vote to Approve the 2022-2024 Audit and Use LWG for 2025 Audit:** Chadd Jenkins made a motion to approve the minutes. Bill Rennels seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

11. **Old Business:** None

12. **New Business:** None

13. **Adjournment**

Adopted and approved by the Regional Development Authority Board of Managers on this 10th day of APR (month) 2020 (year) by roll call vote with the member votes indicated below.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF MANAGERS

Jon Ford, Chair	AYE NAY ✓ _____	Jim Exline	AYE NAY _____ _____
Chadd Jenkins	AYE NAY ✓ _____	Bill Rennels	AYE NAY _____ ✓ _____
Josh Alsip	AYE NAY ✓ _____		

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.

