

WABASH RIVER REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RDA) BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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); Rachel Leslie, RJL Solutions (consultant); 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. January 30, 2026 – public meeting; Bill Rennels made a motion to approve the minutes. Chadd Jenkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Arts & Culture Initiative Update:** Miah Michaelsen, Executive Director of the Indiana Arts Commission, visited West Central Indiana on March 24, 2026. Miah presented a public forum on the Arts & Culture Initiative funding and also took one-on-one meetings throughout the afternoon. RJL Solutions managed the logistics, invites, and communications surrounding the event. The LEI funded program was released to the public in February; applications are due April 15. Entities will apply through the State’s portal, and the RDA will have the ability to indicate the level to which each project aligns with the Wabash River Regional Arts & Culture Plan. Interested entities are encouraged to read the Wabash River RDA Regional Arts & Culture Plan to ensure alignment with the region’s priorities.
7. **Regional Leadership Forums Update:** The West Central Indiana Partnership, alongside the Wabash River RDA, successfully implemented the first three educational capacity building events in April. The regional education forums included a Policy Forum, a Business Forum, and a Non-Profit Forum. These resulted in 145 registrations combined for the regional forums, which were considered a success.
8. **READI 1.0 Update (RJL Solutions)**
  - 8.1. **Disbursement Update:** The region has disbursed \$13,924,617.71 of the \$19,400,000 in READI 1.0 funds. All funds must be disbursed by September 30, 2026. There are 6 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. **Homes for the Future/Blight Program:** Ryan Keller presented on the Homes for the Future/Blight Program that the IEDC pre-committed \$5m in LEI funding to.
    - 9.2.1. **Vote to Approve Pre-Commitment Letter for Homes for the Future/Blight:** Josh Alsip made a motion to approve the minutes. Chadd Jenkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
10. **Old Business:**
  - 10.1. **Wabash River RDA Audit Engagement Letter:** LWG CPAs Advisors provided an engagement letter for conducting the 2025 and 2026 audits for the Wabash River RDA for \$9,000/year.

**10.1.1. Vote to Approve the LWG Audit Engagement Letter:** Chadd Jenkins made a motion to approve the minutes. Josh Alsip seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**10.1.2. 2025 Annual Report:** The 2025 Annual Report was sent to the individuals designated by state statute.

11. **New Business:** None

12. **Adjournment**

Adopted and approved by the Regional Development Authority Board of Managers on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May (month) 2021 (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.

