WABASH RIVER REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RDA) BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2026 at 4:00 p.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 900 Wabash Avenue, Suite 102, 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); Jim Exline (Sullivan County); Bill Rennels (Vermillion County). Absent: Chadd Jenkins (Parke County).
3. **Others Present**: Betsy Peperak, RJL Solutions; Brooklynn Sibley, RJL Solutions; Rachel Leslie, RJL Solutions (consultants); Ryan Keller, Thrive West Central (fiscal agent); Richard Shagley, Wright, Shagley, Lowery (legal representative); Brian Kooistra, Gibson Development; Nikki and Cheyne O'Laughlin, Walker Hotel Project.
4. **Public Comment**: None.
5. **Approval of the Board Minutes**:
   5.1. June 29, 2026 Meeting Minutes; Josh Alsip made a motion to approve the minutes. Bill Rennels seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Walker Hotel Redevelopment Tax Credit Project:** Brian Kooistra, Gibson Development, presented the Walker Hotel for consideration for the Regional Redevelopment Tax Credit opportunity.
   6.1. **Vote to Approve to Move Forward with Walker Hotel Regional Redevelopment Tax Credit for the October 31 state deadline:** Josh Alsip made a motion to approve. Bill Rennels seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
   6.2. The Board discussed putting process for submission of future Regional Redevelopment Tax Credit projects on the WabashRiverRDA.com website once the state releases final information in early October. RJL Solutions to complete this task and send out a press release regarding the opportunity.
7. **2024-25 Fiscal Year Audit:** Ryan Keller, Thrive West Central (fiscal agent) presented the audit from LWG.
   7.1. **Vote to Approve 2024-25 Fiscal Year Audit:** Jim Exline made a motion to approve. Josh Alsip seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
   7.2. Board discussed 2026 Audit. Ryan Keller to negotiate with LWG for 2026.
8. **2026 West Central Indiana Regional Summit:** Josh Alsip presented information on the 2026 Regional Summit.
9. **2026 OCRA Stellar Pathways:** Rachel Leslie presented on this opportunity. County representatives will discuss with their counties to gauge interest and report back by Friday, October 16, 2026.
   9.1. **Vote to Approve to Move Forward with Stellar Pathways (pending county involvement):** Josh Alsip made a motion to approve. Bill Rennels seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
10. **READI 1.0 Update (RJL Solutions)**
    10.1. **Disbursement Update**: The region has disbursed $18,215,494.86 of the $19,400,000 in READI 1.0 funds. All funds must be disbursed by September 30, 2026. There are 2 projects remaining with funds to be disbursed.
11. **READI 2.0 Update (RJL Solutions)**
    11.1. **Project Update**: The region has disbursed $1,596,209.15 of the $9,700,000 in READI 2.0 funds.
12. **Old Business**:
    12.1. **Regional Discussion Update:** Rachel Leslie gave an update on the regional discussions between West Central Indiana Partnership and the RDA.

12.2. **Opportunity Zones:** We are expecting a state announcement on Opportunity Zones on September 28, 2026.

13. **New Business:** None
14. **Adjournment**

Adopted and approved by the Regional Development Authority Board of Managers on this 23rd day of OCT (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.