

**MADISON COUNTY
GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2026, 4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Frank Dickerson, Valerie Doucleff, Alison Lamothe, Fred Schulte, Ron Simpson, Victor Valentine, Denise Wiehardt, Shawndell Wilson

ABSENT:

OTHERS: Stacey Pace, Lisa Mersinger, Nadine Pfeiffer, Amy Lyerla, Rebecca Ryan, Darlene Ladd, Kyle Anderson, Cynthia Ellis, Cathryn Hamilton, County Board Chairman, Chris Slusser

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kyle Anderson, Executive Director & CEO of the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois, was present to address the Committee. He stated that he contacted the CFO at Alton Steel in regards to the layoffs. He also stated that they held their first agriculture summit at Kaskaskia College. He said that it was a huge success and had about 160 or more people attend and they plan on having another one next year closer to the metro area. Kyle also spoke about updating sites for the data centers. Here is a link that Kyle provided for more information regarding data centers: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DZRHkZ71s/>

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair, Denise Wiehardt, asked the Committee if there were any suggestions to add, subtract, or changes to the minutes from the Special Grants Committee meeting on January 13, 2026. No changes were made so it remained the same.

Motion to approve was made by Shawndell Wilson, seconded by Alison Lamothe.

Motion approved by the 8 members present.

E. PROCLAMATIONS

F. PURCHASE APPROVALS

Chair, Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve the Monthly Purchase Report.

Motion to approve was made by Fred Schulte, seconded by Victor Valentine.

Motion approved by the 8 members present.

G. PURCHASE REQUESTS

G1. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a purchase request for Incumbent Worker Program Costs for Leadership and Manager Training for HatLaunch with Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center and the amount not to exceed \$15,092.75.

Motion to approve was made by Frank Dickerson, seconded by Victor Valentine.

Motion approved by the 8 members present.

H. PURCHASE RESOLUTIONS

H1. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a resolution authorizing payment for training costs for Early Childhood education pre-apprenticeship program for the Madison County Employment and Training department.

Motion to approve was made by Valerie Doucleff, seconded by Frank Dickerson.

Motion approved by the 8 members present.

I. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

I1. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a resolution authorizing a Park & Recreation loan to City of Highland Parks & Recreation.

Motion to approve was made by Alison Lamothe, seconded by Fred Schulte.

Motion approved by the 8 members present.

I2. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a resolution re-authorizing 2025 Park & Recreation grant funds for New Douglas Township.

Motion to approve was made by Frank Dickerson, seconded by Alison Lamothe.

Motion approved by the 8 members present.

I3. Chair Denise Wiehardt, asked for a motion to approve a resolution re-authorizing 2025 Park & Recreation grant funds for Village of Livingston.

Motion to approve was made by Frank Dickerson, seconded by Victor Valentine.

Motion approved by the 8 members present.

J. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

J1. Darlene Ladd, Director of Employment and Training, along with Rebecca Ryan, from the Employment and Training Department, were present to discuss the monthly Employment and Training report that was previously emailed to the Committee.

J2. Chairman Slusser and Cathryn Hamilton were present and gave the economic development report to the committee regarding the data centers. Some things Cathryn discussed were possible property tax decrease for the cities where a data center would be built and jobs they would create. Chairman Slusser also spoke about the data centers research they have been doing for the past 7 months. One of those things was a visit that He and Cathryn took to one of Google's high scale data centers in Nebraska and was shocked to discover how quiet it was, since he had heard that there is noise and humming sounds. He said they did not hear any of that. The noise factor was one of the main reasons he took the trip so he could find out for himself.

J3. Stacey Pace was present to give the MCCD monthly report that was previously emailed to the Committee.

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

L. NEW BUSINESS

Next regular Grants meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, 2026 @ 4:00 pm

M. CLOSED SESSION

None

N. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made at 5:00 pm by Alison Lamothe, seconded by Victor Valentine.

Motion approved by the 8 members present.