

# ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2026

#### Members Present:

Ken Sharkey, Chairman  
Scott Greenwald, Assistant Chairman  
Matt Smallheer  
Robert Trentman  
Rick Vernier

#### Members Excused:

Robert Allen  
Marty Crawford

#### Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director  
Becky Rose

#### Others Present:

#### Call to Order:

Chairman Ken Sharkey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Public Comment Regarding the Agenda:

Chairman Sharkey asked if anyone present had a question or comment regarding the agenda. There were none.

#### Approval of April 8, 2026, Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the April 8, 2026, Committee minutes. Mr. Vernier made the motion to approve the minutes which were seconded by Mr. Smallheer. The motion passed unanimously.

#### New Business (Director's Report):

Mr. Stubblefield stated that there have been discussions with a company interested in a former manufacturing site in Freeburg, IL. The company is seeking a location for expansion rather than relocation of its existing operations. We have previously collaborated with this company through our Workforce Development initiatives and will continue to provide updates as discussions progress.

Mr. Stubblefield attended the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Summit in Washington, D.C. The summit marked the organization's 50th anniversary and highlighted the important role that defense communities recognized as Great American Defense Communities, a distinction awarded to St. Clair County in 2020. A significant portion of the discussions centered on the infrastructure, housing, and workforce challenges facing military installations nationwide. Workforce related concerns include both military and civilian personnel, with an emphasis on recruitment, retention, staffing civilian positions on base, and supporting service members as they transition from military to civilian careers.

St. Clair County's Intergovernmental Grants Department's (IGD) Workforce Development Group continues to play an active role in these efforts by briefing every Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) class to ensure transitioning service members are aware of the employment and career opportunities available in the county. Military spouse employment was also a key topic of discussion during the summit. We are actively evaluating strategies to engage military families prior to their relocation to Scott Air Force Base in an effort to assist spouses with employment opportunities before they arrive, allowing for a smoother transition into the community and workforce.

There were no further comments or questions.

Mr. Greenwald made a motion to approve the Director's report, and Mr. Smallheer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Mr. Darren James was not in attendance due to conflict.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Ms. Kimberly Huth was not in attendance due to conflict.

Other Comments:

Mr. Vernier asked if there was any updated news on the riverfront. Mr. Stubblefield replied that conversations are ongoing, with emerging ideas and growing interest.

Adjournment:

Chairman Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Vernier so moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Greenwald. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:10 p.m.