ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 9, 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:
Darren James, MidAmerica Airport Director
Cyrus, Osterberg, New Baden Village Administrator
May Brown

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 August 12, 2026, Committee Minutes *(action required):*
Chairman Sharkey called for action on the August 12, 2026, Committee minutes. Mr. Greenwald made the motion to approve the minutes which were seconded by Mr. Vernier. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):
Mr. Stubblefield stated that our regional Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Director is in our offices this week working on several initiatives, including the 2024 Disaster Recovery funding. We anticipate beginning the request for proposals process this fall. This grant represents a significant investment, with the allocations for affordable housing and economic development.

We also continue to participate in the Scott Air Force Base (SAFB) Readiness and Environmental protection Integration (REPI) calls and remain engaged in discussions regarding opportunities associated with the program.

The Global Aerospace Summit was a successful event, featuring several informative and productive panel discussions. Overall, I believe the summit was a worthwhile opportunity for engagement and collaboration. Approximately 150 military personnel participated in the military job fair, demonstrating strong interest and participation.

We also continue to make progress on projects in East St. Louis, including initiatives related to Terminal Railroad and the riverfront.

There were no further comments or questions.

Mr. Vernier 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 stated that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) presents annual awards recognizing airport performance and achievements. For 2026, our airport has been named the primary Airport of the Year. Among the twelve commercial service airports in the state with more than 10,000 annual enplanements, our airport ranked first in overall performance.

The airport has continued to experience strong passenger growth throughout 2026. Six of the first eight months of the year have set new passenger records, including August 2026, with just over 40,000 passengers traveling through the terminal. This represents an increase of just under 3% compared with August 2025. Year-to-date, passenger traffic through August 2026 is approximately 7.5% higher than the same period in 2025. This continued growth is particularly encouraging given that the airport also established records in 2025.

Paperwork and approvals for Sun Country Airlines are still being finalized, and we anticipate beginning to see Sun Country flights operating through the airport soon.

Additionally, bids have been issued for projects to expand the terminal apron. This project has been in development since 2022 and was recently required to go through a rebidding process.

The airport is looking at removal of several trees located around the airport as part of ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the airport's facilities and surrounding areas.

There were no further comments or questions.

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

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):
Ms. Huth submitted an update that stated the U.S. Transportation Command launched Ultimate Caduceus 26 on September 7, coordinating military, federal, state, local, and civilian healthcare partners to test the nations' ability to move and care for patients during a large-scale contingency. The exercise is being directed from USTRANSCOM headquarters at SAFB and highlights Scott's role not only in moving forces and equipment, but in maintaining the nation's global patient-moving network.

The Scott-based 126th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) was named the best Air Refueling Wing in the Air National Guard for 2025, receiving the Curtis N. "Rusty" Metcalf Trophy at the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) conference in Indianapolis on August 31st. The approximately 900-member wing supported six combatant commands during 2025, an important indicator of both operational tempo and the strategic value of the Guard mission at Scott.

The new Department of War Personal Property Activity at Scott is now operating as a permanent organization, placing enterprise-level oversight of the military household-goods moving system at Scott. Combined with TRANSCOM, Air Mobility Command (AMC), the 618th Air Operations Center (AOC) and other logistics organizations already headquartered here, this further strengthens Scott's position as the Department's center for global mobility and logistics management.

I continue to monitor federal actions affecting Scott, including combat-command restructuring, basing decisions, congressional activity and potential TRANSCOM realignment. At this time, I have identified no confirmed action that would merge TRANSCOM and/or AMC to relocate its headquarters or reduce Scott's mission. Current indicators instead show continued investment in global mobility, logistics capacity, and operational readiness at Scott. Current indicators instead show continued investment in global mobility, logistics capacity, and operational readiness at Scott.

There were no further comments or questions.

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

Other Comments:

Mr. Cyrus Osterberg introduced himself as the new Village Administrator for the Village of New Baden. He provided an update on the Village's economic development efforts and available incentive programs. New Baden has a strong economic development incentive fund, with resources divided between the Business District and the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District that encompasses the St. Clair County portion of the village. Osterberg stated that the Village is actively working to utilize these resources to encourage new development and attract businesses to the community. A primary focus is on recruiting additional retail business and creating opportunities that will support continued economic growth within New Baden.

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 5:21 p.m.