MINUTES

KENTUCKIANA REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (KIPDA)

## REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

**MEETING CONDUCTED THROUGH ZOOM**

**AND STREAMED ON THE AGENCY’S YOUTUBE PAGE**

## January 12, 2021

The Regional Planning Council of the Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency met at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 12, 2021 via Zoom video conference. Members in attendance were:

Mr. Ryan Libke, Planning and Zoning, Shelby County, Kentucky

Honorable Todd Pollock, County Judge/Executive, Trimble County, Kentucky

Honorable David Voegele, County Judge/Executive, Oldham County, Kentucky

Honorable Jerry Summers, County Judge/Executive, Bullitt County, Kentucky

Mr. Craig Myatt, Road Engineer/Supervisor, Shelby County, Kentucky

Mr. Michael King, Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, Kentucky

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE REPRESENTING**

Jarrett Haley KIPDA

Danielle Story KIPDA

Rachael Miller KIPDA

Jenna Graham KIPDA

Olivia Ranseen KIPDA

Randall Embry KIPDA

Dr. Natasha Udu-gama AGU’s Thriving Earth Exchange

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Story called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

**COUNCIL MEMBER ROLL CALL**

Ms. Miller called roll. A quorum was present.

**MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 13, 2020**

Judge Summers moved to approve the minutes from October 13, 2020. Mr. King seconded. Judge Voegele abstained from the vote. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

**THRIVING EARTH EXCHANGE PRESENTATION**

Ms. Natasha Udu-gama, program manager at AGU’s Thriving Earth Exchange, gave a presentation on the Thriving Earth program. The mission of Thriving Earth Exchange is to strengthen and enhance collaboration among communities, scientists, and partner organizations so that all communities can build healthy, resilient, thriving, just, and ecologically responsible futures. Thriving Earth Exchange is a leader in contributing to global well-being by supporting communities’ awareness and application of science and promotes equity by ensuring that all communities benefit from the opportunity to participate in, contribute to, and guide the use of scientific knowledge.

AGU’s Thriving Earth Exchange program connects communities with scientists and supports them as they work together to tackle local challenges related to natural hazards, natural resources, and climate change. Community science happens when communities and scientists do science together to advance community priorities. This includes defining questions, designing protocols, collecting and analyzing data, and using scientific knowledge in decision-making. Every community science project begins with community voice, is guided by community knowledge, and ends in community impact.

As of May 2019, Thriving Earth Exchange has launched over 95 projects, and over half of those projects have been completed. Over 17 million people are part of the communities impacted by these projects, and the program has broadened its geographic area to include international communities.

Thriving Earth Exchange looks forward to working with KIPDA to create a partnership of community and science to assist with finding solutions to curb greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating flood hazards within the KIPDA region. This will be an opportunity for communities in the region to work together to find solutions.

Ms. Ranseen added that KIPDA has submitted information to Thriving Earth Exchange for its primary concerns for the region. The highest priority is to mitigate flooding in the region, which is already an issue, and it will only intensify as the climate continues to warm. KIPDA would like to explore this issue more with its Hazard Mitigation Plan. A regional flooding susceptibility index would be very helpful to get more localized data within the KIPDA counties to get a better measure of what flooding really look likes when it occurs.

**KIPDA HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE**

Ms. Ranseen gave an update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan is required for all communities under the federal Stafford Act of 2000. The Hazard Mitigation Plan assesses the likelihood that a natural disaster or hazard will occur and formulates how each of the communities can better prepare. The KIPDA Hazard Mitigation Plan includes Bullitt, Henry, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble Counties. Jefferson County conducts its own plan independently. This plan is completed at the regional level because disasters and hazards usually cross county borders. From the plan, the region will see the development of resiliency projects that will then be eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding. It is a federal requirement that the Hazard Mitigation Plan be updated every five years. KIPDA is currently working on the 2021 update.

The Risk Assessment is the first major component of the Plan. This describes the hazards and natural disasters that are commonly faced in the region. It also identifies community assets, such as infrastructure that could be affected in a disaster, and it analyzes the risk of damage to community assets. Then, the vulnerability for each hazard is summarized. The Plan also includes a mitigation strategy which contains goals and an action plan that prioritizes the implementation of the Plan. Community outreach and engagement is an important part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

In the online public portal portion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan on the KIPDA website, an online map has been created where all local officials and members of the public can map points and make comments on issues, such as flooding issues, within their community. This information will be used with Thriving Earth Exchange to better understand specific issue areas in the region. Ms. Ranseen gave a presentation on how to use the online portal.

The next Hazard Mitigation Council meeting will be held on March 10, 2021.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF 2021 COUNCIL OFFICERS**

The council nominated and elected Mr. Ryan Libke as Chairman and Judge Todd Pollock as Vice-Chairman of the 2021 Regional Planning Council.

Judge Voegele moved to approve the election. Mr. Myatt seconded. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

**COUNTY QUARTERLY UPDATES**

**BULLITT COUNTY**

Judge Summers stated that the county has continued to steadily improve its ground-based ambulance service. Bullitt County has become a distribution hub for the COVID-19 vaccinations. There will be a road project on the horizon for US-44E near where a new school and many new homes are set to be built within the next 18 months. A new exit, Exit 114, will be open at the end of next month. Some major manufacturers in the county have announced large expansions, including Jim Beam, Four Roses, and Materials Handling. The county is not only surviving during COVID but thriving.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Mr. King reported that the city has lost a couple of key staff members due to retirement and relocation and is currently in a transitional phase. Louisville Metro is working to update its land development code based on equitability and the first steps will be released within the next few days. Several neighborhood area plans are ongoing, including the Broadway Corridor plan. Louisville Metro Council gave the city $1 million to convert many downtown one-way streets to two-way streets. The city has also launched an outdoor dining program for restaurants due to COVID.

**OLDHAM COUNTY**

Judge Oldham stated that the county is in the process of expanding an office park and new tenants are moving in, including an assisted living center. There will be two new roads built to access the office park that will be completed in late spring. The county is pushing for off-ramps to be constructed near the office park for easier access. Construction is underway on a new county courthouse in downtown LaGrange. The oldest part of the original courthouse that dates back to the 1830’s will be kept and incorporated into the new building. This project should be completed by spring or summer 2023. There are eight or nine other capital improvement projects going on in the county, including the expansion of broadband service throughout the county at a cost of $8 to $10 million.

**SHELBY COUNTY**

Mr. Libke reported that business is busy as usual even with COVID-19. Permit requests have increased and industrial activity has also increased. The Highway 53 project will be completed by Louisville Paving and will run from US-60 to US-64.

Mr. Myatt added that the county is working to beef up broadband service access. There is work being done to expand the EMS station in Simpsonville. The county is working with Aaron Jones, KIPDA GIS Specialist, on the Centerline Mileage project. The county plans to add flood-prone areas to the online KIPDA Hazard Mitigation Plan map. Also, flex funds will be used for paving in the northwest and southeast quadrants of the county.

**TRIMBLE COUNTY**

Judge Pollock stated that the county is still working with KIPDA on the City of Bedford project and the Carrollton water line project. The county is also working to use a community connect grant to get much-needed broadband service installed throughout the county.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Story introduced Ms. Jenna Graham, KIPDA’s new Economic Resiliency Planner, to the council. Ms. Story stated that the next Regional Planning Council meeting will be held on April 13, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom video conference.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Story stated that there was no other business to discuss.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Judge Pollock moved to adjourn the meeting. Judge Voegele seconded. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.