

# GREENE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE INC.

May 23, 2006  
Minutes by Kelly Smith

**Table materials included:** Midwest CDI material for economic development training, ethanol news clippings from the Jacksonville Journal, as well as several ethanol articles from the Prairie Farmer and Farm Week. Also an article re: Heritage Tourism.

**Willie Reese** discussed ethanol figures in our on going research into value added ag.

## **We reviewed our March goals and subsequent progress:**

1. Reinstatement of the pre existing Greene County Economic Development Committee
  - a. We are now a legal entity operating under the title of Greene County Economic Development Committee Inc. Our Officers are: **Sandra Schmidt** President, **Kelly Smith** Secretary, and **Kirby Ballard** Treasurer. Board of Directors: **Kirby Ballard, Wilma Chappee, Joe Clark, Ron Coultas, Sylvia Kallal, Rick Keim, Andy Mansfield, Sally Mansfield, Robert Morrow, Willie Reese, Don Roberts, Sandra Schmidt, Gail Schutz, Chad Schutz, and Kelly Smith.**
2. Business involvement, i.e. presentations to chamber of commerce, city councils, etc.
  - a. Our business retention and expansion survey is in the final draft stage, we are ready to recruit and train volunteers.
3. Feedback from farmers
4. Corridor 67 education, promotion, etc.

**First order of business:** We voted in favor of joining the Corridor 67 Inc. group and paying the annual fee of \$100.00 (when funds become available). Joining this group will show that Greene County is in favor of the project and give our county a voice in Springfield. It is our goal to have a representative from Corridor 67 Inc. speak at our meetings and/or other group meetings throughout the county, i.e. Lions Club, Farm Bureau, Chambers and City Councils to inform and gain support for the expansion and development of business opportunities for the county.

It was decided that **Sally Mansfield** and **Chad Schutz** would put together approaches to getting our Greene County farmers involved in economic development. We want their ideas and concerns regarding the future.

**Project Update:** **Sandra Schmidt** attended the Eldred House picnic where she met with Seth McGee and the Illinois Valley Heritage Cultural Association. The Eldred House is in the process of being restored and Sandra was encouraged that the Almshouse could be saved too. The Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois will be touring the Almshouse June 11. **Wilma Chappee, Bob Morrow** and **Don Roberts** volunteered to be in attendance that day and report back to us the commission's response to our project. Sandra Schmidt will attend the County Board meeting June 14 to seek a moratorium re: selling the almshouse until a course of action can be established.

## **Guest speakers to attend our next meeting:**

**Brett Thompson** from the Jersey County Economic Development Committee on why we should join/ partner with them.

**University of Illinois Extension representative**, on hiring or sharing of an extension employee to promote Greene County.

**New Ideas:** **Kirby Ballard** has an idea of running business ads to promote county businesses. Further discussion is needed.

## **Sub Committees:**

1. **Membership Fee Committee**  
**Chad Schutz**  
**Jason Walker**  
**Ron Coultas**  
**Rick Keim**

**Business Survey Volunteer Interviewers:**

**Willie Rees  
Andy & Sally Mansfield  
Kelly Smith  
Chad & Stacy Schutz  
Joe Clark  
Sandra Schmidt**

**Home Work:** Clip news article of interest to share with the group. If you have county promotion ideas please share them with the group.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday June 27, 7:00 Rockbridge Township Hall, Greenfield. Treats served by **Kelly Smith**

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> Attendees:**

**Wilma Chappee  
Joe Clark  
Ron Coultas  
Rick Keim  
Sally Mansfield  
Bob Morrow  
Willie Rees  
Don Roberts  
Sandra Schmidt  
Chad Schutz  
Kelly Smith  
Jason Walker**