

**MEETING OF THE INTERAGENCY MILITARY BASE SUPPORT & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2006
OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR QUINN JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER
CHICAGO
ILLINOIS STATE CAPITOL SPRINGFIELD
1:00 P.M.**

Call to Order:

Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn, Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Introduction by Committee Members:

Springfield Office:

Director Jack Lavin Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) & Vice-Chair of Committee; Pat Welch, Illinois Department of Revenue; Brig. Gen. Keistler, Illinois Department of Military Affairs; Clarence Smith, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA); Dick Smith, Illinois Department of Transportation; Dave Streicker (DCEO); Katy Podagrosi; Perry Hansen; Jim Morgan; Gary Gray; Col. Gene Blade; Dan Silverthon; Brig. General Frank Rezac; Elizabeth Norden, Lt. Governor's Office; Carolyn-Brown Hodge, Lt. Governor's Office; Eric Schuller, Lt. Governor's Office and Chris Meister (DCEO).

Chicago Office

Director Doug Scott, (IEPA); Mike Kocher, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); and Evelyn Alexander.

Opening Remarks:

Chairman Quinn thanked every one present for attending the committee's third quarterly meeting and he also welcomed the public committee members.

Approval of the Minutes of the January 13, 2006 meeting:

A motion was made by Chairman Quinn to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice-Chair Lavin and unanimously approved.

Lt. Governor Quinn

Chairman Quinn stated that Dave Streicker had put together a memorandum on proposed subcommittees for the Interagency Military Base Support and Economic Development Committee. The five subcommittees include: *Interagency Staff subcommittee; Military Housing & Educational Support subcommittee; Transportation/Infrastructure subcommittee; Environmental & Energy subcommittee; and Economic Development subcommittee.* The Lt. Governor then asked Vice-Chair Lavin to please explain the purpose and goals of the committee.

Director Jack Lavin

Director Lavin stated that for the past two years Dave Streicker has been the point person and the lead on *BRAC*. The long-term strategy is to make our military bases stronger so that they will not be subject to closure. This committee's main purpose is to determine how communities that are subject to closure or realignment can develop future economic expansion plans. The role of the committee is to make Illinois communities "BRAC proof" in the future. The committee will do what they can to advise the administration on key parts of the state's economy.

Lt. Governor Quinn

The Lt. Governor stated that any member is welcomed and encouraged to formalize and bring forth ideas as well as offer criticism. He stated that every member has an important role to play. The public members represent the counties of a current or former military base; their input is essential. The Lt. Governor then asked Katy Podagrosi, former mayor of Rantoul, to say a few words about the base closure in Rantoul.

Katy Podagrosi

Ms. Podagrosi begin by stating that the community in Rantoul was not prepared and was surprised to learn that their military base was going to close. The community came together to try to save the base from closure. Two committees were formed and money was raised to lobby in Washington against the base closure. Another important goal of the Rantoul committee was to develop economic developments plans. Another issue Ms. Podagrosi discussed was how the Air Force has been reluctant to tear down buildings. She stated that one mistake they had made was not cultivating a relationship with the top civilian officers from the base. She stated that the Federal government officials' allegiance was to the federal government -- not to the community. Getting the list of the high-ranking military base officials should be a priority.

Lt. Governor Quinn

Lt. Governor Quinn thanked Ms. Podagrosi for her comments.

Dave Streicker

Mr. Streicker stated that he had put together a memorandum regarding the proposed subcommittees. He stated that each subcommittee would elect its own chairperson. The five sub-committees would be: *Interagency Staff Subcommittee; Military Housing and Educational Support subcommittee; Transportation/Infrastructure Subcommittee; Environmental & Energy subcommittee; and the Economic Development subcommittee.* He stated that economic development is at the center of DCEO's mission.

Director Jack Lavin

Director Lavin stated that Mr. Jim Morgan has been doing an excellent job as program director of the Rock Island Arsenal Development group that is performing business development work on the Rock Island Arsenal. He went on to say that it is important to get input from the community as well as the private sector.

Jim Morgan

Mr. Morgan stated that economic development is an important element of the BRAC committee; and it should be the same for this committee. It is important that the committee analyze both weaknesses and strengths of each community and its bases. There is a lot to look into.

Perry Hansen

Mr. Hansen stated that it's important to bring other projects forth; this will take research effort. He added that the committee needs strategies to assess issues affecting each individual community.

Director Lavin

Director Lavin stated that the proposal for subcommittees should be assessed and carefully looked at by all committee members. Possibly two more subcommittees can be added.

Evelyn Alexander

Ms. Alexander stated she was particularly interested in the *Military Housing & Educational Support subcommittee*. She also mentioned that in North Chicago they had privatized many of the military housing units.

Frank Rezac

Mr. Rezac stated that in Peoria the airport encroachment issue is a very important one and one that should be addressed by this committee; land planning is another important issue.

Director Lavin

Director Lavin asked if anyone else had other comments. The next meeting will be held tentatively on June 8, 2006.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Lavin adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.