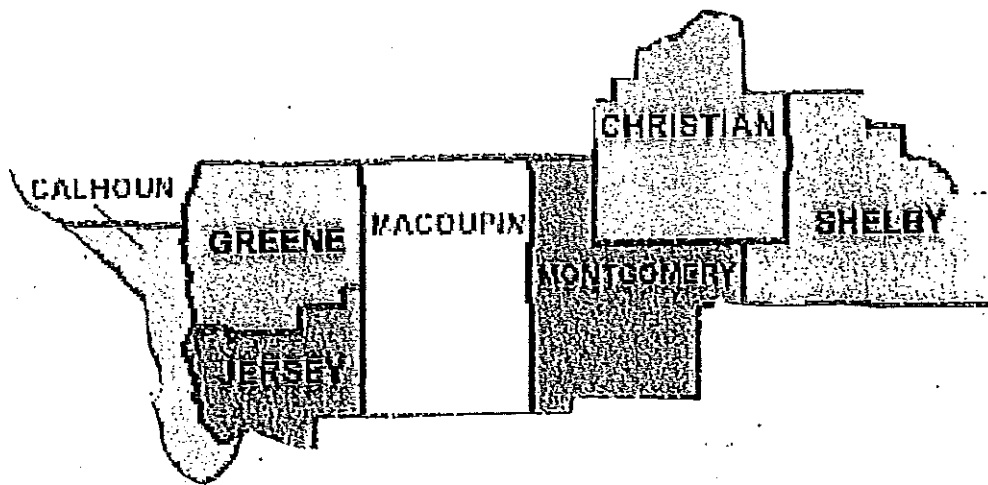


Annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan  
Economic Development Administration (EDA)  
West Central Development Council, Inc.

August 2008 - September 2009



**WCDCDD**  
**West Central Development Council**  
**Development District**

116 South Plum Street  
Carlinville, Illinois 62626  
Phone: 217-854-9642  
Fax: 217-854-8082

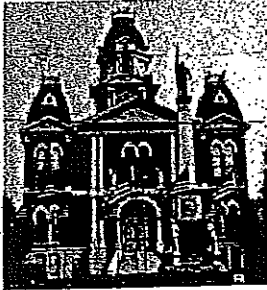
*COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY*

*Strategic Planning for the Economic Development District  
Comprised of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and  
Shelby Counties*

ANNUAL REPORT

August – 2008 - September 2009

*Developed and Prepared by the  
West Central Development Council, Inc.*



Shelby County  
Shelbyville, Illinois 62565

**WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

**WHEREAS**, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities, and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional council to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the **Shelby County Board** that **Shelby County** hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

**SIGNED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Shelby County Board Chairman**

Seal:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ATTEST: Shelby County Clerk**

**WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**

116 South Plum Street

PO Box 260

Carlinville, IL 62626-0260

Phone: 217/854-9644

FAX: 217/854-4765

*Michael Sherer*  
Executive Director

WCDC  
Policy Board

*Andrew Manar*  
Chairman

WCDC  
Board of Directors

*Darrell Bellm*  
Chairman

**West Central Development Council, Inc.**

**RESOLUTION**

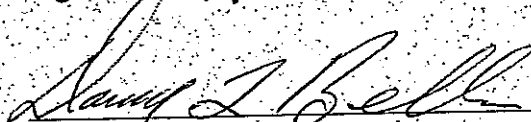
Whereas, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

Whereas, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities; and

Whereas, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the WCDC Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDs document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee and the Council hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of SEPTEMBER 2009.

  
WCDC Chairman

ATTEST: *Kenneth Bask*

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**CALHOUN COUNTY**  
P.O. BOX 187 HARDIN, IL 62047

Ph# 618-576-2351  
Fax# 618-576-2895

Wanda Tepen, Chairman  
Wm. Jerry McKinnon, Commissioner  
Joseph J. Swan, Jr., Commissioner

**WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**

**RESOLUTION**

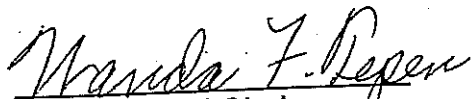
**WHEREAS**, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

**WHEREAS**, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism, and other retail economic development activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** by the Calhoun County Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDS document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee and that the Council hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

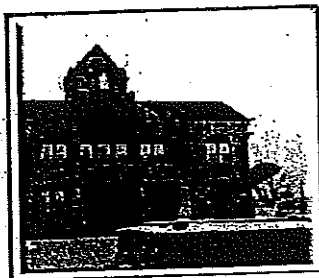
Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009.

  
County Board Chairman

DEBORAH BANGHART

COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER  
GREENE COUNTY

519 N. Main St.  
Carrollton, Illinois 62016-1033



Greene County  
Joe Nord, County Board Chairman  
Greene County Courthouse  
519 North Main  
Carrollton, Illinois 62016

**West Central Development Council, Inc.**

**RESOLUTION**

Whereas, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

Whereas; United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities; and

Whereas, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

Now, Therefore, **Be It Resolved** by the Greene County Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDS document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee and that the Council hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

Signed this 9 day of Sept 2009.

  
County Board Chairman

ATTEST: 

**Christian County  
P.O. Box 647  
Taylorville, Illinois 62568-0647**

**WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**

**RESOLUTION**

R2009 CB 09

**WHEREAS**, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

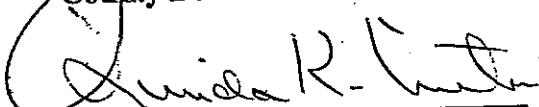
**WHEREAS**, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities, and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional council to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants.

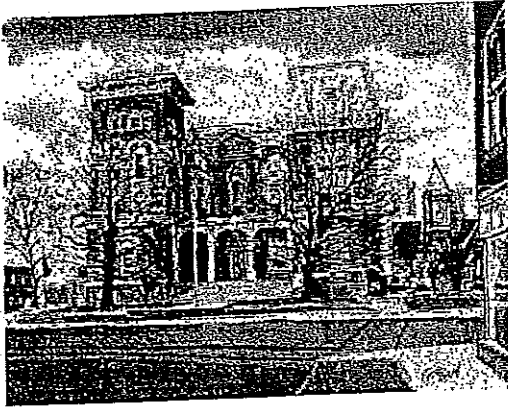
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Christian County Board that Christian County hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

**SIGNED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009

  
County Board Chairman

  
ATTEST: County Clerk

Seal:



## Montgomery County

1 Courthouse Square  
Hillsboro, Illinois 62049

### WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

#### RESOLUTION


Whereas, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

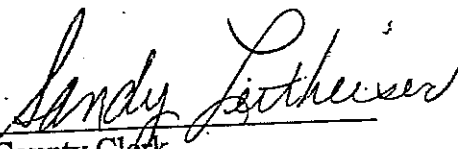
Whereas, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities; and

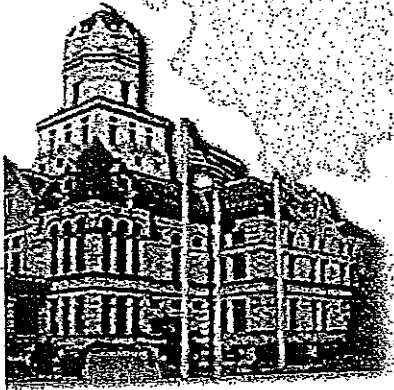
Whereas, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Montgomery County Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDS document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

Signed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009.

  
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:   
County Clerk



Jersey County Board  
200 North Lafayette  
Jerseyville, Illinois 62052

## RESOLUTION

### JERSEY COUNTY BOARD

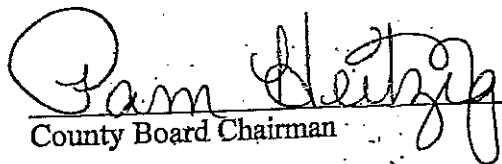
Whereas, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

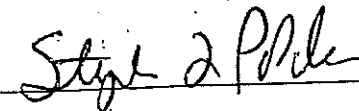
Whereas, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities; and

Whereas, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Jersey County Board that Jersey County hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

Signed this 17th day of August 2009.

  
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_

**WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**

116 South Plum Street

PO Box 260

Carlinville, IL 62626-0260

Phone: 217/854-9644

FAX: 217/854-4765

*Michael Sherer*  
Executive Director

**WCDC**  
Policy Board

*Andrew Manar*  
Chairman

**WCDC**  
Board of Directors

*Darrell Bellm*  
Chairman

**West Central Development Council, Inc.**

**RESOLUTION**

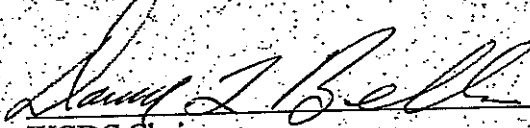
Whereas, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

Whereas, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities; and

Whereas, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the WCDC Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDs document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee and the Council hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of SEPTEMBER 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WCDC Chairman

ATTEST: *Lennith B.../*

**WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.****RESOLUTION**

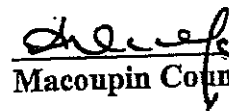
**WHEREAS**, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and


**WHEREAS**, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities, and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional council to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Macoupin County Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDS Document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee and that the Council hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

**SIGNED** this 8TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2009

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Macoupin County Board Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Macoupin County Clerk

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### *Annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report*

CHAPTER	PAGE NO.
1. District Organization and Administration	3
2. Changes in Economy	9
3. Report of Most Recent Activities, Development Goals and Objectives	11
4. Proposed and Current EDA Related Development Activities in the District	27
5. Summary of Development Problems and Potentials	35
6. Development Strategy and Plan for Implementation	40
7. CEDS Goals and Objectives	42
8. Strategic, Projects, Programs, and Activities	44
9. CEDS Plan of Action	46
10. Cooperation & Integration with Illinois Economic Development Priorities	49
11. Performance Measures	50
12. Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Community Development Assistance Program Components	53
13. Newspaper Articles	

## CHAPTER I

### District Organization and Administration

#### INTRODUCTION

The West Central Development Council is composed of the seven Illinois counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery and Shelby. The region is located north and east of St. Louis, Missouri and south of Springfield, Illinois. Beginning in the eastern central portion of the State, the region extends westward across the prairie to the rugged hill country and rich river valleys of the Illinois and Mississippi in the westward boundary of the State.

The Region covers 4,201.3 square miles of land and water surface with a population of 179,449, as of the 2000 census. There are 14 municipalities with a population greater than 2,500, with Taylorville, in Christian County being the largest with 12,595 people. Macoupin County is the most populous county in the region with a population of 49,109 and the least populated is Calhoun County with 5,084 inhabitants. All seven counties are identified as redevelopment areas in the region according to designation by Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Regional population peaked about 1920 and has been subsequently on a slow decline since then. Only Jersey County and to some extent Montgomery County has shown a steady growth in population, primarily because of its proximity to the Metro St. Louis area.

U

#### DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Creation of the West Central Development Council (formerly known as the West Central Illinois Valley Regional Planning Commission) was established in 1974 by joint resolutions from the counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, and Montgomery. Shelby County joined in 1983. In creating an area-wide association of county governments, local leaders attempted to provide an effective, and responsible method of dealing with problems caused by the complexity of modern government. The WCDC is a not-for-profit corporation funded by federal and state agencies and local share contributions by the seven member counties. West Central Development Council Board of Directors is a representative cross section of economic and social aspects of the Region with three regular members and one alternate member representing each county. The County Board Chairmen are members of the Board of Directors, with the other two regular and one alternate member from each county being chosen by the County Board Chairman with approval resting with each County Board. In total, there are 21 regular and seven (7) alternate members making up the Board of Directors, (see appendix) with each member casting one vote, giving each county a total of three votes at Council

meetings. Utilization of the existing Board as the formal committee for economic development programming would best promote efficient and effective relationships among all levels of government in the region.

The intent of Council By-laws is clearly to be responsive to regional and local needs as they arise rather than to self limit restrictions on operations. Thus, the list of duties of the Body taken from Article II of the By-Laws should be interpreted as a mandate for meeting the varied and specialized future needs of the region from the broadest possible base. These duties as taken from the By-Laws are:

1. To establish regional development objectives;
2. To conduct research on growth and development within the region;
3. To make development plans and programs;
4. To increase public understanding and acceptance of planning;
5. To provide technical service to other government agencies; and
6. To coordinate development activities affecting regional growth.

The West Central Development Council is not empowered with legal authority for taxation, regulation or enforcement. The WCDC staff undertakes work solely at the request of the Council and local government agencies. Further, local government compliance with Council recommendations, policies, and programs is strictly voluntary.

The West Central Development Council has demonstrated in its initial period of operation that it has become the multipurpose planning and development organization for this region. In the future, as local support of the agency increases, it is the Council's intent to be an important and growing factor in helping the people of the West Central Illinois help themselves. Past performance certainly indicates that this intent will be carried out. Therefore, the Council is resolved that with an intensive economic development program, it will meet both the concerns of the Economic Development Administration and the varied and pressing developmental needs of the Region.

Recognizing the need to insure the monitoring and consistent guidance of the Council's intended functions and responsibilities, provision has been made in the by-laws for employment of a permanent professional staff. These by-laws specifically provide for the employment of an Executive Director and "such staff and/or experts as it sees fit to aid the Council in its work." The following pages detail the responsibilities and activities of the Council Staff.

**Executive Director:** Responsible for overall administration of workforce development programs, community development services, and economic development activities. Directly responsible for supervising all staff: routinely reporting agency progress and performance to the boards, committees, and County Board Chairmen. Promotes the agency by acting as liaison with federal and state agencies, other workforce development agency representatives, other council staff: educational agencies, and human resource agencies throughout the region and state.

**Deputy Director of Workforce Development:** Responsible for providing supervision, direction, training and technical assistance to staff. Duties include day-to-day monitoring and evaluating of the various programs in the region to ensure compliance. Responsible for oversight and monitoring of the agency's federal and state programs.

**Deputy Director of Community Development:** Responsible for preparation and administration of various federal and state grants that promote economic and community development. Duties include day-to-day monitoring of existing grants, preparation of new applications, and technical assistance to member communities, counties, and local business.

**Grants Manager:** Responsible for the management, development, and coordination of workforce development programs and state/federal grants that promote community and economic development. Provide staff support to the agency's Policy Boards and Committees.

**Fiscal Officer:** Responsible for overall fiscal accountability and bookkeeping operations for the agency, including supervision of other bookkeeping staff, preparation and submission of federal/state tax reports, development of various budgets, etc.

**Executive Secretary:** Responsible for managing secretarial staff to ensure a smooth flow of clerical duties, assist in the successful implementation of the Council's administrative affairs and other duties as may be required for the efficient operation of the Council. Provides staff support to administrative personnel in the preparation and submission of a variety of grant applications, grant modifications, and environmental assessment documents. Provide general information and guidance to individuals and/or community officials on agency projects and services.

**Secretary:** Responsible for general secretarial/receptionist duties, provide clerical assistance to the Executive Director and Grants Manager for the successful implementation of the Council's administrative affairs and perform other duties as may be required for the efficient operation of the Council.

**Bookkeeper:** Responsible for general bookkeeping and other secretarial duties, Works directly with the Fiscal Officer in the operation and maintenance of the manual and computerized accounting system, posts and maintains daily balance sheets, monthly cash analysis reports, and prepares annual workers compensation audit report.

**Job Center Assistant:** Responsible for providing assistance to customers interested in workforce development programs including orientation, pre-eligibility screening, maintaining resource library and referrals. Duties include day-to-day general receptionists/secretarial and clerical functions.

**Career Specialist:** Responsible for providing career counseling, client assessment, facilitating informational workshops, and for the compilation and dissemination of local economic information to customers. Provide direct services to individuals interested in workforce development programs, including, recruitment, counseling, testing and placement. Provides direct service to customers and businesses that utilize the Job Center (IETC).

To date, the Council's work program has included population and economic data inventory, and other technical assistance projects to local government. Current work includes writing and

submitting CDAP grants for the purpose of funding public facility projects, the coordination of solid waste activities mandated by the State, and local planning assistance programs and development of economic development programming for the region.

The WCDC has demonstrated in its initial period of operation that it has become the multipurpose planning and development organization for this region. In the future, as local support of the agency increases, it is the Council's intent to be an important and growing factor in helping the people of West Central Illinois help themselves. Past performance certainly indicates that this intent will be carried out. Therefore, the Council is resolved that with an intensive economic development program, it will meet both the concerns of the Economic Development Administration and the varied and pressing developmental needs of the region.

### LOCAL CEDS COMMITTEES

Each of the seven counties in the region have appointed a County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee to address and promote economic development within their respective counties. These committees were formed in accordance with the U. S. Economic Development Administration's CEDS Guidelines for Economic Development Districts. Please note that the minority population in the region is less than 3%. The seven county boards made their intent to appoint said committees public knowledge 30 days prior to actual appointments.

### RELATIONSHIPS

The WCDC maintains numerous formal and informal relationships with various local governments, state agencies and statewide professional organizations. These relationships often include activities involving planning, promotion and economic development efforts. In some cases the council provides a secondary technical assistance role, while in other cases through contractual agreements, function as lead entity for a community or regional effort. Some examples of these relationships include:

- the council was the lead entity for the development of the West Central Illinois Seven County Solid Waste Management plan. The Council through contractual agreements have been identified as the Solid Waste Coordinating entity responsible for the implementation of the 20-year Plan;
- in 1995, the council was designated as a seven-county location for the Business Development Information Center, through DCBO; and,
- the council has historically prepared the region's annual CEDS report and five year updates.

### DISTRICT CEDS COMMITTEE

From each listed local committees each county board appointed four members to serve on the district-wide CEDS Committee. The district CEDS committee met on a regular basis with the WCDC staff to develop this document. The district committee, comprised of members from each

participating county observes the committee membership criteria as outlined in the U.S. EDA Guidelines for Economic Development Districts. These criteria suggest that members of a committee represent local government, business, industry, finance, agriculture, the professions, organized labor, utilities, education, community organizations, public health agencies, the unemployed or underemployed, racial or ethnic minorities, and women. All of these criteria have been met by the recent and past appointments.

#### ADMINISTRATION

The WCDC has a 28 member board comprised of seven (7) county board chairmen and 21 county board members. The council can be classified as a single county regional planning commission. This means that WCDC is governed by a multiple county commission and serves the surrounding counties and their communities through contractual agreements for a wide variety of community and economic development service.

## CIVIL RIGHTS/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

The WCDC District Affirmative Action Plan consists of population data, listings of special organizations, actions and methods, staffing and economic development activities. This plan will help insure participation of all special groups, including minorities and the economically disadvantaged.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT

	1990	2000		
County	Population	Population	Minority Pop.	Percentage
Calhoun	5,322	5,084	21	1%
Christian	34,235	35,372	183	1%
Greene	15,220	14,761	97	1%
Jersey	20,380	21,668	159	1%
Macoupin	47,057	49,019	622	1.3%
Montgomery	29,871	30,652	857	2.8%
Shelby	22,196	22,893	65	1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>179,603</b>	<b>179,449</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>1.1</b>

*Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census Bureau Summary of Population and Housing Characteristics, 1990-2000 CPH-1-15*

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS AND METHODS USED TO FORM COMMITTEE

At the beginning of the CEDS process, each participating county made every effort to include as many interested persons as possible to fulfill the representation of the segments of population of business, industry, poverty persons, local government, media, banking, agriculture, professional, health/social services, education, labor, and county government. In some cases the individual county already had a CEDS committee in place and simply utilized this existing committee in the regional process. In other cases the counties went through the effort of soliciting input from local governments and community groups as well as interested individuals to participate in the committee formation; this committee, of course would represent one or more of the population segments, including minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

Vacancies on the CEDS committee will be filled in a similar manor of the recruitment process as followed for original formation. The committee will be updated annually as part of the reporting requirement of the EDA.

The CEDS Committee represents all major interests of the communities and the local labor market. The Committee includes public leadership, economic development organizations, workforce investment sector, community-based organizations and other sectors that have a significant impact on the region. Following is a list of the Committee Members and their professions:

Wanda Tepen  
Chairman  
R.R. 1, Box 185  
Batchtown, IL 62006

Calhoun County Board  
Calhoun County

Charles Ducey  
Hardin, IL 62047

U.S. Postal Worker  
Calhoun County

Joseph-Nord  
R.R. #1, Box 67  
Carrollton, IL 62016

Greene County Board Chairman  
Township Supervisor (Labor)

Don Roberts  
R.R 3, Box 158  
Roodhouse, IL 62082

Farm Owner  
Greene County

Maxine Longmeyer  
RR 1, Box 442  
Greenfield, IL 62044

Newspaper Reporter (Business)  
Greene County

Wilfred Goetten  
R.R.4  
Jerseyville, IL 62052

West central Development Council  
Dairy Farm Owner (Labor )

Andy Manar  
Macoupin County Board  
Carlinville, IL 62626

Macoupin County Chairman  
Illinois State Employee

Darrell Bellm  
16850 Schale Road  
Carlinville, IL 62626

Business Owner (Business)  
Macoupin County

Dale Ogden  
20 113 Ogden Road  
Raymond, IL 62560

Kenneth Barr  
R.R. 1, Box 6  
Herrick, IL 6243

Richard Reynolds, Jr.  
412 North Elm St.  
Windsor, IL 61957

Illinois State Police Retired  
(Business)  
Montgomery County

Construction (Labor)  
Shelby County

City Laborer (Labor)  
Shelby County

## CHAPTER 2

### Changes in the Economy

Changes in the District's economy over the past two years have not been dramatic, labor force characteristics have remained fairly stable, unemployment continues at a moderate level, ranging between a low of 5.9% in Greene County to a high of 8% in Montgomery County. This is lower than the unemployment rate during the period covered by the last CEDS report, but consistently remains 1 - 2 percent less than the state unemployment rate. The problem of continuing unemployment remains a prominent concern and major basis for development efforts by the CEDS Committee

There have, however, been definite improvements in the district's economy. Unemployment levels, though high, are gradually coming down. Development is occurring, primarily on a small scale basis, but occurring nonetheless. This includes a wide range of activities, from small business start-up to expanding commercial base. The development activities are occurring as a direct result of local efforts and a renewed dedication to making things happen. This includes successful business attraction efforts in Hillsboro, Litchfield, Jerseyville, Nokomis Hardin, Carlinville, Taylorville, Pana, and Shelbyville.

#### Regional Unemployment Statistics June 2009

	Workforce	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
State of Illinois	6,542,116	5,930,486	611,630	9.3%
Decatur	52,945	47,764	5,181	9.8%
St. Louis, Mo-II	342,721	310,308	32,412	9.5%
Springfield	110,341	102,873	7,468	6.8%
Calhoun	2,652	2,460	192	7.2%
Christian	17,990	17,990	16,892	6.1%
Greene	7,062	6,648	414	5.9%
Jersey	11,862	11,130	732	6.2%
Macoupin	24,898	23,152	1,746	7.0%
Montgomery	13,626	12,538	1,089	8.0%
Shelby	10,552	10,552	669	6.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,310</b>	<b>83,372</b>	<b>5,938</b>	<b>6.6%</b>

Unemployment rates included upward for most central Illinois area in June due to seasonal losses in education, reduction in census workers and students entering the labor market private sector jobs were stable as the Illinois economy remained strong. Statewide unemployment (seasonally adjusted) rose to 5.5 percent, up from 4.7 percent in March.

Statewide, the number of non-farm payroll jobs rose to a new all-time high of 6,075,600. The diverse services sector led across the board growth except for manufacturing which declined marginally in June.

For a broad range of labor market information, visit the web site <http://mi.ides.state-il.us>. Topics include: Affirmative Action Data, Labor Surplus Areas, Labor Force and Unemployment Data

Occupational Projections, Wage Data and more - for general information concerning the Illinois Department of Employment Security. visit our web site at [www.ides.state.il.us](http://www.ides.state.il.us).

To obtain national data, contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics home page at <http://stats.bis.gov> or the Federal Interagency council on Statistical Policy at <http://www.fedstats.gov>.

#### REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

For additional labor market information or assistance, contact IDES labor market economist, Ron McPherson at (217) 557-1869 FAX (217) 524-7824

## CHAPTER 3

### REPORT OF MOST RECENT ACTIVITIES/ DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section is intended to develop the data and analysis presented in the preceding chapters' and presents a series of nine broadly defined, long-term "development goals," each of which contains one or more related, short-term measurable "development objectives." Generally speaking, the District's longterm development goals are intended to provide a degree of continuity from one year to the next relative to the overall direction of the District's economic development endeavors, while the short-term development objectives are intended to provide measurable bench marks against which the organization's annual efforts can be measured.

The Economic Development Districts recognizes that it will be impossible to achieve significant progress in meeting all of it's' goals in any single year, and therefore, has prioritized them in an effort to further provide guidance relative to their overall importance in fostering the economic well being of local residents. Accordingly, an "implied priority" is also to be associated with the District's development objectives, depending upon which of the ten development goals they most relate to. However, for the purposes of this District CEDS document, all development objectives related to a single goal are to be considered of equal importance.

As an initial basis for discussion the Economic Development District staff presented for consideration (by each of the county-level CEDS representatives to the Committee) a carefully thought out set of development goals and objectives. Realizing that these were merely suggestions, the staff solicited further development goals and objectives from the CEDS Committee members. Further mailings were sent out to non-attending committee members in pursuit of finding diversified ideas.

In addition to the above-mentioned processes, the Counties of Montgomery, Christian, and Jersey had their own single-county economic development planning documents updated in 1997. The more localized goals and objectives contained therein were also considered and, to the extent possible, incorporated into the district-wide goals and objectives. In establishing priorities among the district's ten development goals or objectives contribution toward attracting future private sector investments which would, in turn, help retain existing commercial and manufacturing employers within the district, generate expansion of existing commercial and manufacturing employers within the district, generate an expansion of present operations within the sevencounty EDD and/or contribute to a successful location effort.

#### GOAL A

To upgrade the economy of the region through attraction of new industry which fits the location and basic economic makeup of the district?

#### OBJECTIVES

1. Attraction of new agribusiness, services; or
2. Attraction of warehousing and distribution wholesale goods and
3. Attraction of new light industry and manufacturing.

### GOAL B

Retention of existing industry.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to give local support and incentives to resident industries;
2. Aid resident industry in making plant expansions wherever possible;
3. Provide technical assistance with air and water pollution standards to resident industries.

### GOAL C

To revitalize existing services and retain activities within the region.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the feasibility of new centralized retail centers within the region;
2. To restore the region's local retail centers through consumer incentive and downtown improvement.

### GOAL D

To promote regional growth policies which encourage economic activities that is appropriate to the structure of the economy.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Initiate measures that would curtail the continuing loss of existing industries and provide incentives for established industries to expand; and
2. Examine ways of identifying and attracting suitable high-growth potential industries into the region.

### GOAL E

To develop an adequate system of public services and facilities to insure the protection of public health and welfare and to aid in the orderly development and progress of the region.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To provide the region with adequate systems and facilities for potable water and sewage disposal, and
2. To provide other public facilities necessary for improvement of existing problems and to provide for future needs.

#### GOAL F

To improve the quality of transportation in the region so that the movement of goods and people is convenient and rapid.

#### OBJECTIVES

1. To develop and maintain a balanced regional transportation system which provides efficient movement of people and goods to nearby economic centers.

#### GOAL G

To achieve balanced and compatible land use patterns in the region which protect our natural resources, while at the same time meeting the economic and social needs of the people.

#### OBJECTIVES

1. To insure that future growth or land use changes will occur in a manageable pattern.

#### GOAL H

To upgrade recreational facilities and programs within the seven-county area to levels which are considered adequate by state and national standards.

#### OBJECTIVES

1. To develop adequate indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities for all citizens of the region; and
2. To foster tourism in those areas of the region which might derive economic benefit from such activities.

#### GOAL I

To increase the general training and suitability of the workforce in meeting the needs of modern business and industry.

#### OBJECTIVES

1. To expand accessibility to incorporate unemployed youth into the regional workforce in an effort to curb their out-migration; and
2. To bring characteristics of the labor force into line with state averages wherever possible.

## **GOAL J**

To encourage the establishment of well-organized local economic and community development organizations.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To identify public and private financial resources for support;
2. To foster a positive local climate for the attraction of new businesses and industry; and
3. To provide technical assistance to local development groups.

### **Criteria for Resource Utilization**

Recognizing that development resources may be limited, to some extent, in order to implement the goals and objectives outlined in the previous section, a strategy of policies governing the utilization of those resources must be established. This strategy takes two forms: the organizational features of the district and the actual work program which follows.

### **Organizational Features of the District**

The West Central Development Council will initially consist of seven EDA recognized components. The counties of Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, and Montgomery will be organized as Title IV Redevelopment areas. At present, three of the four counties have been officially designated as such and Montgomery County has been authorized. County CEDS's have been completed and have been accepted by their respective boards.

The County CEDS Committees will be utilized as the local planning and coordinative groups for each county. The programs and projects outlined in this document reflect the individual county documents. In addition to the 4 redevelopment areas, 5 growth centers will be designated within the Region, in counties which cannot qualify as redevelopment areas. After careful analysis, the five municipalities selected were Carlinville, the County seat of Macoupin County; Taylorville, which is the County seat of Christian County; Pana, also located in Christian County, Litchfield, located in Montgomery County; and Jerseyville, the county seat of Jersey County. These five municipalities were selected because of their great local economic impact and their demonstrated growth in the past decade. Each one of the growth centers has a well-developed infrastructure, and is the economic and cultural centers of their respective localities. Investment of EDA funds will basically be channeled through the above components. The district will coordinate all economic development activities within the area and the regional CEDS Committee will generate policies which guide the future utilization of development resources.

### **District Work Program**

The purpose of this section is to describe in detail how the previously outlined policies will be carried out in terms of specific programs and projects.

The scope of this section is divided into two specific areas. The first section deals with planning and assessment activities which must necessarily predate the undertaking of specific projects since present data does not point to a clear course of action in dealing with the specific problems.

The second section deals with specific capital improvement projects which have been identified through past analysis as problem areas having direct bearing on the development situation in the region.

The various components of the work program were designed to have a clear relationship to the established goals and objectives stated earlier. The work program, like the goals and objectives, should be flexible enough to accommodate changes as new local needs arise.

The following activities reflect the West Central Development Council's anticipated course of action for its initial five-year period of existence. However, only the initial year's activities should be viewed as fixed policy. Longer term aspects of the work program will be subject to annual review and modification based upon changing circumstances within the region.

#### Planning & Assessment Activities

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee will undertake or sponsor several planning and assessment activities designed to indicate the most feasible way of approaching several identified development problems. These projects will serve to provide more data about development potentials in the region.

1. Development of a comprehensive plan for Shelby County and updating of the existing comprehensive plans for Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, and Montgomery Counties.
2. Development of a housing assistance plan for the counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery and. Shelby.
3. Development of a comprehensive transportation plan for the Counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Shelby and Montgomery. (Goal F 1)\*
4. Develop a downtown improvement plan for the largest municipality within each county. (Goal C 2)
5. Carry out an industrial site inventory and assessment for each county. (Goal A, B)
6. Develop a county recreation plan for each county. (Goal H 1,2)\*
7. Assess individual municipal needs and identify deficiencies within each county. (Goal E 1) \*

8. Assess development of industrial promotional materials about each county.  
(Goals A 1, 2, 3 and J 2) \*
9. Develop a technical assistance program for local development groups.  
(Goals B 3 and 11,3) \*
10. Develop a program to study how best to foster more efficient exploitation of agricultural products and services for each county. (Goals A 1 and 2)\*
11. Develop a regional social service plan in order to coordinate training and educational activities to improve workforce suitability. (Goal 11, 2)\*
12. Foster an energy or natural resource development plan for the counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery and Shelby. (Goal C 1) \*
13. Develop a mini CEDS for the growth center cities of Carlinville, Litchfield, Pana, Jerseyville, Taylorville and Grafton.
14. Seek industry first to occupy vacant industrial building in Pana, Roodhouse, Litchfield, Carrollton and Schram City.

Note: \*Indicates specific goals and objectives related to the program.

### Capital Improvement Projects

1. Sewer System improvements for the communities of:

Bunker Hill	Tovey	Bulpitt	Chesterfield	Hettick
Palmyra	Elsah	Carrollton	Greenfield	Hardin
Brighton	Scottsville	Fieldon	Witt	Fillmore
Roodhouse	E. Gillespie	Butler	Jerseyville	Donnellson
Hillsboro	Carlinville	Shelbyville	Taylor Springs	Sigel
Brussels	Schram City	Coalton	Kampsville	Staunton
Herrick	Mt. Clare	Modesto	White City	Gillespie
Standard City	Nilwood	Oconee	Ohlman	Waggoner
Pana	Taylorville	Moweaqua	Kincaid	Harvel

2. Water System improvements are needed for the municipalities of:

Shelbyville	Carlinville**	Brighton	Hamburg	Medora
Waggoner	Nokomis	Hardin	Roodhouse**	Ohlman**
Lake KaHo	Greene Co.**	Brussels	Walshville	Batchtown
Wenonah**	Greenfield	Pana**	Virden	Michael
Carrollton	Taylor Springs	Mt. Clare**	Elsah	Chesterfield
Coffeen	Modesto	Kane	Benld**	Fieldon

Findlay	Herrick	Moweaqua	Oconee**	White Hall
Calhoun Co.	Witt**	Irving**	Schram City	Gillespie**
Bunker Hill**	Jerseyville	Donnellson	Kampsville	Girard**
Brighton	Stewardson	Findley	Dorchester Township	
Audubon Township			Community of Wright	

3. Improvements to natural gas systems in Roodhouse.
4. Heating system improvements for public building in downtown Taylorville.

### Industrial Site Improvements

1. Necessary improvement to existing industrial sites in Taylorville, Carlinville, Pana, Litchfield, Hillsboro and Shelbyville.
2. Industrial site improvement in Piasa Township.
3. Rail Spur to Jerseyville Industrial Park.
4. Industrial site improvements for Coalton.
5. Preliminary improvements on the Nokomis Industrial Site.
6. Industrial site improvement to the Pana Industrial Park
7. Water and sewer improvements to the Hillsboro Industrial Site.
8. Rail service to the Litchfield Industrial Park.
9. Develop industrial area in Raymond.
10. Develop an Industrial Park in Taylorville.
11. Development of the South Central Terminal Industrial Park (Owned by the City of Pana)

### Transportation

1. Traffic improvement projects in Wenonah and Irving.
2. Bridge widening and improvements to all County and Township roads.
3. Airport facility improvements for Jerseyville, Hillsboro, and Shelbyville.
4. Harbor and dock facilities at Grafton.
5. Harbor and dock facilities at Piasa Harbor. \*\*

6. Improvement of Highways 16, 51, 32, 128, 108, and 48. \*\*
7. Seek funding for a bridge at the south end of Calhoun County.
8. Rte. 67 Corridor serving Greene and Jersey County. Engineering has just recently been completed.
9. County highway improvements in Calhoun County.
10. Bridge improvements in Elsay.
11. Street and drainage improvements in Butler.
12. Street improvements in Hillsboro.\*\*
13. Brick street rebuilding in Pana.
14. Grafton has opened a ferry service to Charles, Missouri.\*\*

**\*\* Denotes projects in progress or projects completed.**

#### **Other Capital Improvements**

1. Continued neighborhood improvements (streets, gutters, sidewalks, etc.) in Jerseyville.
2. Renovation of the Elsay, Grafton and Hillview Village Halls.
3. Drainage improvements in Hillview, Rockbridge, and Donnellson.
4. New schools have been built or will be built in Gillespie, Benld and Carlinville.
5. Construct Montgomery County Courthouse in Hillsboro.
6. Lake Land College, Regional Tech Center, Pana.
7. Community Center construction in Schram City, Hillsboro, and Taylorville.
8. Jersey County Courthouse and jail reconstruction.
9. New jail and emergency vehicle storage for Calhoun County.
10. Christian County Courthouse renovation.
11. Street and drainage improvements in Witt.
12. Improve riverbank stability in Kampsville and Hardin.

13. Solid waste facility improvements in Greene, Calhoun, and Montgomery Counties.
14. Fire protection improvements in Donnellson, Irving, and Batchtown.
15. Renovation and expansion of city libraries in Taylorville and Hillsboro.
16. Route 51 Bypass.

### Recreation & Tourism

1. Development of a countywide park system for Greene, Jersey, and Calhoun Counties.
2. Renovate Macoupin County Courthouse and Jail.
3. Recreation improvement projects and programs in Calhoun and Jersey Counties.
4. Tourism improvement projects and programs in Calhoun and Jersey Counties.
5. Designation of the Koster Indian Site as a State Memorial.
6. Renovate historic school in Otterville.
7. Build a Reservoir in Greene County between Carrollton and White Hall.
8. Promote the Okaw Valley Project in Shelbyville
9. The Great River Road from Elsay in Jersey County to Eldred in Greene County, has just recently been designated as a scenic byway by the U.S. Department of Transportation. ([www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org))
10. Development of Central Illinois Chautauqua Pavilions in Pana, Shelbyville, and Taylorville.

### Housing

1. Low rent housing in Greene County specifically, but also throughout the region.
2. Housing rehabilitation programs in Pana, Jerseyville, Hillsboro, Schram City, Roodhouse, Gillespie, Waggoner, Mt. Olive, and Brighton.
3. Development of a housing plan for the counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery and Shelby.

Numerous accomplishments have occurred in the past few years and other projects are underway in the District since the District CEDS report was adopted and submitted in the Fall of 1992. It was last updated in the spring of 2005.

One of the most important accomplishments is the ongoing work of the CEDS Committee as the

district's leading force in economic development efforts. The committee has served as an effective forum for coordination among the counties communities. The CEDS Committee has brought together the many and various localized development efforts in the communities to focus more broadly on the promotion of the district as a whole.

**Community Facilities Improvements**

Following is a list of the Economic Development and Public Facility activities since 2000 that been identified as being very important and related to the strategies and objectives of the District CEDS Community.

**Calhoun County**

Calhoun County Rural Water District	2000	Install rural water lines and construct elevated storage tank.	\$2,000,000.00
Kampsville	2003	Design new water system and extended water transmission lines.	\$ 93,970.00
Village of Brussels	2007	Public Facilities Grant to install new water lines.	\$ 350,000.00

**Christian County**

Harvel (Christian/Montgomery)	2000	Develop sewer disposal system Design Engineering	\$ 21,500.00
Jeiseyville	2000	Removal of Architectural Barriers	\$ 11,000.00
Owaneco	2000	Planning Assistance-study to construct waste water collection and treatment system.	\$ 24,000.00
Kincaid	2001	Emergency Public Facility Water main replacement	\$ 62,561.00
Tovey	2003	Improvement to Water System	\$400,000.00
Kincaid	2007	Emergency Public Facility to replace water/sewer lines along Rte. 104	\$ 33,750.00
Kincaid	2007	Public Facilities Grant to improve storm water removal system.	\$350,000.00
Bulpitt	2007	Design Engineering to improve storm water removal system.	\$ 58,000.00
Jeiseyville	2007	Design improvements to water system.	\$ 59,500.00

Greene County

Rockbridge	2000	Planning Assistance Grant to study sewer treatment system.	\$ 20,000.00
Patterson	2000	Removal of Architectural Barriers	\$ 6,500.00
Eldred	2002	Planning Assistance develop a water system improvement plan.	\$ 22,750.00
Greene Co. Rural	2002	Installation of water lines.	\$400,000.00
Roodhouse	2006	Install new water system.	\$350,000.00

Jersey County

Jerseyville	2000	Construct a new 500,000 gallon water storage tank.	\$800,000.00
Rosedale Township on behalf of Jersey County Rural Water Company		Installation of rural water lines.	\$305,000.00
Hardwood International	2002	Expand woodworking facilities.	\$502,000.00
City of Grafton	2007	Design Engineering Grant to improve the water system.	\$147,000.00

Macoupin County

Benld	2000	Housing Rehabilitation (16)	\$230,000.00
Eagarville	2000	Construct Water Storage Tank	\$180,000.00
Gillespie	2000	Housing Rehabilitation (16)	\$230,000.00
Hettick	2000	Design Water Transmission Main Palmyra to Hettick and Rural Area	\$ 34,900.00
Palmyra	2000	Construct sewage pump station relief force main and rehabilitate	\$185,000.00

		manholes	
Sawyer ville	2000	Planning Assistance to eliminate chronic water violations	\$ 3,500.00
Sawyer ville	2000	Housing Rehabilitation (16)	\$230,000.00
Bunker Hill	2000	Replace deteriorated sewer lines	\$200,000.00
Eagerville	2000	Construct elevated water storage tank	\$250,000.00
Hettick	2000	Design water transmission line system	\$ 35,000.00
City of Bunker Hill	2007	Public Facility Grant to build water storage tank.	\$350,000.00
City of Girard	2007	Public Facility Grant to build water storage tank.	\$350,000.00
City of Benld	2007	Public Facility Grant to install new water lines.	\$387,764.00
Village of Mt. Clare	2007	Public Facility Grant to replace water lines.	\$109,500.00

**Montgomery County**

Ohlman	2000	Public Facility Grant to replace water lines	\$400,000.00
Irving	2002	Construction of Sanitary Sewer collection and treatment system.	\$ 19,250.00
Waggoner	2002	Planning Assistance develop plan for sewer disposal problems.	\$ 24,250.00
Witt	2002	Planning Assistance - upgrading water treatment plant.	\$ 20,250.00
Harvel	2002	Emergency Public Facility water treatment plant.	\$ 36,000.00
Witt	2003	Design improvements to Water Treatment Plant.	\$ 68,000.00

Irving	2003	Install new water storage tank.	\$295,000.00
Panama	2003	Install new water lines.	\$340,000.00
Village of Irving	2007	Public Facility Grant to replace water lines.	\$144,388.00
Audubon Township	2007	Design Engineering Grant to install water system.	\$135,000.00
Village of Waggoner	2007	Public Facility Design Engineering Grant to install new water system.	\$200,000.00
City of Witt	2007	Public Facilities Grant to improve water treatment plant.	\$350,000.00
Village of Ohlman	2007	Public Facilities Grant to install new water system.	\$350,000.00

### Shelby County

Strasburg	1999	Upgrade water treatment and supply system	\$350,000.00
Cowden	1999	Housing Rehabilitation (17)	\$230,000.00
Shelbyville	1997	Housing Rehabilitation (15)	\$200,000.00
Sigel, Town of	1998	Sewer system improvements	\$150,000.00
Ash Grove Township	2003	Design new Water System	\$ 61,300.00
Richland Township	2003	Design new Water System	\$ 40,000.00
Windsor Township	2003	Design new Water System	\$ 53,897.00
Clarksburg Township	2003	Design new Water System	\$ 63,350.00
Stewardson	2003	Install/new Water System	\$390,000.00
Oconee	2007	Install new water system.	\$350,000.00

Community facilities and services are another important developmental resource which are subject to improvement through investment. Problems arise in rural areas in raising the capital for these types of development. There are some 92 municipalities within the West Central Development Council. Region, and detailed data on all these communities was published in a recent study.

## Water and Sewer

Water and sewer systems in the region are generally inadequate for future needs in many localities. According to the 2000 Census, 81 % of the total number of housing units in the region are served by a central water system installed or in the process of being installed. Communities which do not have a central water system are Hamburg in Calhoun County and Walshville in Montgomery County. Approximately 67% of all water systems were considered adequate by local officials, with the remainder needing increased water supply or storage or replacement of water mains. Recent droughts in the area have intensified many water supply problems usually due to inadequate groundwater supplies. Therefore, the need for large supply reservoirs similar to Lake Lou Yaeger has increased greatly. Sewer systems are not nearly as common, as only 69% of the total number of housing units are served by sanitary sewer systems (or in the process of being served). In addition, very few of the systems in the region were considered adequate according to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, or served all the residents within their respective corporate limits. Due to the lengthy time process involved in achieving funding for sewer system construction, necessary improvements are usually difficult to realize.

Recent efforts by WCDC staff have enabled several communities to upgrade water systems and examine sewer system feasibility. Under the EPA sewer system feasibility planning program, fourteen small communities were studied to determine costs for sewer systems. Unfortunately, recommendations from most of these reports call for no action or rehabilitation of septic tanks as selected alternatives. Due to cost escalation of sewer system components in the past few years, most small communities will never be able to implement such systems, unless 100% funding is available from outside sources.

Since 1966 through Rural Economic & Community Development Services (RECDS) programs, and since 1984 through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP), almost \$120,000,000 has been invested in the public facility infrastructure systems throughout the region. The CDAP component requires that 51% of the people who benefit from the project be of low and moderate income status, a threat to the health and safety of those involved be in evidence, and the community inject 25% of the total project cost be provided by another source.

## Fire and Police

Fire and police protection, as with water and sewer, are highly variable from community to community and, as might be expected, larger communities have better protection systems.

Fire protection in varying degrees is available in all communities in the region. In the smaller communities, coverage usually takes the form of a fire protection district serving several towns and rural areas surrounding them. Some of the larger cities have full-time fire departments although none have a fire rating less than 7 (on a scale from 10 to 1).

Police protection is much more irregular. Approximately one third of the towns in the region report no full-time police officer, with most of these receiving police protection from County sheriff's departments. The ratio of full-time police officers to population averages

approximately 1.22 per thousand in the region. According to this survey, only 18.7 percent of the towns sampled have an average or above average number of officers in relation to population, with 2.1 officers per 1,000 populations being the national average.

### Housing

A detailed housing study has recently been completed for the West Central Development Council. According to this study, large areas of the region, particularly in the three western Counties, have marginal and sub-marginal housing conditions, according to U.S. Census definitions. Number of greatest housing needs are most pronounced in Macoupin County, with Montgomery, Christian, Greene, and Jersey also showing substantial needs. According to U.S. Census information, there were 27,629 families living in housing units built before 1939 in the region in 2000, with 1.4% of these lacking plumbing and full kitchen facilities. Of the 76,605 total housing units in the region 8,123, or 9.6% of the total are vacant and 17,729 or 22.5% are renter occupied. In addition, 78.2% of the total number of available housing units is actually owner occupied.

Table 13 details statistics on families occupying housing, offering comparisons on a county-to county basis. According to this information, almost two-fifths of all families in the region are classified by Housing and Urban Development as occupying housing built before 1939. Greatest numbers are evidenced in Macoupin, Montgomery, and Christian and Greene counties while the lowest percentages of all families are found in Jersey and Calhoun. Also 10% of all households in the region have been classified as having no telephone.

An attempt has been made to identify and enumerate overall housing needs of the region in Table 14. Substandard units have been divided into two groups; based on the information provided by the census. Census data for value and presence of plumbing indicates that a large percentage of the housing throughout the region is aged and in need of some type of rehabilitation. Minority households are not enumerated, since there is fewer than 400 minorities in any of the seven counties the region with data being unavailable for any grouping of that size.

General conclusions may be drawn from the county data presented above that improvement of the housing stock in the region will be a major developmental priority in the future. Adequate housing is certainly an enhancement which should be sought in order to make the region more attractive to new business and industry.

TABLE-13  
WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
REGIONAL FAMILYHOUSING CHARACTERISTICS - 2000 CENSUS

COUNTY	ALL HOUSING UNITS	OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS	PERCENT OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS
Calhoun	2,681	2,046	80.7
Christian	14,992	13,921	76.2
Greene	6,332	5,757	76.2
Jersey	8,918	8,096	77.7
Macoupin	21,097	19,253	79.0
Montgomery	12,525	11,507	78.4
Shelby	10,060	9,056	81.0

Regional Totals	76,605	69,636	78.2
State	4,885,615	4,591,779	67.3

**TABLE 14**  
**WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**  
**SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS - 2000 CENSUS**

COUNTY	TOTAL HOUSING UNITS	BUILT BEFORE 1939	LACKS PLUMBING	LACKS KITCHEN FACILITIES
Calhoun	2,951	950	271	221
Christian	14,640	5,694	110	93
Greene	6,575	3,046	58	103
Jersey	8,216	1,874	79	90
Macoupin	20,068	7,846	265	332
Montgomery	12,456	5,136	164	161
Shelby		3,133	149	93
Regional Totals	74,235	27,679	1,096	1093
% of Totals		37.3%	1.5%	1.5%

County	Total Housing Units on Public Water System	On Public Sewer System	No Telephone
Calhoun	972	572	190
Christian	11,934	10,518	910
Greene	4,629	3,691	662
Jersey	7,200	3,894	467
Macoupin	16,503	12,788	1,292
Montgomery	9,789	8,493	785
Shelby	5,833	5,003	527
Regional Totals	56,860	44,959	4,833
% of Totals	76.6%	60.5%	6.9%

## CHAPTER 4

### PROPOSED AND CURRENT FDA RELATED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN TM DISTRICT

#### City of Hillsboro - Montgomery County

The proposed facility is the construction of a city street to a partial commercial development on the south edge of the City of Hillsboro. The proposed city street and commercial development are to be built in a twenty-six acre abandoned pasture on the east side of F.A. 42 (IL Route 1.27) approximately 1000 feet north of the MOPAC Railroad Overpass.

Presently a retail discount store occupies two acres of the commercial development. The addition of this retail discount store to the Hillsboro Community has assisted in keeping product prices competitive, allowing more employment opportunities for low-to-moderate income citizens, and making goods more accessible to the Hillsboro community and other neighboring communities. The retail discount store is owned by the Duckwall-ALCO Stores, Inc. The Duckwall-ALCO Company currently hires up to twenty-five full and part time employees. The construction of the access road and the commercial development will provide more employment opportunities for the community.

Future development plans include the addition of new businesses. The Hillsboro Area Hospital is committed to building an Extended Living Facility at an estimated cost of \$1,500,000, which will create six new jobs. The Hospital plans to add a Wellness Center and invest approximately \$1,250,000, which will add 10 new jobs, and a day care center with an estimated cost of \$500,000, which would result in 10 new jobs. In addition, the hospital would build an ambulance garage at an estimated cost of \$400,000. Other commitments include McDonough Engineering, which intends to build a new facility at an estimated cost of \$350,000 and plans to add five employees to their staff.

Further, it is estimated that in addition to the creation of new jobs, the City of Hillsboro would benefit by as much as \$100,000 additional sales tax annually. The construction of the proposed roadway will provide easier access to the hospital, junior high school, and high school.

The city is unable to provide all of the funding for the proposed project. The Economic Development Administration grant will provide the City of Hillsboro with the capability to attract new businesses to the community. The City of Hillsboro is ineligible for the Illinois Economic Development Grant because this project involves a retail business. The design and construction of the City Street will meet all Illinois Department of Transportation requirements. Construction of the proposed project should begin as expeditiously as possible so the community can enjoy the benefits of the new rehabilitation activities, CDAP funds may be used to finance acquisition, disposition, clearance and relocation to arrest the decline of an area. Also, CDAP funds may be used for public facilities improvements and/or residential

connection costs which will support a housing rehabilitation project. The grant ceiling is \$350,000.00.

The City of Hillsboro and the Village of Taylor Springs in Montgomery County each have "Brownfield Sites" that need rehabilitated and cleaned up.

### PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Provide the exact name and location of the potential grant recipient, along with the name, title, address and phone number of a contact at the organization. If the potential recipient is a school, please provide the exact; name and location of the school district in which the school is located.

**City of Litchfield**

**120 East Ryder Street**

**Litchfield, Illinois 62056**

**Andy Ritchie, City Administrator or Tonya Flannery, Economic Development  
Director 217-3245253**

2. Describe the organization's main activities, and whether it is public, private or non-profit entity:

**The City of Litchfield is a municipal government/non-profit entity serving the residents of Litchfield, Illinois. The City's function is to provide for the needs of its residents through its Building, Economic Development, Fire, Lake, Police, Street, Wastewater, Water,, and Zoning Departments. The City is fiscally responsible for utilizing funding in an effective manner to best service the community.**

- 3: Provide a brief description of the activity or project for which funding is requested. If the request is for health-related construction, please identify the program activity that will be carried out in the facility.

**The City of Litchfield is requesting assistance with the extension of utility lines including water and sewer to the west side of Interstate 55. The extension of the utilities to this area would fulfill two primary needs of the community. The first need is to provide a connection to other water resources. The City is a water source for a number of water districts in this rural central Illinois area. The water line extension to the west side not only would allow the City to provide a water resource option to interested parties but would provide an opportunity for the City to potentially link to a large water supplier, thus providing a secondary water source for Homeland security.**

**The need for a secondary source would be beneficial to the City as it has also been selected as a community for the location of a 110 MGD ethanol plant. The facility's**

water need would reach over 1 mgd on an average basis. The City's two lakes provide the City's water source and would be enhanced by the backup supply if able to connect to water suppliers to the west of 1-55, such as American Waterworks.

The second need is that for future expansion. The City is the employment hub for an economically depressed county with an unusually high unemployment rate. The City has been successful with the building of two industrial parks housing nearly twenty industrial businesses employing nearly 1000 people. With the second park nearly full, the need for the City to move forward with the planning for a third business/industrial park is imperative. Available land to the west side of Interstate 55 would provide an excellent location for businesses as it has direct interstate access and is situated midpoint between St. Louis, MO and Springfield, IL. The Interstate network system within the 40-mile distance extends reach to anywhere in the United States. The utilities extension would allow the City to move forward with acquiring land necessary for the development of the Industrial/Business Park. The City has already taken the initiative in its planning to designate funds to the engineering design for the utilities extension and has developed a conceptual master plan to show the area developed as a whole. The Project includes extension of a 16" water main line 1,800' and of an 18" sewer main line 3,700' to the west side of Interstate 55 in Litchfield.

The utilities extension is crucial to the project and to the future growth of this rural community.

4. a. What is the total project cost?      **\$1,028,500**
- b. What is the amount you are requesting for FY 2009?      **\$935,000**
- c. If your request involves more than one year, please indicate the one-year amount.  
        **The City is requesting the funds in the FY 2009 funding.**
- d. Include a breakdown of the requested funding. (For example, salary \$40,000, computers \$3,000 etc.)      **Construction costs only: Water Main \$220,000, Gravity Sewer Main \$385,000, and Lift Station/Force Main \$330,000.**
5. a. Are other funding sources contributing to this project or activity?      **City of Litchfield**
- b. What amount does each of these funding sources contribute?  
        **\$93,500 for Engineering and Administrative Costs.**
6. Is the entity receiving funding for this activity from any other Federal agencies? If yes, include information on the amount of funds, the years received, and the name of the Federal agency and program providing the funding.

**The City is currently not receiving any other funding for the project. It will look to pursue any grants or financing options that may be available.**

7. What is the national significance of the project, and what specific federal responsibility does the funding of this project or activity further? For example, what measurable improvements in health status, educational achievement, or similar outcomes will result from this project?

The City of Litchfield is located within Montgomery County, Illinois. The County is considered a Labor Surplus Area by the US Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration. The County's unemployment continues to exceed the national and state averages and was reported for October 2007 at 6.6%. In addition, the City of Litchfield is the employment hub for Montgomery County as well as the adjacent counties. Over twenty percent of the residents in Montgomery County work in Litchfield. The City has a balance of commercial and industrial business which make up this employment. However, it is important that Litchfield continues to provide opportunity for industrial growth through such Industrial/Business Parks to provide good paying jobs to the area residents. Many local residents are employed by commercial or small businesses paying minimum wage, thus resulting in our County being economically depressed. The median household income is \$31,478. Our County needs quality industrial jobs that provide good benefits to its employees. The City of Litchfield has been successful in filling its two industrial parks with quality businesses which have expanded over the years. They are committed to providing the training needed to their employees and have seen longevity in their employment. Our rural central Illinois community is in need of assistance to spur growth, job creation and new investment in the local area.

The impact of extending the utilities to the west side would lead to the development of an industrial/business park as well as additional commercial development. The anticipated result would be creation of jobs, expanded tax base, and an improved standard of living for the residents of Montgomery County as well as surrounding Counties.

#### City of Litchfield - Montgomery County

This project consists of the construction of a new, signalized intersection on Illinois Route 16 between the City of Litchfield and the 1-55 interchange with Route 16. This intersection will provide a more direct access into the Litchfield Industrial Park on the south side of Illinois Route 16. The north leg will provide the main access for a 121-acre commercial development to be known as Route 66 Crossing at Litchfield. This access road will eventually connect with the Super Wal-Mart.

The design of the intersection has been completed after extensive consultation with District 6 of the Illinois Department of Transportation. The current "free flow off ramp" for vehicles exiting 1-55 north to Illinois Route 16 eastbound will be replaced with a T-intersection in order to provide storage space for vehicles turning into the proposed development. Other highlights of the design include the milling and resurfacing of Illinois Route 16 for the limits of the project traffic signals, which will be coordinated with existing signals at Illinois Route

16 and Ohren Drive (just east of the proposed intersection), left and right turn lanes into both the commercial development and the Industrial Park, and reconstruction of the existing concrete medians on Illinois Route 16.

Also included is a sanitary sewer force main which will begin at a pump station located behind the Glicks Store. This force main will be bored under Illinois Route 16 and traverse southerly another 1546 feet to an existing manhole in the Litchfield Industrial Park. Approximate total construction costs - \$1,500,000. Estimated project completion date 2007-2008. This project is presently under construction.

This project will facilitate the growth and expansion of these businesses: Schutt Manufacturing, International Filter Manufacturing Corporation, Napco, Lincoln Land Community College, and Morton Buildings, QB Technology, the New Super Wal-mart and a new motel.

Litchfield is also always trying to maintain and upgrade the public infrastructure facility water and sewer systems that not only serve the residents of the city, but the continually growing commercial development west of the city.

#### New businesses in Litchfield since February 2003:

Wal-Mart Supercenter	Baymont Inn
Comfort Inn	Rt. 66 Car Wash
Denny's Restaurant	Schutt Sports Distribution
Mobil Mart Convenience Store converted from a gas station to new expanded building.	
M.I. Ford sold to Victory Lane Ford, who moved to an expanded new location. Litchfield	
Meat Market sold to L & W Best Brands Appliances which is now open.	
Always in Style Boutique sold to First to the Finish which is open.	
Dana Corporation Distribution Center	
Skate Zone Roller Rink	
Checkered Flag Slot Car Racing	
Walton Chiropractic Clinic	

The following are new businesses listed with the Chamber of Commerce:

White Buffalo Trading Company Litchfield  
Carpet Central Air Services  
Baker's Custom Homes Wick  
Dealership Bob's Computer Solutions

#### Village of Panama

This project is considered a priority project because of the environmental impact it might have on the Village and its residents. A creek that flows adjacent to the Village waste water impoundment is gradually eroding the embankment which might eventually cause leakage from the impoundment to the creek. The Village is currently trying to secure funding to correct the problem. Total expected project cost - \$50,000. This project has just been completed.

### **Village of Donnellson**

The Village recently received a grant of \$400,000 to help them, construct a sanitary sewer system. This project is completed. The Village is also seeking enough grant funding to help it improve its water system and connect to the City of Greenville.

### **Village of Butler**

The Village is interested in installing a sanitary sewer system that connects to the City of Hillsboro. Costs are undetermined at this time. Estimated project completion date 2009-2010.

### **City of Hillsboro**

The City is continually trying to upgrade the housing in the blighted areas of the city. In the past two years they have received approximately \$125,000 to bring 25 such homes up to code. Estimated project completion date

### **Village of Harvel**

The Village is interested in constructing/installing a sanitary sewer system that will effectively serve the citizens in the community. It is presently on a septic tank system which is outdated and in constant need of repair. Costs are undetermined at this time.

### **Montgomery County Rural Water District**

The Montgomery Rural Water District has finished construction of Phases I, II, and III. The Montgomery County Rural Water District is preparing to design and construct Phase IV of the project. Estimated project completion date is 2009-2010.

### **Calhoun County Rural Water District**

The Calhoun County Rural Water District has submitted a formal application to Rural Development for funding of a Phase IV rural water project. The Calhoun County Rural Water District sought and received funding for Phase I, II, III, and IV, which have been installed. The proposed water system expansion will continue to use facilities installed under the first 3 projects such as the existing water treatment plant, transmission mains, stand pipe, elevated storage tank, and booster pump station. The Phase IV project will include 50 miles of water line, service connections for 175 new users, elevated storage tank, and related appurtenances. The total estimated cost of this project is \$3,000,000. This project began construction in the Fall of 2005. This project is completed.

### **Village of Brussels**

The Village is trying to develop and design a cost efficient sanitary system that will

effectively serve the residents of the community. They plan to seek funding for part of this project from DCEO by requesting design engineering funds totaling \$85,000. Estimated project completion date of 2009-2010. The Village has received a \$350,000.00 grant from DCEO to help replace/move water lines in the Village.

### Greene County

The Greene County Rural Water District has submitted a formal application to Rural Development for funding of a Phase III rural water project. The Greene County Rural Water District sought and received funding for the first two phases which have been completed.

The proposed wafer system expansion will continue to use facilities installed under the Phase I project such as existing transmission mains, ground storage tank, elevated storage tank and master meter. The Phase III project will include 55 miles of water line, service connections for 180 new users, elevated storage tank, and related appurtenances. Total estimated project cost is \$2,250,000. Estimated project completion date- 2004-2005.

### Greene County/White Hall

#### Repair/resurfacing of County Road Seining the Hanor Company

The existing roadway is structurally insufficient to carry the excessive amounts of 80,000 lb. trucks that correctly utilize this section of roadway. It is proposed to construct a bituminous overlay on the existing pavement to provide structural capacity for an 80,000 lb. truck route. The proposed scope of work will be limited to bituminous overlay, pipe culvert replacement, pavement marking, pavement patching, and aggregate shoulder construction. No alignment, drainage, traffic control or other geometric improvements are proposed with this project. No utility adjustments or RO.W. acquisition is anticipated for construction of the improvements as stated. Total estimated project cost - \$1,100,000. Estimated project completion date is 2009-2010.

### Village of Mt. Auburn (Christian County)

The Village intends to request \$80,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs to assist the Village in designing an adequate water transmission system which will include the replacing of deteriorated water lines with larger lines and the contraction of a new, larger water storage tank. The total estimated construction costs are approximately \$750,000. Estimated completion date is 2-897-2\$6

### City of Taylorville (Christian County) - Diversified Energy., Inc. (proposed activity)

The mine site will be located on 22,000 acres in Christian County. It contains approximately 150,000,000 tons of coal. Six hundred acres on that site will be used to place the mine opening, wash plant, load out facility and refuse area. It is estimated that within two years production will have started and within another two years it will be at full production. The goal is to

produce 3,500,000 tons of coal per year. In order to achieve this production, approximately 500 employees will be needed. The mine opening, wash plant, and loan-out facility will cost \$20,000,000 and approximately. \$11,500,000 in mining equipment.

#### City of Taylorville (Christian County) - Expansion of ATY Building Systems, Inc.

In order to expand manufacturing operations in Taylorville, Illinois, ATY is seeking outside financing to be used entirely for the purchase and installation of necessary equipment. By the end of the second year after expansion, ATY will employ 105 people, 85 of those in Taylorville and 20 in Denver, a creation of 59 jobs in the first two years. Financing is being sought through the issuance of a 10-year SBA 7(a) Term Loan in the amount of \$643,000 at reasonable market rates with an additional CDAP Grant resulting in a \$485,000 loan from the City of Taylorville issued as subordinated financing. In addition, ATY will request a \$500,000 conventional Line of Credit to be used for material purchases at favorable prices. Since the initial start-up phase, the company has made great strides in both revenue and profitability. Projections clearly indicate that with expanded and properly equipped facilities in Taylorville, ATY is capable of repaying debt directly from cash flows without hampering normal operations.

#### City of Jerseyville (Jersey County)

The City plans to request funding for two separate projects within the next 2-3 years. The City would like to upgrade the water and sewer systems which serves the residents on Goodrich and Spruce Streets and replace the remainder of the main water main that serves the entire population of Jerseyville. The cost of these two (2) projects combined is approximately \$800,000. Both of these projects should be completed within two years of grant award announcements. Completion date is 2009 -2010. The City of Jerseyville would also like to build a new water treatment plant.

#### Jersey County Rural Water Company (Jersey County)

The water company plans to look for funding to plan, design, and construct a water system that will connect rural residents to the Jersey County Rural Water District. The project, if funding can be secured, will serve approximately 225 households and 615 residents in the northwestern part of the county. These residents currently depend on wells or cisterns that are undependable and unsafe to drink. The total costs of these projects will approach \$3,000,000. The projects, if funded, will be completed by the years 2009-2010.

#### City of Litchfield (Montgomery County)

A new super Wall Mart opened up in 2004 that doubled the previous employment from 200 to 400 people.

A new outlet mall is presently under development located between 1-55 and Old Route 66.

The actual number of occupants has not been determined at the present time. The developer is still in negotiations with several interested businesses.

### **Taylorville Industrial Park**

The City of Taylorville would like to purchase a tract of land from ADM and convert it to an Industrial Park to accommodate the expansion/relocation of two local companies. One company manufactures components for use by CAT, GM, and Wal-Mart among others. The company plans to invest between \$4 and \$5 million and employ 100 people. The other company manufactures steel buildings that are shipped all over the world. They currently employ 40 people and plan to hire an additional 16-24 people. The initial investment will be approximately \$4 million. The Industrial Park will require roads, rail, sewer, water, and other utilities. The City plans to seek financial assistance from federal, state and local financing sources.

### **Taylorville Power Plant**

The Christian County Generation LL, for the Taylorville Energy Center plans to construct a \$1.2 billion 630 meg-a-watt coal gasification plant that would turn high sulfur Illinois coal into a synthetic gas for use in producing electricity.

### **Summary of Employment Impacts**

- Construction of the electric power generation facility will create 1,500 full time and part time jobs in Illinois over the duration of the construction project. Indirect employment of an additional 793 full time and part time jobs will be created in the state.
- Of the indirect jobs generated by construction of the electric power generation facility, additional jobs will be created in the following industries;
  1. 129 in retail trade industry.
  2. 110 in health and social services.
  3. 86 in professional, scientific, and technology.
  4. 70 in accommodations and food services.
  5. 68 in other services.

### **Summary of Employment Impacts**

- Construction of the electric power generation facility will employ 120 employees in Christian County. Indirect employment of an additional 543 full time and part time

jobs will also be created in the county as a result of electric power generation operations.

- Of the indirect jobs generated by the electric power generation facility's presence in Christian County, additional jobs will be created in the following industries:
  1. 106 in accommodations and food services.
  2. 2. 65 in transportation and warehousing.
  3. 3. 54 in the retail trade industry.
  4. 4. 48 in finance and insurance.
  5. 48 in professional scientific, and technology.
  6. 6. 43 in other services.
  7. 7. 39 in wholesale trade.
  8. 8. 37 in health and social services.
  9. 9. 34 in construction.
- For each 100 employees added to the electric power generation facility, 453 additional jobs will be created in the county.

#### **Summary of Employment Impacts**

- Illinois coal consumption by the electric power generation facility will employ 416 employees in the state with 158 in the mining industry directly and an additional 258 in other industries.
- Of the indirect jobs generated from Illinois coal consumption by the electric power generations facility's presence, additional jobs will be created in the following industries:
  1. 39 in arts, entertainment and recreation.
  2. 32 in retail trade industry.
  3. 30 in health and social services.
  4. 20 in transportation and warehousing.
  5. 19 in accommodations and food service.

### **Litchfield Ethanol Plants**

The 110 MOD Ethanol production facilities will require an upgrade of the roadway system to the 40 acre plant site to support up to 300 semi trucks per day on 80,000 LB. roads. Rail access will also be required for the project. The project is expected to create 50-60 full time plant jobs, several hundred trucking jobs, and up to 1,000 construction jobs. The economic impacts of spin-off businesses or industries have not yet been quantified.

### **Grafton Riverboat-Project**

The-Riverboat-Resort-LLC has proposed to bring a riverboat to the Grafton waterfront consisting of a unique bed & breakfast inn, relaxation spa, gourmet coffee, 7 desserts shoppe, river ware & gifts boutique, small-event banquet and corporate meeting facility, top deck open-air observation/relaxation area and indoor entertainment facility. Driftwood Restaurant and Bar will feature fine dining for up to 125. The furnishings are antiques from Europe. The pub tables and buffets, along with the plush sofa and matching barley twist chairs, are treasures within themselves.

This project will provide approximately 60-70 jobs and generate additional tax revenues and income, assisting the city to provide better services to the residents and keep property taxes lower for the residents, which equates to higher property values.

### **Nutwood Levee District**

The Nutwood Levee District would like to raise the levees in the district and upgrade the pumping facilities.

### **Deer Run Coal Mine**

Patton Mining Company is developing the Deer Run Mine site which is projected to employ 200 people when coal is mined beginning as early as 2010. All but one state, federal and local permit have been attained and site preparation work was able to be initiated in June 2009.

## CHAPTER 5

### SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

#### Introduction

Thus far, this document has explored various areas of economic concern necessary in defining the region's economic development program. To achieve future success toward better development of the region's economy, local development groups should capitalize on existing developmental potentials while also working to solve development barriers or problems.

#### Analysis of Potentials

##### Natural Resources

The West Central Development Council is fortunate in having an abundance of natural resources. Mineral resources include valuable coal deposits and fertile soils which have supported the region's economic base in the past. Abundant coal reserves, combined with the existing aquifer that underlies the western portion of the region, provide an excellent potential new direction toward which the area's coal production may be turned. Coal conversion requires accessibility to these two resources which may in the future provide important opportunities for economic development.

##### Environmental Issues

The overriding objective of the CEDS is, of course, to foster economic development within the 7 county areas. Such economic gains will prove most rewarding if they are achieved in a proper balance with environmental and cultural objectives. Accordingly, this section will briefly examine and discuss any identified "environmental constraints" upon future development and/or specific environmental problems within the district requiring special attention

##### Endangered Species

According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Database, there are more than 15 species (both fauna and flora) listed as endangered species within the seven - county district. A more detailed list of these species is available from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

## Solid Waste

To date, the most economical way to dispose of solid waste is to landfill the material. Other forms of waste disposal, such as incineration, add extra expenses to the cost of disposal. As well, utilizing a local transfer station for collection and long haul to an out-of-area landfill will increase disposal costs via transportation and increased handling of the material.

The Illinois Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act, passed in 1986, mandated that each county be responsible for the planning and management of its solid waste. Each county was expected to draft and adopt a 20-year solid waste management plan which has three main components. These components are: (1) Waste Reduction - source reduction and reuse, (2) HHW, and recycling - final disposal composting, incineration, landfills, and lastly, (3) Implementation - coordination of planning, recycling and educational efforts. Through an intergovernmental consortium, the seven counties prepared a Needs Assessment and adopted a West Central Illinois Solid Waste Management Plan in the Summer of 1996. This plan was approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

## Water/Wastewater

With the exceptions of the smaller isolated villages, most incorporated communities in the seven counties have direct access to abundant raw water supplies (aquifers, lakes, reservoirs, water transmission lines, etc). Nearly all of the incorporated communities in the seven county districts, with populations of 1000 persons or more, either own their water treatment impoundment facility or have arrangements with neighboring communities and/or water districts to purchase treated water.

Some of the district's larger communities are in the process of expanding their water processing storage capacities to accommodate future community development and to accommodate anticipated peak demands and/or improve treatment quality. At least five rural water districts are in varying stages of development/operation, and at least one other district has been in operation for a number of years. The combination of these developments either now, or will, afford a majority of the district's residents with a dependable, safe supply of potable water.

Due to the fact that very few smaller communities have adequate wastewater treatment facilities, no industrial and few commercial developments are located in such settlements; this is not unique to our District. Most larger communities have adequate existing or expanding wastewater treatment facilities to accept new industrial/commercial developments.

Some communities are considering expanding their wastewater collection lines (as well as water lines) to service existing and future development within their fringe areas.

### Labor Force

Even though agriculture has in the past been a decreasing source of employment, the region is still 3 - 4 times as specialized in agribusiness as the national average. Because of the already stable and prosperous agriculture base, there is potential for further exploitation of this sector, especially in manufacturing and distribution of agricultural goods, which could serve as a potential source of employment for the agriculturally - oriented segment of the workforce. Service related jobs are now the number one employer in the district, which indicates that a suitable labor force is already available for this type of endeavor. The educational levels in the region are low compared to national levels, but the region's population is within easy access of educational institutions which serve as potential training centers for the regional labor force.

### Transportation

Much of the West Central Development Council region is in the economically advantageous position of being in a direct transportation corridor among the four SMSA's of Decatur, Bloomington, St Louis and Chicago. For this reason, the region has good potential for accessible north-south transportation of goods and people. Major water-based transportation is also accessible to the western portion of the region through utilization of the Illinois and Mississippi Waterways. These factors, combined with flat topography, make an attractive location for light industry.

### Organizational Development

Movement toward more sophisticated development organizations has recently become a vital interest at the regional and local level. Five counties, Calhoun, Jersey, Christian, Macoupin and Montgomery, have active planning commissions which will play major roles in future development of their counties.

The West Central Development Council Inc. is available to provide technical assistance to CEDS committees in each county, as well as to other locally active groups. This renewed interest has presented itself as a necessary potential for the region's economic development.

Several municipalities have already developed industrial parks in order to further encourage industrial development.

### Demographic Constraints

Employment in agriculture, mining, construction and manufacturing have been on the decline in the recent past. Indications are that this trend will continue. Through this loss of employment, the region suffers loss of population and wealth to neighboring regions which can provide the displaced segments of the workforce with needed employment.