

**North Central Illinois Logistics Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 18, 2009**

The North Central Illinois Logistics Council members and guests were welcomed to the meeting at IVCC by Ray Gatza and Debbie Clausen.

PANEL SPEAKERS PRESENT: Nora Fesco-Ballerine, Pam Furlan, Andrew Hamilton, Carol Kulek, Rick Powell, and Rodney (Rusty) Tribe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Brad Acuncius, Cliff Banks, Sue Bates, Jason Bird, Peggy Blair, DeAnna Carlson, Debbie Clausen, Jim Conness, Christine Dahm, Mark Dale, Judy Day, Chad Errio, Bob Eschbach, Jeff Fiegenschuh, Bob Gahm, Jamie Gahm, Ray Gatza, Jerry Hicks, Sue Isermann, Keith Johnson, Daniel Krischel, Debb Ladgenski, Joel Lent, Kevin Lindeman, Jim Loveland, Terry Madsen, Donna Marena, Rich Myers, Pete Nelson, Elaine Novak, Boyd Palmer, Mike Phalen, Zack Plym, Jeromy Raatz, Dan Rabe, Wally Rakoczy, Brooke Reck, Erica Robbins, Tim Robey, Allison Ryan, Dianna Schuler, Louie Sekula, Tom Spelich, O.J. Stoutner, Roger Thompson, Gilbert Tonozzi, Tony Torres, Samantha Warren, Alison Wasmer, Gerald Waszkowiak, Tom Welsh, Rick Wilkin, Reed Wilson, John Ziel.

It was announced that a brochure providing information for an IVCC Warehousing instructor open position was available for those interested.

Pam Furlan welcomed the speakers for the panel presentation on the Recovery Act. Questions regarding the panel presentations will be held at the end of the program during the open discussion. Ms. Furlan introduced Rick Powell, Illinois Dept. of Transportation, speaking on "State Highway Projects." Mr. Powell noted that Illinois is one of the states benefiting from the stimulus program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Some of the highway projects slated for Illinois include:

- I-80 intermittent resurfacing in LaSalle County;
- IL-178 resurfacing US 6 to I-80 interchange;
- US 52 resurfacing IL-251 to I-39;
- IL-18 resurfacing IL-251 to IL-89;
- IL-92 resurfacing Walnut to IL-26;
- District-wide interstate pavement striping;
- District-wide guard rail and terminal upgrade;
- IL-251 resurfacing Peru to Mendota;
- Reconstruct and realign IL-178 through Utica;
- I-80 through Bureau County resurfacing, patching, bridge replacement, bridge removal over abandoned railroads;
- IL-71 safety shoulders and bridge replacement;
- I-80 at IL-178 construct new interchange (2-year project);
- Reconstruct and widen IL-26 through Princeton to eliminate jog at I-80.

The next presenter was Carol Kulek, Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Energy and Recycling. Ms. Kulek addressed "Energy-Related Projects and Initiatives."

- Energy Efficiency Portfolio provides for incentives in the form of rebates and/or grants for ComEd and/or Ameren Illinois utility customers to encourage them to purchase and install high efficiency equipment and systems to reduce electricity.
- There are cash incentives for systems that reduce electricity such as: Lighting, HVAC, Refrigeration, Motors, and Street Lighting.
- Efficiency programs are: Standard, Custom Incentive, New Construction, Retro, Commissioning, and Low Income.
- Energy Efficiency Portfolio Eligible Entities are: Municipalities, Townships and County facilities, Library and Part Districts, Public Safety, Water Reclamation Districts, K-12 Public Schools, Public

Community Colleges and Universities. Ottawa Schools replaced lighting and saved \$5,300; the incentive was receiving one-half of that total back.

- Market Transformation Training and Education include: Building Industry Training and Education, Code Training, Building Operator Training, Lights for Learning, and Green-Job Grants. Some training is available through community colleges.
- The Renewable Energy Program has the following: a Solar Rebate Program and a Wind Rebate Program.
- Recycling Programs include: Traditional Recycling Grants, Electronics Recycling Grants, Recycling Expansion and Modernization Program, and Zero Waste Schools Program.
- The ARRA State Energy Program Illinois Allotment is \$101,321,000 for this year. We are targeting four large areas: Renewable Energy Development (\$30 million), Manufacturing and Processing (\$30 million), Energy Efficiency (\$30 million), and Biofuels (\$10 million).

Carol Kulek introduced Rodney (Rusty) Tribe, Energy Efficiency Specialist (Ameren Illinois Utilities) to continue the presentation on “Energy-Related Projects and Initiatives.”

- Mr. Tribe discussed the Act on Energy Business Program and the differences between Year 1 and 2 of the program. All projects for Year 2 (current year) require pre-approval and have a 90-day reservation.
- Standard projects include Lighting, Refrigeration, Motor, HVAC and Custom. The incentive starts from the date of pre-approval.
- Custom projects must be pre-approved with a \$200,000 per facility and \$100,000 per project per year.
- For information go to the Website: [www.illinoisenergy.org](http://www.illinoisenergy.org)

The next presenter was Nora Fesco-Ballerine, Executive Director of the North Central Illinois Council of Governments. Ms. Fesco-Ballerine addressed “Local Infrastructure Projects.”

- The need for local infrastructure projects has increased tremendously. This increase includes: storm drainage, transportation, energy efficiency, disaster funds and emergency services.
- NCICG advocates for the needs of the local communities and has gathered a list of projects in the region for counties: LaSalle, Grundy, Bureau, Putnam, Lee, and Marshall.
- The list includes 360 million dollars for over 169 projects. We are looking for some of these projects to be funded.
- We need to support our state legislators as they attempt to work for our area needs.
- Project readiness was stressed as important criteria for the proposed projects.

Andrew Hamilton, Upper Illinois River Valley Development Authority, was introduced and provided an overview of the Recovery Zone Bonds. The bonds (RZB) are intended to stimulate economic recovery. RZB’s are broken into two types.

- Recovery Zone Facility Bonds. RZFB’s permit counties/large municipalities to provide tax-exempt financing for projects which historically would not qualify, such as: Office buildings, warehouses and storage facilities, commercial development, retail businesses, shopping centers, auto dealerships, restaurants, medical office buildings, agricultural facilities and manufacturing facilities. RZFB’s are private activity bonds and are classified as except facility bonds for tax purposes. The bonds cannot be used to finance specific activities such as: health clubs, golf courses, country clubs, and tanning facilities.
- Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds are bonds to be used for governmental purposes that will allow the county or large municipality to borrow on a lower cost than traditional tax-exempt financing.
- The Recovery Zone Facility Bonds may be issued prior to January 1, 2011. Mr. Hamilton referred the group to the handout provided for more information.

The next presenter was Pam Furlan from Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. Ms. Furlan addressed “Workforce Initiatives Under the ARRA.” The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation’s economic recovery and to assist those most impacted by the recession.

- Funding for the State is \$122,768,467; local workforce area funding is \$2,072,906 and is available for Bureau, LaSalle, Lee and Putnam Counties.
- Funding for Adults is \$390,005 and includes job search assistance and training opportunities such as occupational and on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs.
- Funding for Dislocated Workers is \$965,996. This is for workers laid off due to plant closings or lay-offs, displaced homemakers, and job search assistance.
- Funds for Youth are \$716,905. This provides for low income or member of low income family, plus barrier to employment. Younger youth are ages 14 – 17; older youth are ages 18 – 24 (was previously 21 years of age).
- The older youth programs include: Job search assistance, occupational training, on-the-job training, and apprenticeship programs. Work experience/internship and summer youth programs are available for all youth in order to gain good basic work habits and career knowledge.
- For employers there is Screening for Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC); eligibility was expanded under ARRA.
- Incumbent Worker Training includes: Upgrade or increase skills of current workforce; requires a 50% match by employer; prohibitions in cases of lay-offs; and “Green Jobs” summit. Ms. Furlan noted that there will be a Green Jobs Summit in the future; presenters and speakers will be invited.
- For more information contact Dianna Schuler at BEST or Jennifer Scheri at IVCC.

#### Open Discussion

- There were no questions for the panel speakers.
- The door prize “IPOD nano” was donated by Andrew Hamilton, Executive Director from Upper Illinois River Valley Development Authority and WON by Louis Sekula, Operations Safety Manager of Del Monte Foods in Mendota.
- The next meeting will be Thursday, August 20, and will be held in room C-316 at IVCC. (There is no meeting in July.)
- The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.