



**MINUTES
WHITESIDE CARROLL
ENTERPRISE ZONE
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION**

October 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

EZMO Board Chair, Mayor Scott Vandermyde, called to order the regular meeting of the Whiteside Carroll County Enterprise Zone Management Organization at 1:32 p.m. on Oct 14, 2025 in Room 117 at the Whiteside County Courthouse, 200 East Knox Street, Morrison, Illinois, 61270.

A verbal roll call was taken. EZMO members in attendance were: Robbin Blackert, Kimberly Ewoldsen, Jim Friedenbach, Sally Heffernan, Scott Howard, Chris King, Rodney Kleckler, Shane Malone, Diana Merdian, Scott Vandermyde, and Mick Welding. A quorum was verified. Also, in attendance were Gary Camarano, Enterprise Zone Administrator, and Brenda Nelson, Enterprise Zone Administrative Assistant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

EZMO Chair Vandermyde called for public comment. No requests were received prior to the meeting, and hearing of none the Chair ruled that there was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

EZMO Chair Vandermyde called for any discussion or revisions for the unapproved minutes dated July 15, 2025. There were no corrections mentioned. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Robbin Blackert, seconded by Kim Ewoldsen. The motion carried with a "collective" Aye to approve the minutes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

Projects Report Fiscal Year & Quarterly	# of Projects	Investment	Jobs Created	Fees Collected
Dec 24 – Sept 25	4	1,482,412	11	5,214.65
July 25-Sept 25	2	277,412	1	564.65

Lists of all Projects recorded and their respective investments, fees, and job status were provided in the meeting packet, for FY25 to date (Dec 24-Sept 25).

December-Sept 2025 total PROJECT funds collected to date \$31,993.85. (**Project fees of \$25,000 was collected for 2024 project installment payments and also additional project fees due of \$1779.20 from 2024 projects at closing was collected-totaling \$26,779.20) Total PROJECT funds for 2025 is \$5214.65 for 4 projects in FY25.

Balance of Funds (Check Book Ledgers)

FY25 (December-Sept 2025) Total interest earned for FY 2025 totals

\$1392.40 of which \$96.97 is allocated to Jo Carroll and \$1295.43 allocated to Whiteside Carroll zone. Expenses during this time period totaled \$47,063.07 for Whiteside County (\$33,658.50 -reimbursement for WCEZ Administrator and Admin Asst wages FY 2025) and independent contractor services for October through March (\$4000.00), Law Office of Gregory Hummel (\$2500.00), I-88 West (\$2000.00), MACRE Media (\$1338.45), IL State Chamber of Commerce HR Member Dues (\$1210.00), IL State Chamber of Commerce dues (\$1204.00), and IL Chamber of Commerce Dues (\$1152.12). Total combined funds are in the amount of \$122,849.09. Jo Carroll's portion is \$9,523.45. Whiteside Carroll Enterprise Zone expendable funds are \$113,325.64. This balances with the Whiteside County Treasurer's Office.

Sally Heffernan motioned for approval and seconded by Diane Merdian. A verbal vote to approve the reports as presented, was taken: All members agreed. Motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

The board revisited the previous discussion regarding the option of allowing proxy representation for members unable to attend meetings. After brief consideration, it was noted that recent meetings have had a stronger attendance. As such, the board agreed to maintain the current system without proxies at this time. The board also discussed the possibility of changing the number of meetings held each year. Additionally, members considered offering remote attendance options, such as Zoom or conference calls, to increase participation. The topic may be revisited in the future if attendance patterns change.

NEW BUSINESS

A question was raised regarding potential uses for the surplus funds in the checking account. A CD or money market account was suggested. Options will be researched and reported at the next meeting.

Administrator Camarano stated he met with Illinois State Senator Ram Villivalam at a meeting in Galena to bring the Senator up to date on recent projects and potential projects that would benefit from Whiteside County Airport's longer runway and to possibly acquire funding for its maintenance as opposed to shortening the runway.

The Administrator noted there may be a potential new project with Jungbunzlauer (JBL) in Thomson, IL. The proposed project is currently located within the EZone, and further details will be shared as they become available.

The Administrator also announced that two Whiteside County Innovators have advanced to the Top 100 in the 2025 Chicago Innovation Awards:

- **Merge Impact** – A collaborative team of food system experts, conservation advocates, and farm data strategists.
- **Morrison Institute of Technology** – Recognized for its efforts in expanding innovation in education.

F.R.E.D. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Administrator Camarano reported that the Whiteside County Unemployment Rate for August 2025 4.9%, which is up a bit from the prior month of 4.6%. Nationally the unemployment rate for August 2025 was 4.3% and 4.4% for Illinois.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Representatives from Whiteside and Carroll Counties and the communities of Fulton, Milledgeville, Morrison, Prophetstown, Rock Falls, Savanna, and Sterling shared happenings in their respective communities. Chris King provided an update on the airport and expressed her appreciation to Gary for attending the recent meeting with the Senator in Galena. She also mentioned an upcoming TIF meeting, which will help determine how funds will be allocated. Mick Welding shared that the expansion at the Morrison Hospital is going well and is on track to be completed in May of 2026. Also, a new doctor has been hired to replace Dr. Woods, who retired. Additionally, a neurologist has been hired, who is utilizing robotic technology in their practice, which has been attracting patients from surrounding areas.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Board Chair Vandermyde called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Whiteside Carroll Enterprise Zone Management Organization. Shane Malone made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Diane Merdian. The motion carried with a “collective” Aye, and the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

The next meeting of the Whiteside Carroll EZMO has not been finalized until after the December meeting of the Whiteside County Board, as they are responsible for determining the official meeting dates for the use of the County Meeting Room.