

APC appoints new legal eagle

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

A new day has dawned for the Carroll County Area Plan Commission. A new zoning administrator will soon take the reigns, there may be a new secretary and a new attorney was hired at the Feb. 26 evening APC meeting.

Cynthia G. Harmon of Flora was unanimously chosen to replace former APC counsel Patrick Manahan.

Harmon told commission members she did not have zoning legislation experience but did not consider that a deterrent for the job.

"I'll grow right along with you," she said noting the many changes in store for the county.

Harmon attended Western High School in Howard County, graduated from Indiana University in 2001 with degrees in political science and legal studies. She was a 2006 graduate of Valparaiso School of Law.

Married to Flora optometrist Dr. Dan Harmon, the attorney shares an office in the same building at 103 S. Howard St., Suite B, in Flora. Harmon said she limits her law practice to general civil

cases, such as family law, real estate issues, guardianships and estate planning.

Harmon said her parents moved to the Flora community in 1976 when her father purchased the lumber yard there. She worked in government and lobbying for 10 years and then in real estate and the mortgage business while pursuing her law degree.

"This position gives me the opportunity to provide additional services to the community," Harmon said. "I am

afforded the opportunity to use my past experiences to guide and advise commission members."

Other business

APC members recommended Carroll County Commissioners hire current zoning office secretary Kathy Mylet to replace zoning administrator Dale Huffer upon his retirement.

Huffer reported that 66 flood repair permits were issued as of Feb. 26. He said that number was approximately 25 percent of requests made.

The next APC meeting will be held March 20 at 7 p.m. This is a change from the usual meeting date.



Harmon

What is Carroll County EDC all about?

Editor's Note: The following explanation was provided by Carroll County Economic Development Corporation to help readers understand the organization.

Carroll County Economic Development Corporation was established 20 years ago to improve and diversify the county's economy and tax base via retention and attraction of business. Offices are on the second floor of the REMC building in Delphi at 119 E. Franklin St.

EDC is a not-for-profit entity with 501(c)6 status. The executive director position was originally part-time, but in July 2006, EDC followed the recommendation of County Commissioners and Carroll County at the Crossroads initiative and hired Daryl Smith as full-time executive director. Cathy Watkins provides support to both EDC and the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, who shares office space in the same building.

EDC member governmental units are: Carroll County, Delphi, Flora, Camden and Burlington.

The board of directors meets monthly. Three are appointed by each of the five member units of government. Directors serve three-year terms as volunteers. They receive no compensation for this service from EDC or the governmental unit they represent.

Board members include:
County representatives - Ron Kennedy (president), George Mears and Paul Marcellino;

Delphi representatives - Eric Ross (secretary/treasurer), Brad Burton and Bonnie Maxwell;

Flora representatives - Bret Rinehart, Bret Hanaway and a vacancy;

Camden representatives - Bob Overman, Richard Fite and Bob McCain; and

Burlington representatives - Ruth Johnson, Jay Bordner

and Milt Rodgers (vice president).

Funding

Operating funds are provided by member governmental units through Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) revenues. In Carroll County, EDIT revenue is distributed according to a formula, to County Government, Delphi, Flora, Camden, and Burlington. About 20% of the EDIT revenues go through those units of government to EDC to fund its activities. All other EDIT revenue is spent on various projects or held over by the government entities themselves.

Total EDIT Revenue for 2007

Carroll County:	\$214,196
Delphi:	\$71,550
Flora:	\$49,303
Camden:	\$6,501
Burlington:	\$5,648
Total:	\$347,198

EDIT Revenue to EDC

Carroll County:	\$48,639
Delphi:	\$9,415
Flora:	\$8,106
Camden:	\$2,169
Burlington:	\$1,412
Total:	\$69,741

In addition to EDIT revenue, contributions and interest income from reserves brought 2007 EDC revenue to over \$80,000. EDC held over \$177,000 in reserves at 2007 year-end. Savings were slowly accrued over the past 20 years.

EDC expenditures for 2007 include the executive director salary and benefits; a portion of the secretary's expense; office supplies, telephone, Internet, postage, utilities, accounting services; Community Enhancement Awards; and travel. Total expense for these items in 2007 was \$65,000.

To develop and focus on goals, EDC engaged Ball State University and the St. Claire Group in 2007 to do a Strategic Directions study. This study was paid for by additional contributions from the government

entity members as well as donations from several county businesses and an REMC Round-Up grant. (The \$21,000 for the study is not included in the figures noted above because expense and reimbursement fell only partly in 2007.)

The study was reported extensively in the *Comet*, and listed three Strategic Imperatives: 1.) Build on Carroll County's leadership in agriculture; 2.) Create a real estate development plan to create shovel-ready sites for commercial development; and 3.) Raise the money through an Economic Development Income Tax rate increase to accomplish these economic development goals.

Accomplishments:

1.) EDC has been involved in helping attract additional agricultural businesses. While EDC has not tried to attract dairy investment, they have helped to welcome the three families to the county. EDC is trying to identify other potential agriculture-related businesses that might relocate or start up in the county.

2.) In order to attract other commercial or industrial enterprises and jobs and to diversify the economy, appropriate land has to be available for sale and ready for development with access to water, sewage treatment, utilities, and other infrastructure. EDC is spearheading an effort to secure options to buy real estate at certain locations in the county to provide shovel-ready spots for commercial or industrial development. Some sites were identified as long ago as 1988 in a county economic development study. EDC set aside \$60,000 of their reserves in 2008 to accomplish these goals, and as land purchase options are acquired, announcements will be made public.

3.) EDC is supporting the proposed increase in the EDIT tax. Since the EDC is supported mainly through EDIT taxes and EDC is the entity in the county

Business Briefs

R O N "GATOR" FRITZ of Bringhurst is the Town of Flora's newest employee. He is in training as an apprentice lineman and will be attending a four-year electric apprentice program.



Fritz

"Fritz is not replacing anyone, but is in training so that the town has a new person who is fully trained for future retirements," said Utilities Manager Chuck Everett. "A lot of us have over 30 years and retirement is not that far away."

Fritz is a Kokomo native who has resided in the Flora area for

six years. He most recently was employed at Heartland Biofuel. He is a certified welder, a pipefitter and has residential electrical experience.

Eldon and Wilma Robeson of **ROBESON EQUIPMENT, INC.**, have completed the 2008 Sukup Sales and Service Seminars in Arcola, Ill. Seminar attendees learned about the latest developments in the complete line of Sukup products in order to improve their product knowledge.

Morgan RV Resorts has acquired **INDIANA BEACH AMUSEMENT RESORT** on Lake Shafer in Monticello. The purchase includes the resort's entire operations.

The new owner has numer-

ous improvements planned for the resort, including the addition of the amusement park's sixth roller coaster, Steel Hawg. The new steel roller coaster, Indiana's first custom steel coaster, features multiple flips and inversions as well as a 120-degree first drop. Also new for 2008 will be an extended operating season.

The resort complex will open for the 2008 season on May 3.

Morgan RV Resorts is the country's largest private owner and operator of RV parks and resorts, while Indiana Beach Amusement Resort is Indiana's largest amusement resort. Indiana Beach is home to six roller coasters, a water park, sandy beach swimming area, two campgrounds, shopping, dining, dancing and more.

Internet Directory

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1 year (52 weeks) \$4⁰⁰ per week (paid in advance \$208⁰⁰)
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Business & Service Directory

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Carroll County Farm Bureau Incorporated

Annual Meeting

March 18th, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

Canal Interpretive Center
1030 N Washington Street, Delphi

Speakers:
Congressman Joe Donnelly & Senator Brandt Hershman

RSVP by March 12th
765-564-2638