

Decatur County Area Plan Commission

October Minutes 2025

The regular scheduled meeting for the Decatur County Area Plan Commission was called to order by Todd Mauer at 7:04 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2025. There were 8 board members present. Also attending the meeting was Melissa Scholl – APC Attorney, Doug Westerfeld – Area Plan Director and Debbie Martin – Administrative Assistant.

Todd Mauer opened the meeting and read the following: *to comply with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Decatur County requests that participants in this meeting complete a voluntary, anonymous survey that is available on the table in the back of the room.*

- **Purpose:** Implement a property cleanup and blight enforcement program modeled after **Jennings County’s program.**
- **Funding:**
 - \$200,000 received from ARPA funds).
 - Funds used to address neglected properties via complaint-based investigations.
- **Scope:**
 - Applies to properties in the County
 - Incorporated towns (e.g., Westport, St. Paul, New Point) are excluded from this program.
- **Process Overview:**
 - Complaint received.
 - Property owner sent a violation letter.
 - If unaddressed, a “**Show Cause**” hearing is held at the APC Meeting
 - Court authorization allows the county to clean up the property.
 - Costs are placed on the property taxes.
- **Goals:**
 - **Encourage voluntary compliance.**
 - **Get properties back on the tax roll.**
 - Long-term goal: **Program becomes self-sufficient.**
- **Next Steps:**
 - Second reading and final approval in **November APC meeting.**
 - Commissioners will formally assign cleanup authority to the planning office.

Scott Smith made a motion to adjourn; **Sheila Kirkhoff** seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

The video can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_dJy5wOBo&t=2787s

Attest:



Secretary, Paul Stone

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In the absence of the President and the Vice-President joining remotely, the minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board and signed by the Secretary only.

President, Todd Mauer

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