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## **Ziller Named COO of Regional Development Authority**

*RDA Board of Directors names Sherri Ziller COO and awards grant to  
Town of Pines during final board meeting of 2012.*

Crown Point, IN (November 20, 2012) – The Board of Directors of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority named Sherri Ziller as the RDA’s first Chief Operating Officer during today’s Board meeting in Crown Point. At the gathering, the Board also approved a grant for the Town of Pines and adopted a policy to guide implementation of its new Regional Challenge grant program.

Ziller, 31, has served as Finance and Grants Manager since 2006. “For more than six years, Sherri has done an outstanding job for us,” said RDA President and CEO Bill Hanna. “She has overseen the commitment and execution of more than \$200 million in RDA grants and been instrumental in securing matching funds on both the local and state level. Sherri has been tireless in her efforts to ensure that every dime of public money we receive is utilized properly and accounted for, and her input has been invaluable to both RDA staff and the Board. I have no doubt that she will execute her new duties as COO with the same professionalism and commitment to excellence that she has always brought to her work.”

A resident of Crown Point, Ziller is also a member of the Southshore Leadership Society and serves on the faculty of Kaplan College in Hammond, where she teaches course in IT, Microsoft Office and General Education. She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Purdue University Calumet (PUC) and will complete a master’s degree in process management from PUC this year.

In other business, the Board awarded a \$160,000 Regional Challenge grant to the Town of Pines. Porter County Commissioners have agreed to provide an additional \$40,000 in matching funds for a total of \$200,000 for Pines. The grants will fund a series of planning studies that will create a comprehensive vision for the community including land uses, zoning, parks and recreation, economic development and utilities.

“The Town of Pines is an important piece of the ‘Eastern Gateway’ to the Indiana Dunes,” noted Jeff Good, Porter County appointee to the RDA Board. “Situated on U.S. 12 close to attractions like the National Lakeshore, Pines is an ideal spot for tourism and recreation. These studies will lay out a road map for the town so that it can maximize the economic development opportunities inherent in its location.”

The new Regional Challenge Fund policy establishes a \$1 million pool to be used for public initiatives or projects of regional significance. These competitive grants have a maximum of \$200,000 and require a minimum 20% match. Complete details will be available shortly on the RDA Web site at [in.gov/rda/](http://in.gov/rda/).

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#### **About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority**

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for transforming the economy and quality of life for Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit [www.in.gov/rda](http://www.in.gov/rda) and [www.rdatransformation.com](http://www.rdatransformation.com).