

THE ROLE OF THE GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

An Abstract of  
a Thesis  
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## ABSTRACT

Many communities in the southern Illinois region do not have the resources to foster quality of life improvements individually. However, by pooling resources to help fund the Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission, and by utilizing the regional approach to planning and development, a cooperative, symbiotic relationship between communities and the region's resources can be established to foster quality of improvements for the region as a whole.

This applied thesis is an attempt to assess the role of the GERPDC in community development efforts in southern Illinois. This project gives a general, descriptive overview of the goals and responsibilities of regional planning commissions and the need for cooperative planning, based on citizen participation, on a regional level. The focus is on several projects in which the author participated during an 11-month internship with the GERPDC including water quality management planning, comprehensive planning, grant writing and administration, and dissemination of information. It also illustrates the diverse nature of community development itself, and issues affecting quality of life in the Greater Egypt region. An attempt is also made to describe the diverse repertoire of "generalist" skills utilized in the field of planning, especially from a regional perspective, and their relation to geography as a discipline.