

BLACKHAWK HILLS



Resource Conservation and Development
Jo Daviess • Stephenson • Carroll • Ogle • Whiteside • Lee

**COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 24, 2010
Lanark Heritage Center
106 South Broad Street
Lanark, IL**

MINUTES

Attendance

Edie Block, Carroll County Board
Ed Juracek, Carroll County SWCD
Cathy Brunner, Carroll County Area Rep.
Kim Monk, Jo Daviess County Board
William Tonne, Jo Daviess County SWCD
Isaac Mercer, Lee County Board
Ron Colson, Ogle County Board
Lynne Kilker, Ogle County SWCD
Glen Kuhlemier, Whiteside County Area Rep.
Karen Nelson, Whiteside County Board
Tim Keller, Whiteside County SWCD
Theresa Wittenauer, Economic Development Professional
Julie Jacobs, RC&D Program Assistant

Call to Order

William Tonne, RC&D President, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Introductions

There were no new introductions.

Minutes

Lynne Kilker made a motion to approve the March 22, 2010 Council Meeting minutes as written. Isaac Mercer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finances

The Financial Reports were handed out. Julie Jacobs explained that the general RC&D account report only shows the daily transactions and not FY2011 Budget totals since the RC&D FY2011 Budget has not been approved yet. The Economic Development District financial report shows both the daily transaction and the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget totals. Julie Jacobs also added that we had to open a new account for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). Two hundred dollars was deposited into the new account. The new account transactions will be reported at the July Council Meeting. Glen Kuhlemier made a motion to place the Financial Reports on file. Karen Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Financial Reports will be placed on file.

Dave Dornbusch explained the Fiscal Year 2011 Economic Development District Budget that was handed out. The Economic Development Administration is offering us an additional \$10,000 in FY2011. We will have to have a match for it. Karen Nelson made a motion to accept the proposed FY2011 EDD Budget. Edie Block seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dave Dornbusch gave a detailed explanation of the FY 2011 RC&D Budget which was handed out. Going into the new fiscal we have a carryover of \$34,723.03 but a majority of the funds include funding for the Oregon Trail Days project and the Envirothon. Some of the line items are higher than the past due to some grants that will be coming in this next fiscal year like the EECBG and the Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. The project funding line item is high since it includes the income from the EECBG. Dave also developed a Funding for Staff spreadsheet that he shared with the Council. It shows Julie Jacobs working full time, hiring a Forester on contract and a hiring a Planner. Funds for the additional positions would come from grants. The Planner would need to have some type business degree. Ed Juracek asked why we need to hire a Forester. A Forester would be hired to assist us with two projects, the Jo Carroll Energy Project and the Fish and Wildlife project which will help local landowners get their Forestry Management Plan implemented. Cathy Brunner made a motion to approve the FY 2011 RC&D Budget. Isaac Mercer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Julie Jacobs also informed the Council Members that the Financial Audit performed by Bill Dodge, Certified Public Account, is in their packets.

Unfinished Business (Progress Reports and Actions)

Coordinator's Report – Dave Dornbusch's report was shared with the Council Member prior to the meeting. Dave added to his report that Karen Woodrich, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) did a review on Blackhawk Hills RC&D last week. She met with staff and a few Council Members. Ms. Woodrich suggested a few minor changes for us to make. She was impressed of the make up of our Council, the practices we use and the type of projects we do. Glen Kuhlemier added that Ms. Woodrich was able to witness our Budget Committee Meeting. Karen Nelson stated that Karen Woodrich liked procedure handbook. This was the first RC&D Review done by NRCS. Dave also reported that he met with Jo Daviess County Chair, Jo Daviess County Administrator and Kim Monk concerning the US 20 Lookout Tower. There is support in the area for this project. A meeting will be held with in the next month between Jo Daviess County Officials and the Illinois Department of Transportation. Dave has offered to facilitate meetings for them.

Economic Development Professional Report – Theresa Wittenauer's report was shared with the Council Members prior to the meeting. Theresa has been working on the final EDA progress report. It will be posted online under publications. She is also working on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Update. All the communities and the county Economic Development Professionals have been asked to submit their project updates to her by the end of the month. The Regional CEDS Meeting was held last Friday. The group reviewed the needs assessments that were developed three years ago. In those assessment needs included Capital Improvement Planning and Broadband, which we have accomplished. Theresa will use survey monkey for a quick assessment of what is needed. The next workshop in our series will be on Site Selection. A press release will be sent out after more details are known.

Executive Secretary's Report – Julie Jacobs' report was shared with the Council Members prior to the meeting. Last Thursday, Theresa Wittenauer and Julie participated in the IL Association of Regional Councils teleconference. All the Regional Planning Commissions had given a report as to their status on the EECBG. Blackhawk Hills is standing very well on getting the information out to the local units of governments. Julie had also shared with the Council Members recent RC&D press releases. The Journal Standard has been doing a great job on covering out projects. Blackhawk Hills is now on Facebook. John Huggins, VISTA, helped us set our page up. Julie encouraged the Council Members to occasionally look at Blackhawk Hills' website and to let her know if changes need to be made. Edie Block asked that the minutes posted be kept up to date.

New Business

New Measures – Theresa Wittenauer presented the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Planning Grant measure for Council's approval. The grant application was submitted last week. The grant cycle was for three years and the first year included an additional \$10,000. Theresa would like to see the extra funds go towards doing more capital improvement plans, Building Code Training and anything that would do with the prison planning. The Bureau of Prison will work with us on planning. Cathy Brunner made a motion to approve the EDA Planning Grant as a new measure. Kim Monk seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EDA FY2010 Grant – Dave Dornbusch said we have some funds that we need to spend by the end of June. The staff has developed a list of items that the funds can be utilized on. Ron Colson made a motion to allow the staff to make the necessary purchases. Cathy Brunner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Dave Dornbusch reported that the Executive Committee held a teleconference to discuss how to handle a county that hadn't made their donation towards the Economic Development Administration Planning Grant project.

Chicago Rockford International Airport – Ron Colson reported he spoke to Bob O'Brien, Executive Director of the Airport, yesterday. Six years ago there was no passenger service at the Airport. Today, there are 200,000 passengers annually utilizing their services. There will be some new Airlines coming in the next 18-24 months. Looking at flights to the east and west coasts and adding more seasonal flights like the one to Cancun. Hoping to add flights to Jamaica. The Cargo service is still doing well. In the last ten days there has been three 747 from China. Overall flights and business will double in the next 18 months.

Illinois Association of RC&Ds (IARCD) – Cathy Brunner reported that Jim Elliott, IARCD President, is recovering from a stroke no major complications. Jim doesn't want to seek re-election as President. Cathy's work will not allow her the time to hold that position. There was much discussion on the benefits of having a State Association or not.

Regional CEDS Committee – Ron Colson reported that the Thomson Prison project will affect the whole area and not just Carroll County. It will impact a 50 mile radius. Theresa Wittenauer added that there was a really good turnout at the Thomson Prison Workshop. The Colorado representatives also met with the schools in the area. The meeting was covered well by the media. Kim Monk had heard recently about a vote that was taken on bring the detainees to the Prison. A vote was recently taken by federal legislators to not bring the detained too the Thomson Prison. Theresa Wittenauer stated that the last Regional CEDS Meeting was held last Friday. Theresa has started to take notes of the meetings and is sending them out to the Economic Development people in the area. She will also start to share them with the County Board Chairs. The next Regional CEDS Meeting will be held August 20th which Dave Dornbusch will handle. Buyer supplier network will be discussed at the August Meeting.

Galena Trail & Coach Road Society – Tim Keller reported that the Society's Annual Meeting was held on April 17th in Wisconsin and no one from WI showed up for the meeting.

Marketing – As stated earlier Blackhawk Hills RC&D now has a page on Facebook.

US Route 20 – There was nothing new to report.

Highway 30 – Glen Kuhlemier reported that the Citizen Advisory Group will meet on June 2nd at the Odell Library in Morrison at 6:30 PM.

Driftless Area Initiative – Julie Jacobs said a written report by Della Moen was in the Council Members packets. Dave Dornbusch reported that John Walsh, DAI Executive Director will be visiting Blackhawk Hills RC&D Office on June 4th. He will also attend our September Council Meeting.

Broadband – Bill Tonne stated that we are in the due diligence stage. Eighteen projects were recommended by the state. There was discussion on the connection for Anchor Institutions. If this grant is approved construction could start in early 2011.

William Tonne thanked the staff for everything they have done and also thanked the Council Members.

Future Council Meetings – The July Council Meeting will be held via teleconference on July 28th at 8:00 AM.

Round Table Discussion

Cathy Brunner announced that Mt. Carroll's May Fest will be this weekend and Lanark Settler's Day will be June 25th weekend.

Tim Keller reported that 30 World War II era DC-3s and C47s will be at the Whiteside County Airport in Rock Falls the weekend of July 23rd.

Karen Nelson gave some facts on the BioPro Power Plant that will be built in Rock Falls. BioPro is a seven year old company based out of Portland, Oregon but has team members in Iowa and Minnesota. The Power Plant will employ 30 people full time and another 40 part time. It will produce enough electricity for 19-20,000 homes with a renewable source of energy. They will be using corn stover. Ed Juracek wondered if the new Federal EPA rules would have an impact on this project. Karen didn't think so since they already have all their permits.

Ike Mercer reported work is still going on to get the bus stop in Dixon moved closer to the toll way. There is road construction on Galena Avenue and by the Reagan Home in Dixon.

Glen Kuhlemier stated that the Reliant building in Rock Falls is coming down. Rock Falls is looking for site for their Lincoln Highway mural. A building downtown Rock Falls had a wall collapsed yesterday.

Karen Nelson reported the Rock Falls-Sterling area is still on top for the Veteran Administration Clinic. Announcement should be made in the next month. It won't be located at the Whiteside County Health Department since there is no room.

Kim Monk announced that on October 2nd there will be a Fire Ball Run with the ending location being Galena. It starts in Vegas. There should be 40-60 very expensive cars staying at the Eagle Ridge Resort.

Glen Kuhlemier attended the Louie Bellson's Tombstone Dedication Ceremony last Thursday at Riverside Cemetery in Moline. Representative Boland had a State Resolution composed acknowledging Mr. Bellson. Louie Bellson was born in Rock Falls.

Ron Colson reported the Ogle County Courthouse renovation is getting closer to completion. Employees are scheduled to move back in.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.