

# BLACKHAWK HILLS



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

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Friday, April 3, 2008**  
**Candlelight Inn**  
**Rock Falls, IL**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance**

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  
Marcia Heuer, Ogle County Area Rep.  
Chuck Moen, Stephenson County SWCD  
Della Moen, Stephenson County Area Rep.  
Karen Nelson, Whiteside County Board  
Glen Kuhlemier, Whiteside County Area Rep.  
Delores Kuhlemier, Rock Falls  
Laurel Bergren, Mt. Carroll  
Donald Kautz, Hanover  
David Dornbusch, RC&D Coordinator  
Theresa Wittenauer, Economic Development Professional  
Julie Jacobs, RC&D Executive Secretary

**Call to Order**

William Tonne, President, called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

**Introductions**

There were no introductions.

**Minutes**

Minutes to the January 26, 2009 Council Meeting were handed out. Chuck Moen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Isaac Mercer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Finances**

There was no Financial Reports since they were just presented at the Annual Meeting held prior to this meeting.

A dues invoice from the Driftless Area Initiative (DAI) was presented to the Council. Glen Kuhlemier made a motion to pay the \$500 dues to the DAI. Cathy Brunner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Unfinished Business (Progress Report and Actions)**

*Coordinator's Report* - Dave Dornbusch's report was shared with the Council prior to the meeting. Karen Nelson asked about the Rawleigh Complex that Dave has commented about in his report. Dave replied that the Rawleigh Complex is in Freeport and the City is working with Vendewalle & Associates on redevelopment of the facility. The next Broadband Taskforce meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2009 at the Farm Bureau building in Mt. Carroll.

*Economic Development Professional's Report* - Theresa Wittenauer's report was shared with the Council prior to the meeting. Theresa added to her report that she will start back to work with two days next week and full time on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Executive Secretary Report* – Julie Jacobs' report was shared with the Council prior to the meeting. Nothing new was added.

*Office Space* – Dave Dornbusch reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service has agreed to combine our office with the Major Land Resource Area Office which is located in the same building to the north of our present office. Dave shared a layout of the new space. NRCS will put in a new phone system similar to what the USDA Service Centers have. The move will take place in August and NRCS will take care of the moving. Julie Jacobs added that the Council will receive six months (January-June 2009) free rent since the agreement with NRCS was not legal. The Council had already cut a check but it had never been submitted to NRCS so that amount will be added back into the checking account. Julie asked if the Council will have to enter into an agreement with Lou Pignatelli for the Council's share of the rent. Dave Dornbusch replied yes.

### **New Business**

#### *New Measures*

*2010 Biomass Conference* – Dave Dornbusch reported that as a part of the larger Department of Energy grant we received through the DAI grant we will host a Biomass Conference. The conference will be held in Dubuque, IA in November 2010 and will be billed as a National Biomass Conference. Blackhawk Hills RC&D will serve as the lead organization for this project. Cathy Brunner made a motion to approve the Biomass Conference as a new measure. Karen Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

*Forestry Inventory for the Carbon Credit Program* – Dave Dornbusch stated that this project would work with the landowners in the Blackhawk Hills RC&D area to cost share on the development of the inventories that are required by the Carbon Credit Program. Blackhawk Hills would provide a list of forestry consultants that have the expertise to complete the inventories. This project may require the Council to hire a forester to provide quality control for the duration of the project. Cathy Brunner made a motion to approve this project as a new measure. Ron Colson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

*Energy Efficiency for Ag & Rural Business* – Dave Dornbusch described that with this project Blackhawk Hills would contract with a consultant to perform energy

audits for ag producers and rural small businesses. Once completed the landowner would know what they need to apply for grant funding through Rural Development and potentially NRCS. We would probably charge \$100 for the audits. It would be a small source of revenue for us. Ron Colson made a motion to approve this project as a new measure. Chuck Moen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

*Capital Improvement Plan Incentive Program* – As reported in Julie Jacobs' report Theresa Wittenauer had developed a Capital Improvement Plan Incentive Program. The program offered ten communities in our area a \$2,000 incentive payment if they completed a Capital Improvement Plan and participated in a one day workshop to learn how to qualify for grants and loans for infrastructure projects. Eleven communities have indicated that they would like to participate in the program. The Council will have to decide if they would like to allow Milledgeville to participate since they recently completed their plan. Funds for this program will be taken the funds we received from the State of Illinois for planning purposes. Chuck Moen made a motion to approve this project as a new measure. Cathy Brunner seconded the motion. Motion carried. Glen Kuhlemier made a motion to grant Milledgeville along with the other ten communities the incentive payment. Cathy Brunner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

*National RC&D Conference* – Dave Dornbusch reported that the National RC&D Conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on June 14-17, 2009. Information on the conference was in the Council Members' packets. If a Council Member is interested in attending the Conference they should let Julie Jacobs know by the middle part of May.

*Next Meeting* – The next Blackhawk Hills RC&D Council Meeting will be held on May 18, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

### **Adjournment**

Isaac Mercer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cathy Brunner seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:38 PM.