

# BLACKHAWK HILLS



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

COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, January 25, 2010  
Carroll County Courthouse Conference Room  
301 North Main  
Mt. Carroll, IL

## MINUTES

### Attendance

Edie Block, Carroll County Board  
Ed Juracek, Carroll County SWCD  
Cathy Brunner, Carroll County Area Representative  
William Tonne, Jo Daviess County SWCD  
Isaac Mercer, Lee County Board  
Ron Colson, Ogle County Board  
Sam Newton, Stephenson County Board  
Chuck Moen, Stephenson County SWCD  
Della Moen, Stephenson County Area Representative  
Karen Nelson, Whiteside County Board  
Glen Kuhlemier, Whiteside County Area Representative  
Dave Dornbusch, RC&D Coordinator  
Theresa Wittenauer, Economic Development Professional  
Julie Jacobs, Executive Secretary

### Call To Order

William Tonne, RC&D President, called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

### Introductions

There were no new introductions.

### Minutes

Minutes to the November 23, 2009 RC&D Council Meeting were emailed and handed out. Chuck Moen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Edie Block seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes to the January 8, 2010 Executive Committee Meeting were emailed and handed out. Ed Juracek asked about Blackhawk Hills' survey response on page 4, the question "How many years have you worked in your current RC&D position". Cathy Brunner explained that that question was completed as the whole Council and since Blackhawk Hills has been in existence for 36 years that is how it was completed. Chuck Moen made a motion to accept the Executive Committee Meeting minutes as presented. Ed Juracek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## Finances

The Financial Report was presented to the Council. On the top of the report it should have said "January" and not "November". Julie Jacobs pointed out that the 3-month certificate of deposit was up for renewal but remained at Community State Bank since they still had the best rate. Della Moen made a motion to place the Financial Report on file. Karen Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Karen Nelson added that she will be meeting with Betty Steinert, Whiteside County Economic Development, to discuss their donation to us. Cathy Brunner will share with Karen the leverage amounts that she had come up with for the Leadership Forum.

## Unfinished Business (Progress Reports and Actions)

*Coordinator's Report* – Dave Dornbusch's report was shared with the Council Members prior to the meeting. Dave gave an update on the Natural Resources Conservation Service's initiatives that he has been working on. A meeting was held on January 20<sup>th</sup> in Peoria and another meeting will be held in Sycamore on Wednesday. The Mississippi River Basin only includes six townships in Lee County. Dave reported that the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) contract between IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the IL Association of Regional Councils is waiting to be signed. Dave stated that his daughter Hala is 3 months old and weighs 12 pounds and is 24 inches long. Cathy Brunner asked if we will have to return the donations we received for the Small Business Development Centers. Dave replied that we will have to contact each of the groups that have made donations. Sam Newton asked if the EECBG be used to update community buildings and fire halls. We do not know the details of the EECBG grant yet. Dave would like to set up a revolving loan. Blackhawk Hills will receive an administration fee and there will be funds available for energy audits. William Tonne asked if the Savanna Historical Society would be able to utilize the EECBG funds. Julie Jacobs gave William information on Peoples Economic Development Corporation which works on historical projects. It's a group that could be able to help Savanna Historical Society.

*Economic Development Professional Report* – Theresa Wittenauer's report was shared with the Council Members prior to the meeting. Theresa added to her report that tomorrow she will participate in an Economic Development Administration quarterly meeting. EDA will host quarterly meetings for the Chicago region to discuss new policies. Theresa has been working with the Tri-County Economic Development Alliance (TCEDA) group on Community Preparedness Meetings. Two meetings will be held one for community leaders and one for businesses. Information is posted on TCEDA's website at [www.TCAEDAonline.com](http://www.TCAEDAonline.com). The meetings will be about two-three hours long. Theresa participated in the Carroll County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Meeting on Wednesday and there was a question on the resolution that was signed between TCAEDA and Blackhawk Hills. Theresa passed the resolution around for the Council Members to look at. The Council will act on it later.

*Executive Secretary* – Julie Jacobs' report was shared with the Council Members prior to the meeting. Julie added to her report that there our new Conflict of Interest forms in the Council Members packets for them to sign and return to her. Julie met with Bill Dodge, Accountant, last week to discuss doing an audit for us. He is thinking it will cost about \$1,500. Mr. Dodge is looking into if there is additional work needed since we receive federal funding.

## New Business

### *New Measures*

*Community Assessment and Preparedness* – Theresa Wittenauer is working with TCEDA to plan and prepare meetings and workshops directed at the impact of the sale of the Thomson Prison. The workshops are being prepared for the region's Community and Business leaders on how to assess their needs and issues that may arise from the potential influx of residents and workers. TCEDA wanted to key on their area but Theresa asked them to include our whole area. Chuck Moen asked if we are working with Iowa too. Theresa replied that she has been in contact with Steve Ames of Clinton's Economic Development. Cathy Brunner made a motion to approve as a new measure. Glen Kuhlemier seconded the motion. Motion carried. Lorali Heitzelman from Rural Development has informed Theresa that they may have a grant program that could help with funding. TCEDA could cover the match for the grant if needed.

*Women in the Wild Workshop* – Julie Jacobs stated that we have been asked to sponsor the workshop again this year. We have done this for the past four years. Chuck Moen made a motion that we donate \$100 to support the workshop. Karen Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

*2010 Annual Meeting* – Julie Jacobs reported that Blackhawk Hills' Annual Meeting will be held in Ogle County. Marcia Heuer and Lynne Kilker recommended to the staff on hosting it at White Pines Inn. The Ogle County RC&D Council Members are working on the details.

## Committee Reports

*Chicago/Rockford International Airport* – Ron Colson reported that the freight service at the airport is still doing well but passenger service not.

*Marketing Committee* – Della Moen asked what we were doing with the Council Internet Service. Julie Jacobs stated that the Budget Committee needs to meet to see how we want to pay for the service.

*IL Association of RC&D Areas (IARCD)* – Cathy Brunner reported that she will be attending the Leadership Forum in March. She will also be participating in a special Not For Profit training while in D.C. on behalf of the IARCD. Jim Elliott, IARCD President, will also be attending the Leadership Forum. The IARCD and the National Office will pay for her travel. Dave Dornbusch has pulled some numbers together for Cathy to use when meeting with the Legislators.

*Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Committee* – Ron Colson reported at the last Regional CEDs Meeting TCEDA spoke on preparing for the impact the Thomson Prison will have on our area. The next Regional CEDs Meeting will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Galena Trail & Coach Road Society* – Tim Keller was unable to be at tonight's meeting. Julie Jacobs reported that the Society's Annual Meeting will be in Princeton on March 28, 2009. Karen Nelson shared that Tim Keller was recognized in the Whiteside County Annual Report for his work in cleaning out the Spring Slough.

*US Route 20* – Nothing new to report.

*Highway 30* – Glen Kuhlemier reported that in the last Highway 30 Newsletter it elaborated on some future dates for project development.

*Driftless Area Initiative* – Della Moen reported that the DAI will be meeting tomorrow. The DAI is working on getting a new Executive Director. The DAI is trying to become a separate organization as an independent organization as a not for profit. They are working on bylaws.

*Broadband Committee* – Bill Tonne had a copy of the application. Rejection letters for first round of funding went out on Friday. Bill heard 35 grants have been funded nationwide in the first round. Notice of funds availability (NOFA) for round two is out. Round two will favor middle mile projects. We will need more matching funds. We need to have commitment from private partnerships (providers) for the round two application. The match can be in-kind. William will be meeting with NIU on Friday in Rockford at 11 at NIU Room 201. No project in IL was funded in the first round. Thomson Prison will be referred to in the next application. For this to work there has to be a profit motive for the private sector. Will help in round two, to partner with the last mile holders. Ed Juracek recommended that ComEd be contacted too. Chuck Moen made a motion that William work with the Executive Committee to move forward with the second round grant application. Cathy Brunner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

*TCEDA* – William Tonne shared Jo Daviess County thinking about economic development. They liked what Dubuque, Iowa was doing. Jo-Carroll Energy has stepped up to take this role in Jo Daviess County but also included Jo-Carroll's service area. This fit into their business motto. It mirrored their business plan. There was much discussion as to what TCAEDA's role is and how the County CEDs groups operate. After much decision the Council chose not to act on the resolution.

*Executive Committee Meeting* – Bill Tonne reported that the Executive Committee Meeting minutes were already presented and acted on.

*Train Prospects and Progress* – Bill Tonne reported that Janet Fisher could not make it to the meeting but will come in a couple of months to speak.

### **Next Council Meeting**

The next Blackhawk Hills RC&D Council Meeting will be held on March 22, 2010 at Lanark Heritage Center at 6:00 PM.

### **Round Table Discussion**

Sam Newton announced that a Siting, Zoning and Taxing of Wind Farms in IL Conference will be held in Peoria on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$30 for County Board Members and \$75 for others.

Glen Kuhlemier shared a press release on the BioPro Plant that is being built in Rock Falls. They will use corn stover for fuel supply. The company has all their permits.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.