

# BLACKHAWK HILLS



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

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday, March 22, 2010**  
**Lanark Heritage Center**  
**106 South Broad Street**  
**Lanark, IL**

## **MINUTES**

### **Attendance**

Edie Block, Carroll County Board  
Kim Monk, Jo Daviess County Board  
William Tonne, Jo Daviess County SWCD  
Isaac Mercer, Lee County Board  
Thomas Millard, Lee County SWCD  
Lynne Kilker, Ogle County SWCD  
Samuel Newton, Stephenson County Board  
Della Moen, Stephenson County Area Rep.  
Charles Moen, Stephenson County SWCD  
Glen Kuhlemier, Whiteside County Area Rep.  
Karen Nelson, Whiteside County Board  
Tim Keller, Whiteside County SWCD  
Dave Dornbusch, RC&D Coordinator  
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 6:03 PM.

### **Introductions**

No new introductions.

### **Minutes**

Minutes to the January 25, 2010 Council Meeting were either emailed or mailed out to the Council Members prior to the meeting. Chuck Moen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Isaac Mercer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Finances**

The Financial Reports were handed out. Chuck Moen made a motion to place the Financial Report on file. Tom Millard seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Financial Report will be placed on file.

## **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 he will be working on a Forest Service grant. His daughter, Hala is doing well.

***Economic Development Professional's Report*** – Theresa Wittenauer's report was shared with the Council Members prior to the meeting. Theresa added to her report an update to the series of workshop we are hosting. The first workshop for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee members will be held this Wednesday morning at the Dogwood Inn in Forreston. The second workshop, Bracing for Impact, will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Buck's Barn in Thomson. Speakers from Florence, CO will speak about their experience with a federal prison. The workshop, Site Selection, will be held June 30<sup>th</sup> in the Rochelle area. In the morning of the May 5<sup>th</sup> workshop a meeting will be held for school superintendents to prepare them for the prison opening. Theresa is expecting will be using maternity leave in August.

***RC&D Executive Secretary's Report*** – Julie Jacobs' report was shared with the Council Members prior to the meeting. Julie had attached to her report information on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block (EECB) grant. We are waiting for the contract from IL Association of Regional Councils (ILARC). We will have to move quickly on approving the contract that Julie recommended that the Council pass a resolution that authorizes Dr. Tonne to sign the contact as soon as it comes in. Lynne Kilker made a motion to pass a resolution accepting the EECB grant from ILARC. Glen Kuhlemier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

***Annual Meeting*** – Invitation for the Annual Meeting are in the Council Members packets. The meeting will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at White Pines Inn. The invitation will be sent out to all our partners. Lynne Kilker thanked Julie for designing the invitation. Dr. Tonne will not be at the Annual Meeting due to prior plans to be in Ireland.

***RC&D Performance*** – Dave Dornbusch reported that information on the RC&D performance survey was in the Council Members' packets. One-third of the Councils in the nation are not showing any progress in the national reporting system. If anyone has questions, they should call Dave. Our five year plan should be looked at more often.

## **New Business**

***Election of Officers*** – Chuck Moen reported that the election of officer will take place at the Annual Meeting. Dr. Tonne and Ron Colson both agreed to run again. Karen Nelson announced that she would like to step down as Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer is an appointed position. Glen Kuhlemier agreed to serve as Secretary-Treasurer

***New Measures*** – the following measure were presented for approval.

***Prevailing Wage Workshop*** – to host a workshop to update local units of government on the new prevailing wage rules. Tom Whalen from the IL Department of Labor will present. A flier on the workshop was handed out.

***Zoning Board of Appeals Workshop*** – host a training session for Zoning Board of Appeals Members to educate them on their responsibilities. Dave is working with Stu Richter on planning this workshop.

**Economic Development Workshops Series** – Theresa Wittenauer had included this in her written and verbal report. Agendas for each workshop were handed out.

Chuck Moen made a motion to approve all three measures. Karen Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Reduction in the Local Shared Income Tax Revenue** – A copy of a resolution that Carroll County Board passed concerning an Opposition to the Proposed Reduction in the Local Shared Income Tax Revenue. Julie stated that Carroll County Board wanted us to share it with our Council Members. Council Members that serve on County Boards may want to share it with their boards. Glen Kuhlemier said he and representatives from Rock Falls will be in Springfield the day before our Annual Meeting to discuss this issue.

### **Committee Reports**

**Marketing Committee** – Julie Jacobs reported that the Council's internet service has been installed at the office. Julie ([julie.jacobs@blackhawkhills.com](mailto:julie.jacobs@blackhawkhills.com)) and Theresa Wittenauer ([Theresa.wittenauer@blackhawkhills.com](mailto:Theresa.wittenauer@blackhawkhills.com)) have new email addresses. Council Members were encouraged to start using those addresses. Theresa and Julie have had trouble receiving emails for the past two weeks. Chuck Moen asked that our new logo be used on the Envirothon shirts.

**Illinois Association of RC&Ds (IARCD)** – Glen Kuhlemier reported that Jim Elliott, IARCD President, had a stroke. Jim was unable to attend the Leadership Forum. Cathy Brunner did attend the Leadership Forum. Julie Jacobs reported IARCD will meet on Wednesday in Springfield and asked if any Council Member would like to attend.

**Regional CEDS Committee** – Theresa Wittenauer reported that at the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting Lorali Heintzeman presented their USDA Rural Development's Annual Report as well as a highlight of their popular funding programs. Theresa is going to start taking notes at the CEDS meetings and will post them on our website.

**Galena Trail & Coach Road Society** – Tim Keller announced they will have their Annual Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> in Mineral Point, WI.

**Highway 30** – Glen Kuhlemier received some communication from the IL Department of Transportation. The last time the advisory group met was June 10, 2009. Six alignments were looked at and the environmental impacts and other studies were done. The advisory group will be updated on the alignments before they are presented to the public. Hope to meet this spring. Karen Nelson added that Betty Steinert went to Washington, D.C. again

**Driftless Area Initiative** – Della Moen reported that the committee met last Friday to interview applicants for the Executive Director position. The new position is an 18 month position. A lot of good applications were received. She should find out tomorrow morning who they selected for the position. The applicants had to write a press release on themselves as if they were hired for the position.

**Broadband** – Bill Tonne reported that we are working on round two funding application. We didn't get funded the first round most likely because our local match wasn't great enough. The second application has been expanded to eight counties to include LaSalle and Winnebago Counties. Bill was at a Governor's Press Conference in Chicago this morning. The local match will be \$9 million from partners, \$14 million from the State. There are twenty two counties in Southern IL that have joined together to apply for a grant too. Dr. Tonne apologized that the SWCDs were not listed as anchor institutions in the first application but will be in the second round. Blackhawk Hills can not recoup any staff time from the round one application but we will be able to for the round two if the application is funded. The second round application is due this Friday. Blackhawk Hills RC&D will be a sub-partner for the second round application and NIU will be the main applicant. Karen

Nelson asked how the board will be set up. A 501(c)3 will be setup and a board will be developed. Kim Monk asked for a synopsis to be prepared on the broadband application so that it can be shared with County Boards. William Tonne told County Board Members that he had to ask about Counties donating at a per capita ratio. He already knew what most would answer but just had to ask to question.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Blackhawk Hills RC&D meeting will be the Annual Meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The regular meeting will be May 24, 2010 at 6:00 PM at the Lanark Heritage Center.

### **Round Table Discussion**

Tim Keller asked what was happening with the Scenic Tower. Dave will be working with Kim Monk on this project.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.