



**COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, June 1, 2015  
Lanark Heritage Center  
106 South Broad Street  
Lanark, IL**

**AGENDA**

**Attendance**

Ed Juracek, Carroll County SWCD  
John Huggins, Carroll County Area Rep.  
Darrel Stitzel, Carroll County Board  
Tim Deem, Lee County Board  
William Tonne, Jo Daviess County SWCD  
Marvin Schultz, Jo Daviess County Area Rep.  
Ron Colson, Ogle County Board  
Mike Reibel, Ogle County Area Rep.

Marcia Heuer, Ogle County SWCD  
John Espinoza, Whiteside County Board  
Glen Kuhlemier, Whiteside Co. Area Rep.  
Shay Bradbury, Carroll County SWCD  
Theresa Wittenauer, Executive Director  
Dan Payette, Outreach Coordinator  
Andrew Shaw, GIS Mapping Specialist  
Julie Jacobs, Office Manager

**Call to Order**

Ron Colson, President, called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

**Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves.

**New Measure Proposals**

Shay Bradbury, Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Resource Conservationist, asked for Blackhawk Hills assistance with a clean-up on the Plum River. A measure proposal form was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. AmeriCorp students will be available the last week in July to help with big log removal. There will be a volunteer clean-up day on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Blackhawk Hills' assistance to this project would be grant search, publicity and the use of insurance for the volunteer clean-up day. Shay has already secured some donations but more is needed. Glen Kuhlemier made a motion to accept as a new measure. John Espinoza seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

Minutes of the March 23, 2015 Regional Council Meeting were emailed out and handed out at the meeting. John Huggins made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ed Juracek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Finances**

Glen Kuhlemier, Treasurer, presented the financial report which was handed out. The balance in the general checking account is \$20,389.84, the project funds account is \$93,256.58, and the economic

development account is \$32,324.67. Julie Jacobs added to the report that only the daily transactions are included in the report since the Council's 2015-2016 Budget will be voted on later this meeting. William Tonne made a motion to place the financial report on file for audit. Marvin Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

***Executive Director's Report*** – Theresa Wittenauer's report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. Theresa added to her report that she was notified on Friday that we were approved for our Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Planning Grant. Theresa submitted the 2014-2015 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Performance Report and Update to EDA. She participated in an EDA Review of Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC). We are scheduled to have an EDA Review this year. Since our previous performance reviews have gone well, some of the reporting that was required for the EDA grant have been dropped. Hopefully we will graduate to a three year cycle. Theresa is working with SWRPC, East Central Intergovernmental Association, and regional transportation planning entities to conduct a freight study for a 14 county area which includes Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Staff attended Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Listening Tours. IDOT wants to listen to the people.

***Outreach Coordinator's Report*** – Dan Payette's report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. Dan recommended council members to take a look at the population trends included in our Annual Report on the County Profile pages.

***GIS Specialist's Report*** – Andy Shaw's report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. The Yellow Creek Watershed Partnership met last week and discussed formation of a planning committee and a technical committee for the Spring Branch Watershed project. The next Spring Branch Watershed Meeting is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>. Andy attended the Illinois Enterprise Zone (EZ) Association conference. Updates from that were in the latest e-newsletter. The EZ application process is quite the process. Lee-Ogle EZ needs to apply this year and Carroll-Whiteside EZ might apply a year early. Blackhawk Hills is available to help counties with their applications. Andy's written report included a map showing how each state would rank by Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Ron Colson acknowledged how good the presenter was at the symposium that spoke about taxes. All the videos from the symposiums are posted on our website. Andy also added to his report that the Plum River Clean-up project is something that he had dreamed about for a long time.

***Office Manager's Report*** – Julie Jacobs' report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. Julie apologized for the streaks on the handouts. Our copier is having issues. SBM has been contacted. The office received two certificates from Representative Tom Demmer acknowledging Betty Steinert and Timber Lake Playhouse Board of Directors for receiving our awards at the symposium. Julie will schedule presentations to County Boards and SWCD Boards to present them our Annual Report.

### **New Business**

***Executive Committee*** – Minutes from the May 11, 2015 Executive Committee Teleconference were emailed and handed out. Marcia Heuer made a motion to accept the Executive Committee's minutes as written. William Tonne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

***Finances and Personnel Committee*** – Minutes from the May 21, 2015 Finances and Personnel Committee Meeting were handed out. William Tonne reported that the committee evaluated each staff person individually. William Tonne made a motion to approve the recommendation made by the Finances and Personnel Committee spelled out in the minutes. Tim Deem seconded the motion. Motion carried.

***2015-2016 Budget Approval*** – Glen Kuhlemier presented the 2014-2015 proposed budget. The Executive Committee reviewed the budget on their May 11, 2015 teleconference. Julie Jacobs stated that the Personnel & Benefits and the Contract Employee Costs line items will need to be adjusted to include the

salary and benefits changed approved earlier this evening. Glen Kuhlemier made a motion to accept the budget with such proposed changes. William Tonne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Bylaws Approval** – The revised Bylaws had been emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting and also handed out. Tim Deem made a motion to approve the bylaws. John Huggins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Driftless Area Initiative** – Ed Juracek reported that at the last DAI meeting it was discussed to look into branding the Driftless Area to have the ability to certify products produced within the area. With Southwest Badger RC&D no longer participating with DAI, a majority of the DAI material was dispersed to the other partners. DAI will work with Southwest Badger RC&D to take over the checkbook.

**Next Council Meeting** – The next Council Meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2015. Ron Colson asked the Council Members to let Julie Jacobs know if they can't make the next meeting. John Huggins stated that he fought to keep Non Profits free to use the Heritage Center.

### **Round Table Discussion**

Tim Deem gave a report on activities in Lee County. Lee County worked with the City of Rochelle in extending the EZ boundaries for the hydroponic tomato growing plant. Theresa Wittenauer added it is nice to see everyone work together on that project. The cement plant in Dixon caught on fire. The Nelson Power Plant is now online. The Power Plant will bring more tax funds for schools and rural fire districts. Old Stanley building is still sitting vacant. It is a well accessible building. The marijuana facility is no longer coming to Lee County. The permit is going to Hillcrest. Lee County Animal Shelter has a new shelter.

Darrell Stitzel stated that the Carroll County Board is getting ready for another round of the budget.

John Huggins gave an update on things happening in Lanark: Casey's will be breaking ground this week, Aero Inc. is running fiber line in residential areas, the façade on a building down the road is being worked on, housing has approved, and new garage for police station is up.

Ed Juracek stated that Carroll County SWCD has concerns about their funding in regards to the state budget situation.

Marcia Heuer reported the Ogle County Safety Administration building was completed under budget. The Ogle County SWCD has funding available to operate until April of 2016.

John Espinoza reported the Whiteside County Health Department is building a one story facility near the health clinic to offer more behavioral health issues. After their audit the health department ranks in the top 3%. There are a lot of detours in the area. Construction of the Holiday Inn along the river is going on. Summer Splash will be held along the river in Rock Falls the weekend of June 26<sup>th</sup>. There will also be boat races happening.

Glen Kuhlemier stated that the Rock Falls Tourism went from the nonprofit committee back to the city.

William Tonne reported that the Jo Daviess County SWCD is watching its pennies and that Galena is the second tourism destination in the state.

Marvin Schultz discussed the train derailment that happened near Galena. It is still being cleaned up. The railroad company has stepped up in the cleanup. There recently was a major accident on Route 20. Traffic was detoured to Blackjack Road and to Wisconsin.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.