

Contact Person:
Theresa Wittenauer
Economic Development Coordinator
Blackhawk Hills
102 East Route 30, Suite 3
Rock Falls, IL 61071
(815) 625-3854
theresa.wittenauer@blackhawkhills.com



For Immediate Release

June 1, 2012

Blackhawk Hills Designated as a Regional Council

ROCK FALLS, IL – Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development has changed to Blackhawk Hills Regional Council. As of May 2012, all six counties that Blackhawk Hills serves approved the change to Regional Council status.

Following the loss of Resource Conservation and Development funding in 2011, Blackhawk Hills began the process of becoming a Regional Council. As a Regional Council, the organization will continue to be a multi-service entity with state and locally-defined boundaries that delivers a variety of local, state, and federal programs. The designation allows the organization to offer expanded services related to comprehensive planning, grant administration, data research, mapping, and technical assistance.

Regional Councils can enhance the economic competitiveness of a region and help strengthen the national economy as a whole. They have recently become more prominent in receiving federal and state aid for their regions. Certain programs and projects in which state or federal aid are involved must be submitted to the area's Regional Council for review in order to be considered.

About Blackhawk Hills

Blackhawk Hills is a not-for-profit corporation based in Rock Falls, IL, that serves Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside counties in northwest Illinois. Services include community planning, development assistance, natural resources conservation and protection support, and grant writing and administration. Blackhawk Hills is sponsored by local county boards and Soil and Water Conservation Districts and is overseen by an 18-member council, consisting of three representatives from each of the six counties.

About Regional Councils

According to the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), Regional Councils were conceived in the 1960's and today are organizations skilled at providing services, creating partnerships, problem solving, and fiscal management. The role of the Regional Council has been shaped by the changing dynamics in local, state, and federal government. There is now a growing recognition that local governments must work together to resolve social and environmental challenges in their regions.

Questions about Blackhawk Hills may be directed to Theresa Wittenauer at (815) 625-3854 or theresa.wittenauer@blackhawkhills.com.

###