



**COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 23, 2015
Lanark Heritage Center
106 South Broad Street
Lanark, IL**

MINUTES

Attendance

Ed Juracek, Carroll County SWCD
John Huggins, Carroll County Area Rep.
Steve Rutz, Jo Daviess County Board
Tim Deem, Lee County Board
Marilyn Shippert, Lee County Area Rep.
Ron Colson, Ogle County Board
Mike Reibel, Ogle County Area Rep.
Dennis Groezinger, Stephenson County Area Rep.
John Espinoza, Whiteside County Board
Glen Kuhlemier, Whiteside Co. Area Rep.
Shay Bradbury, Carroll County SWCD
Theresa Wittenauer, Executive Director
Dan Payette, Outreach Coordinator
Julie Jacobs, Office Manager

Call to Order

Ron Colson, President, called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes

Minutes of the November 24, 2014 Regional Council Meeting were emailed out and handed out at the meeting. Marilyn Shippert 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 \$22,103.74, the project funds account is \$103,449.97, and the economic development account is \$89,173.68. A check was received from iFiber for \$30,900 and from Edward Jones for \$1,000 in today's mail. In the funds account, \$59,517.36 is for the CEO Program. Steve Rutz made a motion to place the financial report on file for audit. Marilyn Shippert 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 her biggest concern is the funds being impacted due to the Governor's freezing; Illinois Energy NOW, Northwest Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning, and Illinois Department of Transportation Rural Planning Grant. She hopes to know more in six months as to what is happening with these funds. Theresa has been working on the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Planning Grant. Steve Rutz asked about the Upper Mississippi River International Port District's grant application that was not approved by EDA. Theresa replied that the grant procedure is very competitive. She will continue to work with the Port District and the Jo-Carroll Depot Local Redevelopment Authority to restructure the application to make in more competitive. Ed Juracek added that the Fish and Wildlife will be opening up section five of the Depot property.

Outreach Coordinator's Report – Dan Payette's report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. Dan added to his report the work that has been done on the Pretzel City Kitchen. The project includes the north state line area. The group is pursuing some grants from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Economic Development Administration. John Huggins asked about Illinois Century Network (ICN) providing service to private entities. Dan stated that ICN provides service to public entities. Funding for ICN has been cut, no free bandwidth. Public entities can apply for e-rate.

GIS Specialist's Report – Andy Shaw's report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. Due to an illness Andy was unable to attend the meeting.

Office Manager's Report – Julie Jacobs' report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. Julie added to her report that the Conflict of Interest Statement and committee selection survey was in the binders for the Council Members to complete. She also asked the Council Members to take a look at the draft bylaws and to let her know if they have any changes.

New Business

Election of Officers – Marilyn Shippert, Nomination Committee, submitted the following nominations for officers: President, Ron Colson; and for Vice President Marvin Schultz. There were no other nominations. All were in favor of the selection of officers. Glen Kuhlemier will remain as the Secretary-Treasurer, appointed by Ron Colson.

Economic Development Administration Planning Grant Resolution – a copy of the resolution was included in the Council Members' binders. Glen Kuhlemier made a motion to pass the resolution stating that Blackhawk Hills has access to the local match for the EDA Planning Grant. Marilyn Shippert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Signatory Authority Policies – copy of the policy was included in the Council Members' binders. Ed Juracek made a motion to approve the signatory authority policy on staff. Marilyn Shippert seconded the motion. Motion carried. John Huggins made a motion to approve a signatory authority on the newly elected officers. John Espinoza seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2015 Spring Symposium & Annual Meeting – the staff is working on planning the Spring Symposium and Annual Meeting on April 24th. Speakers will include State Representative Tom Demmer via video; Carol Portman, Taxpayer's Federation of Illinois, speaking on state and local tax changes, and Betty Steinert will give an update on Enterprise Zones. Staff suggested combining the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council's Worker of the Year Award and the Carson DeJarnatt Award. The new award would be called "Carson DeJarnatt Award of Excellence". The award would go to a person or group within the six county area that has volunteered their time assisting with projects and activities or that has shown outstanding commitment to economic development. Potential recipients were Diane Bausman, Betty

Steinert and Timber Lake Playhouse Board of Directors. Julie Jacobs will send out information to the Council Members seeking their vote.

New Measure Proposals

Pretzel City Kitchen – is a proposed food enterprise center for start-ups and entrepreneurs in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. Its primary purpose is to support local growers and producers, provide access to food education, address local food needs, and grow the regional economy. A website is setup for online giving. John Huggins made a motion to accept as a new measure. Steve Rutz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Council Meeting – The next Regional Council meeting will be moved to June 1, 2015 at 6 PM at the Lanark Heritage Center in Lanark, IL due to Memorial Day being on May 25, 2015. Steve Rutz reminded us about the UCCI meeting July.

Round Table Discussion

John Espinoza reported he was appointed to serve in the state's newly created Local Government and Unfunded Mandates Task Force. Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti will oversee the task force.

Julie Jacobs reported that at next week's County Board Chairs Meeting they will be talking about the State budget effects.

Glen Kuhlemier state that a \$400,000 grant was put on hold by the state for development along the Rock River.

Mike Reibel reported about the City of Rockford's building code standards. The City of Rockford is working on getting other counties between the Mississippi and DeKalb to adopt the same standards.

Ron Colson reflected on things we have discussed on regional levels to share ideas.

Dennis Groezinger attended a Legislative Roundtable that the Stephenson County Farm Bureau hosted. State Representative Brian Stewart and State Senator Tim Bivins spoke about the state budget cuts.

Sam Newton acknowledged the loss of Della Moen as an instrumental conservation person on our board. He recommended we honor her legacy in some type of a memorial. Staff will contact her family and/or the SWCD for ideas.

Shay Bradbury reported that state funding is on hold for the SWCDs.

John Huggins reported on a signed resolution considering the Municipal League. Local 157 members are working at the Thomson Prison. The housing market in Lanark has improved. Lanark is getting a Casey's and a new t-shirt shop. Elkay is employing 60 full time people.

Ed Juracek state that the Driftless Area Land Conservation Initiative (DALCI) brings \$5 million to the Driftless Area but Illinois is a small portion of the area.

Marilyn Shippert reported that finances are a big concern for Lee County. The State's proposed 4% cut for the Local Government Disbursement Funds could be a 50% cut.

Tim Deem reported that the Nelson Cement plant will be in full operation by May. With constructions workers there are about 60 people working. There will be 24 fulltime jobs once in full operation. Turbines are now operating and shutdown on weekend. Power goes on the main grid but sold to many entities.

Steve Rutz stated that the Tri-County Economic Development Alliance's Action Committee is working on Enterprise Zone functionality, the way forms are designed. Representative Stewart will introduce some legislation concerning the forms. Jo Daviess County is working with Stephenson County on their EZ. Town and village interested in joining the EZ, they are working on guidelines. He also reported that Hirschbach Trucking left East Dubuque to move to Iowa.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.