



**COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, January 25, 2016
Lanark Heritage Center
106 South Broad Street
Lanark, IL**

MINUTES

Attendance

Ed Juracek, Carroll County SWCD
Darrell Stitzel, Carroll County Board
John Huggins, Carroll County Area Rep.
Steve Rutz, Jo Daviess County Board
Marvin Schultz, Jo Daviess Co. Area Rep.
Tim Deem, Lee County Board
Ron Colson, Ogle County Board
Seth Wenzel, Stephenson County SWCD
Sam Newton, Stephenson County Board
Dennis Groezinger, Stephenson County Area Rep.
Glen Kuhlemier, Whiteside County Area Rep.
Theresa Wittenauer, Executive Director
Dan Payette, Outreach Coordinator
Andy Shaw, GIS Specialist
Julie Jacobs, Office Manager

Call to Order

Ron Colson, President, called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes

Minutes to the September 28, 2015 and the November 23, 2015 were emailed out prior to the meeting and were also handed out. Steve Rutz made a motion to approve both minutes as written. Dennis Groezinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finances

Glen Kuhlemier, Treasurer, presented the November and January financial reports which were emailed and handed out. The balances in the November report were the general checking account was \$19,253.14, the project funds account was \$75,005.05, and the economic development account was \$23,287.50. The total balance in the CDs was \$43,442.14. The balances in the January report were the general checking account was \$19,016.43, the project funds account was \$71,733.87, and the economic development account was \$4,316.62. The total balance in the CDs was \$43,522.40. Steve Rutz had asked about the balance in the economic development account if it being enough to cover salaries. Julie Jacobs replied that if need be funds can be transferred from the general checking account but she didn't

feel there will be a need for that since funds from County Boards and iFiber should be coming in any day. Steve Rutz made a motion to place the financial report on file for audit. Ed Juracek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Julie Jacobs recommended that the Council move one of the CDs to a longer term investment. Marvin Schultz made a motion to allow Glen Kuhlemier, Treasurer, and the staff to decide what would be the best investment choice. Darrell Stitzel 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 area is well represented on the Freight Study Committee. A spreadsheet listing the committee members was attached to her report. The only representation not listed was the Corps of Engineer. The Committee will meet in February. We are still waiting on the State's budget so we can move forward with this study.

Outreach Coordinator's Report – Dan Payette's report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. Dan had nothing further to add to his report.

GIS Specialist's Report – Andy Shaw's report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. Andy added to his report about meeting with the Lee County Industrial Development last week on the Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone. John Thompson had brought Andy in to help with the application which was submitted at the end of December. The application should be in good shape.

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 were in the binders for the Council Members to complete.

New Business

New Measure Proposals

Enterprise Zone Administration Assistance & Training - The Lee County Industrial Development Association (LCIDA) is in need of resources to continue the efforts of administering the Lee County Enterprise Zone in a seamless manner. The LCIDA would like to contract with Blackhawk Hills Regional Council to work in coordination with the current zone administrator, John Thompson, to be trained on the daily and periodic work duties of the position. A six to twelve month training period will allow for an adequate transitional period for John Thompson's full retirement. During this time, Blackhawk Hills will also assist the LCIDA Board in planning strategic options for reconstructing the most conducive organizational framework going forward. Blackhawk Hills would receive \$2,000 a month. Glen Kuhlemier liked the qualification of the staff that was included in the proposal and suggested that we keep it on hand to use towards other proposals. Theresa Wittenauer added that other Regional Councils have done this and it has worked well. Glen Kuhlemier made a motion to approve as a new measure. Steve Rutz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mt. Morris Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update - The latest Mt. Morris Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2007. The Village is seeking a new update to the Comprehensive Plan which will serve as the principal planning document for the Village's future growth and direction. Blackhawk Hills would receive \$6,000 for their assistance in updating this plan which will start in May. Mike Reibel made a motion to accept as a new measure. Dennis Groezinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Leaders in Economic Alliance for Development (LEAD) - Blackhawk Hills was asked to partner in Uofl Extension's efforts to participate in a new USDA program called LEAD. This program is an effort to address the concern of the region losing some strong economic development leaders who have or are about to retire. It's an opportunity to strengthen leadership and continue to foster alliance. As a group, we will also have the opportunity to plan a region-wide civic forum that will identify an economic

development project priority that the region can work together on to achieve. A flier on the program had been emailed out. Tim Deem made a motion to accept as a new measure. Seth Wetzel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2016 at 6 PM in Lanark.

Executive Committee

The minutes from the November 30, 2015 Executive Committee teleconference were emailed/handed out. Steve Rutz made a motion to ratify the minutes as presented. Tim Deem seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Round Table Discussion

Glen Kuhlemier announced that Bass Pro Shops Big Cat Quest will be in Rock Falls on June 25 in conjunction with Summer Splash and River Chase.

Steve Rutz commented that it makes a lot of sense to do the Freight Study. Hopefully it will come up with a lot of good data to help in the future.

Mike Reibel reported that Ogle County ESDA is doing an update to their Hazard Mitigation Plan.

John Huggins stated that SQZ Bevs, Inc. just started making wine in Mt. Carroll and plans to expand in Lanark.

Seth Wenzel announced that the Stephenson County SWCD will be hosting a Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Meeting at the Farm Bureau on February 2, 2016 and the Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Ogle County SWCDs applied for a nutrient management grant.

Ed Juracek reported that the Carroll County SWCD is staying in existence at least until July. Also, work on the Plum River is being planned. Ed asked if anyone had heard of Congresswoman Bustos putting on a conference on grant writing information. Julie Jacobs replied that she receives email alerts from the Congresswoman's office and hadn't seen anything yet but will keep her eye out for any details.

Tim Deem stated that the Green River Wind Farm is being delayed due to the transmission line. He also reported that LSSI in Lee County (Nachusa) is being shut down due to the State's budget issue. Lee County will be asking for an increase in sales tax to be used for a new jail facility. Currently the tax rate is 6.75 in Dixon and 6.25 in rest of county. Tim has been able to purchase tomatoes this winter at the Farmer's Market from MightyVines, hydroponic farm in Lee County.

Glen Kuhlemier also reported that the new Holiday Inn in Rock Falls is set to open in May. The City of Rock Falls is working on demolishing the old Limestone Building along the riverfront.

Sam Newton just returned from the UCCI Conference and learned that consent agenda are illegal for County Boards to use. Sam also reported that Stephenson County's County Administrator, Engineer, and Facility Manager positions are all vacant. The County may have to go into agreement with another county since the Engineer position needs to be filled with a certified engineer within 90 days.

Adjournment

Ed Juracek made a motion to adjourn. Tim Deem seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.