

BHRC Board of Directors & Staff

Carroll County Reps

- Keith Vandermyde, County Board
- Ed Juracek, SWCD*
- Jill Janssen, Area Representative

Lee County Reps

- John Nicholson, County Board
- Kari Wolfe, SWCD
- Janice McCoy, Area Representative***

Stephenson County Reps

- Sam Newton, County Board**
- Seth Wenzel, SWCD
- Mark Williams, Area Representative

Jo Daviess County Reps

- Diane Gallagher, County Board
- Nicole Haas, SWCD
- Vacant, Area Representative

Ogle County Reps

- Marcia Heuer, County Board
- Kayse Rushford, SWCD
- Michelle Pease, Area Representative

Whiteside County Reps

- Vacant, County Board
- Eric Epps, SWCD
- Kim Ewoldsen, Area Representative

- * PRESIDENT
- ** VICE PRESIDENT
- *** SECRETARY/TREASURER

Staff

- Julie M. Jacobs
OFFICE MANAGER
- Daniel J. Payette
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- Andrew Shaw
GIS MAPPING / EZ SPECIALIST
- Tim Benedict
- Tara Walters
- Emily Lauderdale
REGIONAL PLANNERS

About Us

As Northwest Illinois' not-for-profit regional planning organization and economic development district, BHRC engages in community and economic development, natural resources conservation, and planning in Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside counties. We seek to improve the quality of life for communities and individuals.

Implementing the CARES Act Locally

Following the passage of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Blackhawk Hills applied for and was awarded \$400,000 from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to help Northwest Illinois respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Two significant pieces of BHRC's work plan have included on-site support services, namely indoor air quality (IAQ) testing and municipal/neighborhood-level walkability assessments. To date, Blackhawk Hills' staff have performed dozens of IAQ tests at small business locations, not-for-profit organizations, and government facilities; further, we have worked with cities and villages to implement walkability assessments, including in communities like Mount Morris (Ogle Co),...

Highlighted Projects & Programs



BHRC staffer Tim Benedict conducts an indoor air quality assessment in Ogle County

...Oregon (Ogle Co), Sterling (Whiteside Co), and Warren (Jo Daviess Co). Another area of pandemic response includes addressing quality of life issues more intensely, such as the availability of affordable, high-quality single and multi-family workforce housing. In early 2021, Blackhawk Hills and partners (e.g., economic development organizations, main street entities, workforce and housing agencies, local units of government, etc.) concluded an extensive request for proposals process, selecting Redevelopment Resources (based in Madison, WI) to study the state of housing and related investment opportunities in each of our counties. Other components of livability - such as recreation, public health, and multi-modal mobility - will be addressed in county greenways and trails planning, a process initiated by BHRC staff. In addition, we will continue engagement with government stakeholders concerning the state's Local CURE program and the recently enacted federal American Rescue Plan. Staff support in 2020 was behind some of our smallest communities' participation in Local CURE and businesses' pursuit of aid via various financial assistance programs.



An intersection and crossing near a school assessed by BHRC staff

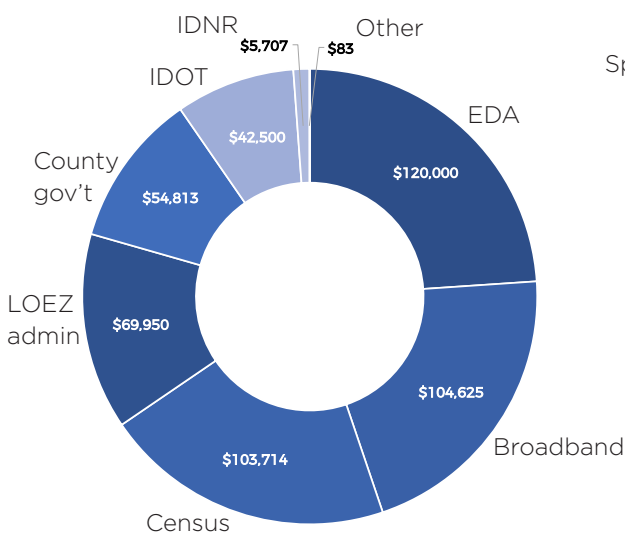
Other Development & Technical Assistance

Blackhawk Hills co-wrote Morrison (Whiteside Co) and the Illinois Fiber Resources Group's application for Connect Illinois funding to expand open-access broadband locally. We continue to support water resources and passenger rail planning, administer the Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone, and facilitate participation in the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program. Ogle County represents the first county in the BHRC region to pass a C-PACE enabling ordinance. Additionally, with Northern Illinois University as a partner, we secured funding for local foods research on specialty crop aggregation and other topics impacting smaller farmers and independent restaurants.

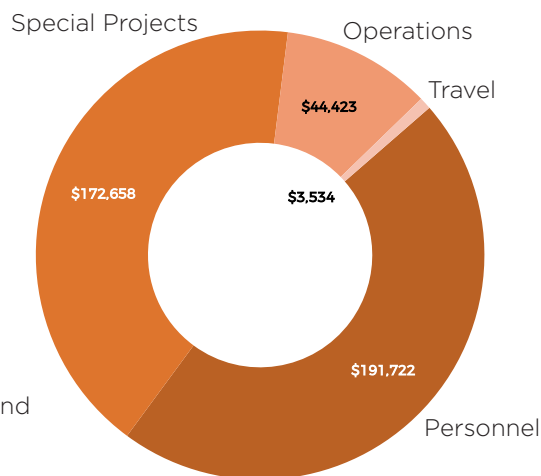
2020-2021 Financials

April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021 Unaudited Statement of Financials

REVENUES - \$501,392



EXPENDITURES - \$412,337



FISCAL SPONSORSHIP BALANCES - \$172,767



Help us implement the 2019-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Northwest Illinois by identifying development, conservation, and planning needs in your community.

- Grants Database - blackhawkhills.com/grants
- Project Proposal Form - blackhawkhills.com/proposalform