

NATURAL RESOURCES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (NRED) BOARD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023 5:00 PM

Carbondale Main Street

121 South Illinois Ave

Carbondale, IL 62901

Call to Order (5:00 PM)

Members Present: Carrier, Legan, Maxwell and McMorrow-Hunter

Members Absent: Mulholland

Also present: Kie Layne, Ashely Gibson, Deb Barnett

Approval of Minutes

- I. [23-7832](#) January 5, 2023 Minutes
A motion was made by Carrier, seconded by Carbondale City Planner Maxwell, to approve the January 5, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Communications

Reports

- II. [23-7833](#) GIS
Henson commented that the County has begun spending money for the new GIS system and that one module would be reserved for eco-tourism, mapping, etc. for the NRED Board.
- III. [23-7834](#) NRED By-laws
No update given.

Old Business

- IV. [23-7835](#) Jackson County/U of I Outdoor Recreation Survey
Legan commented that the scheduled visit for January had been postponed and would likely be rescheduled in the future. In the meantime, the University of Illinois would have graduate students working on the survey and would be contacting stakeholders to participate in the survey.

New Business

- V. [23-7836](#) Recreation Survey Stakeholder Discussion
This item was moved to the end of the meeting. Legan noted that the U of I group would be contacting stakeholders to help complete the Outdoor Recreation Survey. Legan also

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VI. [23-7837](#)

commented that if the board wanted to make any additions or corrections to the survey from the last meeting, they could be sent to Henson and Legan to be forwarded to the U of I group.

SI Now

Ms. Barnett gave a quick presentation where she discussed what SI Now is and how it came to be, what it does, its current organizational structure, and how it could help NRED and Jackson County with economic development. The board discussed with Barnett about the challenges each group is facing in regard to economic development and business attraction, different funding opportunities, and the idea of not duplicating efforts when it comes to promotion and education of natural resources. Barnett also discussed SI Now's three main focus areas which include business growth and development, marketing externally, and education of workforce. The Board also discussed with Barnett the topic of eco-tourism.

Adjourn