

Natural Resources Economic Development Board Meeting
Monday, July 24, 2023 5:30 PM
Carbondale Main Street, 121 S. Illinois Ave. Carbondale, IL 62901

Call to Order

(5:30pm)

Present: Legan, Layne, Maxwell, McMorrow-Hunter

Absent: Carrier, Mulholland

Approval of Minutes

I. 2023-297 Approval of May 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Legan asked that the last two paragraphs under "Good and Welfare" be separated from the first by notating each paragraphs topic.

A motion was made by Legan, seconded by McMorrow-Hunter, to approve the May 22, 2023 meeting minutes with the above-mentioned changes. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Communication

Reports

II. 2023-298 GIS

Henson communicated that the GIS modules on the new County website would be available sometime in September or October of this year. The committee briefly discussed the topic and came to the consensus to ask Josh Barringer to attend a NRED meeting when the modules become available to discuss their functions.

III. 2023-299 NRED By-Laws

No update was given for this agenda item.

IV. 2023-300 Jackson County/University of Illinois Outdoor Recreation Survey General Update

1. Survey Content
2. Survey Launch Date

Legan commented on a few of the survey items that had changed since the last meeting and asked if anyone had any additional comments or suggestions. Layne noticed a spelling error throughout the document and Legan noted he would relay that information. Legan led a quick discussion regarding waiting to send the survey out until after August 15th to hopefully get a better response. The committee had a discussion regarding additional ways to get the survey out to the public, such as websites and social media. Many ideas were suggested. McMorrow-Hunter and Henson agreed to work on finding incentive funding to help with the outreach.

Old Business

New Business

V. 2023-301 NRED P/T Staff

Legan mentioned that the County Board had agreed to NRED's request of \$3K to fund a quarter-time position to help NRED with Phase II of the survey project. Legan commented that he would be asking for next year's amount (\$8K) during the month of August. The committee discussed the type of candidate that would meet the needs of the committee. Legan suggested a grad student from SIU, but commented that he had not had any leads. The committee then began a discussion of how to get the information out to the public. It was decided that Legan would create a job description and pass it along to the County Administrator, who could help with the job posting. McMorrow-Hunter commented that she was willing to put together onboarding information to help with the new hire if needed.

VI. 2023-302 Cross Country Bike Route

The committee began a discussion regarding the Adventure Cycling Association Trail. This led Legan to comment that last month he had met with County Board member Bost and County Highway Engineer Burdick to discuss bike routes in Jackson County. He noted that they had discussed ways to make Murphysboro and Carbondale more accessible to cyclists and that he wanted NRED to hopefully pursue helping with the project to make the County more user-friendly for cyclists. Maxwell commented that what she would like to see come out of the project were signs across the County marking the route. The committee agreed that helping with the project would tie into its current Outdoor Recreation Survey project and additionally would help with bringing tourism and economic development to the County.

Good and Welfare

Legan commented that in 2024 the State of Illinois will create an Office of Outdoor Recreation. He noted that he was unsure of how they were going to be funded, but would keep the committee updated as he learned more information and that hopefully there would be some funding resource opportunities for NRED in the future. McMorrow-Hunter gave an update on her strategic plan for climate resilient development, discussing what she had been working on since last month's meeting.

Adjourn

(6:10pm)

A motion was made by McMorrow-Hunter, seconded by Layne, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.