Natural Resources Economic Development Board Meeting
Monday, August 28, 2023 5:30 PM
Carbondale Main Street, 121 S. Illinois Ave. Carbondale, IL 62901

Call to Order

(5:30pm)
Present: Legan, Layne, Maxwell, Mulholland
Absent: Carrier, McMorrow-Hunter

Also Present: Anthony Henson

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

I. 2023-374 Approval of July 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Layne, seconded by Maxwell, to approve the July 24, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Communication

Reports

II. 2023-375 GIS

Legan commented that he spoke with Josh Barringer (County IT) a few weeks ago concerning the County's new GIS system. He commented that he should soon have some updated information regarding the system, but that there was nothing new to report at this time.

Old Business

III. 2023-376 Recreation Survey

Legan began the discussion of the Recreation Survey by commenting that the postcards had begun arriving in the mail on the previous Wednesday and that he had already received his. He also commented that there had been a great deal of coverage of the survey, including WSI TV and radio, channel 3, flyers at the Farmer's Market, and through word of mouth. Legan noted that he had received a message from Dr. Payne regarding the number of responses to the survey. Dr. Payne's target is 300 responses and Legan commented that the survey total was already at 260 responses. Legan mentioned that an additional 1500 reminder postcards would be mailed on September 5th. Maxwell commented that she felt the Farmer's Market was helpful *because it showed that people are in support of the idea of NRED's efforts. Everyone agreed the survey was doing well and that the community was excited about responding. Maxwell questioned if some grammatical changes could still be made. Legan commented that the board should have the final numbers from the survey by next month's meeting.*

New Business

IV. 2023-377 1/4 Time Position

Legan commented that the County Board had approved the funding for a 1/4 time position for NRED. He noted that there was a little pushback at the committee level due to the Board members wanting to see results. Legan commented that the search for a 1/4 time person was not going well and that he felt that Phillip Carrier would be the best person for the position. The committee briefly discussed the option and agreed. Legan mentioned that he did have Carrier's resignation from the committee. A motion was made by Maxwell, seconded by Mulholland, to approve hiring Phillip Carrier as the 1/4 time NRED person. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

V. 2023-378 Approval of Expenses

Legan explained the process of approving NRED expenses and commented that he had spoken with the County Administrator on the best way to handle paying for NRED expenses such as mileage and supplies. Legan noted that any receipts would be given to him and voted on at the following NRED meeting for approval, then sent to the County Board office for reimbursement. The board had a brief discussion concerning sales tax and whether NRED qualified as tax exempt. Legan noted he would discuss the issue with the County Administrator. A motion was made by Mulholland, seconded by Layne, to approve the current NRED expenses (for Greg Legan) in the amount of $78.14. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VI. 2023-379 2002 Greenways and Trails Plan

Legan commented that this was a 20-year-old plan that he wanted to consider as the next project for NRED to work on once the recreation survey was complete and the GIS modules were created. Mulholland suggested one or two NRED members making an appearance at a County Board meeting. Legan thought it would be a good idea for the whole group to go once they had the results from the recreation survey to show the County Board the work that NRED had been doing.

Good and Welfare

The board briefly discussed who they would like to see on the NRED board going forward and how it may be a good idea to speak with eligible candidates before they are appointed by the County Board.

Adjourn

(5:58pm)
A motion was made by Mulholland, seconded by Maxwell, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.